School District of Desoto County
Form 470 #: 270003620
Form 470 Contacts:
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Procurement Timeline

Task	Due By
Issue Date	See Form 470 Certification Date
Deadline to Submit Questions	11/18/2026
Posting of Questions/Clarifications	11/20/2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	12/16/2026

Communications and Questions

All communication with the Applicant regarding this solicitation **must** be emailed and received by the "Deadline to Submit Questions" noted in the "Procurement Timeline." Questions should be directed to all "Form 470 Contacts" listed above, with the Form 470 Number included in the subject line. Failure to include all "Form 470 Contacts" could result in questions going unanswered. Verbal inquiries are not allowed. Clarifications, when applicable, will be posted as an attachment/addendum to the Form 470. Each Offeror is responsible for downloading the current version of the Form 470 and attachments, including any addenda. Applicant reserves the right to ask vendors clarifying questions during the proposal review process.

Contact initiated by an Offeror concerning this solicitation with any other Applicant representative other than those listed as Form 470 contacts is prohibited. Unauthorized contact may result in the Offeror's disqualification from this solicitation.

Proposal Instructions

Proposals **must** be submitted via email by the Proposal Submission Deadline in the Procurement Timeline.

Proposals should be emailed to ALL Form 470 Contacts listed above and include the following:

- Applicant name
- Form 470 number
- SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number)
- Clear indication of service offering (Dark Fiber, Managed Lit Service, or both Dark Fiber and Managed Lit Service)
- Service provider's terms and conditions

- Completed Pricing Attachment in xlsx format

Proposals **must** include **all** costs associated with providing service, including but not limited to:

- Monthly recurring charges (MRC) include any recurring charge related to delivering the services, such as monthly charges for Internet access, IP addresses, basic terminating equipment, etc.
- Non-Recurring Charges (NRC) include any one-time fee other than special construction charges. This includes but is not limited to installation charges, connection charges, and/or basic terminating equipment charges.
- Special Construction Charges (SPC) include one-time costs for deploying new fiber or upgrading network facilities for eligible entities. These charges are non-recurring and include the following components: construction of network facilities, design and engineering, and project management. Offerors should provide special construction details sufficient to support E-Rate review, including route feet, cost per foot, and plant mix where applicable.
- Failure to identify the monthly recurring, non-recurring, and special construction charges will result in the disqualification of the proposal. Respondents are encouraged to provide the estimated taxes and surcharges associated with the service. Submissions indicating that there may be additional MRC, NRC, or SPC related to delivering the services **WILL** be disqualified.

- When submitting the Pricing Attachment, offerors must provide it as a Microsoft Excel-compatible file (.xlsx). Offerors may use any spreadsheet application capable of saving in .xlsx format (e.g., Microsoft Excel, Google Sheets, LibreOffice Calc).
    - Offerors may also submit a PDF copy for reference. The .xlsx file will be used for evaluation and will control if there is a discrepancy.

Proposals **must** be in response to the specific requirements of this solicitation. Offers including a generic listing of services beyond the scope of this solicitation and/or encyclopedic price lists will be disqualified. SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid responses and will be disqualified from consideration.

Applicant reserves the right to consider its existing service as a standing proposal and evaluate it against the other submitted proposals.

Service Requirements

The School District of Desoto County, hereafter referred to as the District or SDDC, is currently receiving Wide Area Network (WAN) Services through a contract procured in compliance with E-Rate, State and Local procurement rules. The existing contract allows the SDDC to add new sites to the contract, but E-Rate rules require a new Form 470 to be filed when a new location is added that was not included in the original procurement. Because the new construction high school was not included in the previous Form 470, a new Form 470 is being filed to seek bids for the new location, listed below.

Bids will only be accepted from vendors that can provide pricing from a “valid purchasing vehicle.” For purposes of this solicitation, a “valid purchasing vehicle” is defined as any purchasing vehicle that will

allow the SDDC to purchase services in a manner consistent with State and Local bidding rules without issuing a formal procurement. Examples of a "valid purchasing vehicle" include existing contracts that were bid in compliance with State and Local Law, State Master Contracts, and contracts awarded to other entities where the SDDC can "piggy-back" off that contract. Bidders must clearly identify the "valid purchasing vehicle" that forms the basis of their pricing. The SDDC will be the ultimate arbiter of whether the pricing is based off a "valid purchasing vehicle."

Based on the results of this solicitation, the District will either 1) continue to purchase services from the existing contract, 2) enter into an agreement with a new vendor, or 3) cancel the solicitation in its entirety.

SDDC is seeking multiple options for proposals to extend its infrastructure for data transport services and maintenance and operations of the network, between the sites listed below:

A LOCATION	**School District of Desoto County** District Office (NOC)	530 Lasolona Ave Arcadia, FL 34266
Z LOCATION	**New High School** New Construction	2323 NE Roan St Arcadia, FL 34266

The District is seeking proposals for Wide Area Network (WAN) Transport services FROM the District hub site (A) TO the (Z) location listed above and on the pricing attachment. The district encourages prospective bidders to provide pricing that enables the Z location to be scaled up to 40 Gbps.

If a respondent intends to invoice SDDC separately for each location, that billing structure must be reflected on the pricing sheet and in the written proposal. Respondents are encouraged to modify the pricing sheet as needed so that it accurately reflects the vendor's invoicing structure.

Offerors may propose solutions for one or more acceptable modes of transport.

The district is open to any technology or topology that can meet the bandwidth and service level requirements.

The District's Wide Area Network (WAN), including its existing Dark Fiber WAN service, is part of the District's critical infrastructure. Continuity of operations is essential to the success of this project. The New High School is currently under construction, with an anticipated opening in late Spring and early Summer 2027. Service to the school is critical to the District's construction plan. As such, vendors are encouraged to include, as part of their proposal, a timeline that allows for the activation of services on July 1st, 2027.

For options that include special construction costs, vendors may begin construction as early as January 1st, six months prior to the beginning of the funding. Failure to provide documentation showing that the

vendor can either (a) currently deliver service to the specified address or (b) deliver service to the address by July 1, 2027 will result in rejection of the proposal. Vendors that cannot currently provide service must include a detailed plan and timeline for establishing connectivity by the required date.

All solutions must terminate service or infrastructure at the demarcation point within the building, generally, the MDF. Solutions that only bring service to the property line but not to the demarcation point will be disqualified. The agreement must terminate service at an MDF designated by the Applicant. The Offeror should specify the exact demarcation setup included in the base fees, such as wall-mounted CPE and CAT6a handoff, rack mount patch panel, etc.

Respondents are required to complete the attached Pricing Attachment. If special construction is necessary, respondents are also required to detail that component.

Option 1: Leased Dark Fiber

1) **Leased Dark Fiber**

   Offers will be accepted for the provision of a leased dark fiber network solution which is terminated at both ends. The solution should include the lease of twelve (12) strands (6 pair) of **single-mode / multi-mode fiber** from the A Location(s) to each eligible Z location listed in the Pricing Attachment.

   a. **Excess Fiber Strands:** To the extent that the Successful Offeror installs additional strands of fiber for future business ventures, the Successful Offeror assumes full responsibility to ensure those incremental costs are allocated out, as applicable, of the special construction charges to the Applicant in accordance with FCC rules and orders.
   b. **Note:** If, after the issuance of the FCDL (Funding Commitment Decision Letter), USAC or the FCC determines that the Successful Offeror did not cost allocate those charges associated with any additional, excess strands, the Applicant will not be responsible for reimbursing the Successful Offeror, and the Successful Offeror will assume all responsibilities and costs deemed ineligible by USAC.

   SDDC owns its own network equipment necessary to light the fiber. Therefore, network equipment is **NOT** requested for this request.

2) **Maintenance for Dark Fiber**

   All dark fiber responses require maintenance as part of the response, even if maintenance is subcontracted out to a third party. In the case of the 3rd party maintenance, the respondent must hold and manage the subcontract and is ultimately responsible for the SLA. It is assumed that the dark fiber network is part of the service provider's more comprehensive fiber infrastructure. The respondent will include only the portion of maintenance that is required to support the Applicant fiber segments versus overall network maintenance. If the fiber serves multiple customers, the maintenance cost should be shared among all the recipients. For leased dark fiber offerings, maintenance costs shall be assumed to be included in the monthly lease fee. Fee structures that separate maintenance costs must explicitly state this and provide itemized costs.

Service Requirements – Option 2: Leased Lit Fiber

1) **Leased Lit Fiber**

   Offers will be accepted for leased lit fiber WAN transport services. The service must include Layer 2 management with initial bandwidth connections of 10 Gbps between the A Location and the Z Location listed in the Pricing Attachment. Additional bandwidth levels of 20, 30, and 40 Gbps are also requested.

   Vendors should include their closest comparable service level for consideration if the exact bandwidths listed are unavailable.

Submissions meeting any of the three (3) numbered criteria **WILL** be disqualified.

1. Solution does **NOT** offer at least the minimum bandwidth.
2. Solution does **NOT** offer bandwidth dedicated to the applicant but instead, the bandwidth is dependent on the number of other customers on the network or some other factor that does not, generally, guarantee the minimum bandwidth as a committed information rate (CIR).
3. Solution includes caps on data usage or slows speeds based on data usage or other factors.

Offerors must accept responsibility for site delivery, construction, permitting, pathway, and right-of-way costs required to deliver service.

Contract Term and Modifications

Services are needed effective July 1, 2027. If the service cannot be guaranteed by this date, this should be indicated in the proposal, along with an estimated timeline for when the service will be available.

Service providers requested to provide 24 month pricing. Unless otherwise stated, the customer can voluntarily extend the agreement for three (3) additional twelve (12) month terms. Offers requiring an initial term of more than 24 months will not be considered.

All contracts should permit bandwidth increases during the term. Any such increases, including those during optional renewal periods, will be treated as modifications to the existing agreement rather than new agreements and, therefore, will **NOT** extend the contract's term.

All contracts should include a provision allowing for early termination of circuits without penalty if a location is closed by the Applicant.

No price increases will be permitted during the term of the agreement.

Service providers proposing equipment whose prices may increase depending upon new U.S. government

tariffs imposed on imports are encouraged to (a) identify such products in their offers, and (b) propose an acceptable methodology for limiting price adjustments over the life of the contract.

Subject to contract restrictions, services may be reevaluated for cost-effectiveness at any time during the life of the agreement including renewal periods.

SDDC reserves the right to consider its existing service as a standing proposal and evaluate it against the other submitted proposals.

E-Rate Specific Considerations/Information

The Applicant intends to utilize the Service Provider Invoicing (SPI) method for this funding request. Vendors must be willing and able to provide discounted billing and submit FCC Form 474 invoices to USAC. Vendors unable to support SPI billing **will be** disqualified.

Offerors must hold a valid, active nine-digit SPIN (498 ID) issued by USAC as of the proposal submission deadline. The SPIN must belong to the legal entity that will contract with and invoice the Applicant. A pending registration, a SPIN assigned to an unrelated entity, or a commitment to obtain one after the deadline will not satisfy this requirement.

Service providers proposing a temporary equipment loan for product demonstration and/or evaluation purposes are **required** to clearly state that such loans are of limited duration. Product demos extending beyond thirty (30) days must be explicitly authorized by both parties and provided at a fair market rate.

By submitting a proposal, the vendor certifies that the proposed products and services comply with 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.9 and 54.10, which prohibit the use of Universal Service Fund support to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by a company on the FCC's Covered List (including Huawei and ZTE) as posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. See https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/supply-chain/ for more details.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.500(f) and 54.511(b), service providers may not charge applicants a price above the Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP) for supported services. LCP is the lowest price a service provider charges to nonresidential customers similarly situated to a particular school, library, or consortium for similar services. See https://www.usac.org/E-Rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/ for more details.

Additional Considerations/Information

The language in this solicitation has been standardized: "must," "shall," "mandatory," and "required" indicate mandatory specifications that the Applicant expects in the proposed solution. Proposals failing to meet these will be disqualified. "Should" and "may" indicate desirable specifications. A mandatory

requirement may be waived if all respondents fail to meet a mandatory requirement.

Applicant reserves the right to waive any irregularities or informalities in the proposals received.

Offerors must accept that Applicant obligations are contingent on appropriation and availability of funds and may be reduced or terminated without penalty if funds are unavailable.

Applicant reserves the right to award all, part, or none of the services set forth in this procurement. This procurement does not obligate Applicant until a valid agreement and/or valid Purchase Order is executed.

Applicant may, at its sole discretion, extend the due date for the submission of proposals and any extensions shall be done via an addendum posted in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC.)

The vendor submission is subject to open records requests and, as such, the records will be released in accordance with those policies. Vendors are encouraged to mark pages as “Proprietary” or “Confidential” as appropriate, but the entire submission may not be marked as such. Identifying information as “Proprietary” or “Confidential” does not guarantee that the information will not be released but will be considered in determining whether the information is required to be released in accordance with the open records policies. Generally, pricing is not exempt from being publicly released.

By submitting a proposal, the Offeror certifies that no relationship exists between the Offeror and Applicant that would interfere with a fair and open competition or is a conflict of interest.

Evaluation Criteria

The cost of E-Rate eligible services will carry the greatest weight in the evaluation. Other factors that may be considered include but are not limited to E-Rate ineligible costs, overall/long-term cost to the Applicant, technical merit/capability of the offer, the Applicant’s prior experience with the vendor, and/or completeness of the vendor’s proposal response. The Applicant reserves the right to weigh these criteria as it deems appropriate, or not at all, and may consider additional factors not listed above.