Applicant: Nansemond-Suffolk Academy
BEN: 25369
Form 470 #: 240001432
Attachment Name: Dedicated Internet Service Specifications

Procurement Timeline

Task	Due Date
Form 470 posted	November 13, 2023
Deadline for vendors to submit questions	November 29, 2023, 10:00am ET
Answers to questions posted	December 1, 2023, 10:00am ET
Deadline for vendors to submit proposals*	January 5, 2024, 10:00am ET

*Applicant may, at its sole discretion, extend the due date for the submission of proposals when it is in its best interest to do so. Such extensions shall be done via addendum posted in EPC.

Communications and Questions

All communication with the Applicant regarding this soliciation, including questions or comments, must be submitted via email to Daniela Yanez at bids-dyanez@e-ratecentral.com AND Angie Thompson at athompson@nsacademy.org no later than the deadline provided in the Procurement Timeline. The subject line must include the Form 470 number. Contact initiated by an Offeror concerning this solicitation with any other Applicant representative is prohibited. Unauthorized contact may result in disqualification of the Offeror from this solicitation. Answers will be posted to EPC by the deadline provided in the Procurement Timeline. It is the responsibility of every Offeror to ensure they have downloaded the latest version of the Form 470 and/or 470 RFP attachments, including any addenda. Applicant reserves the right to ask clarifying questions of vendors upon review of proposals.

Proposal Instructions

Proposals must be submitted by the deadline for guaranteed consideration by the Applicant.

Proposals should be emailed to ALL the following recipients:

- athompson@nsacademy.org
- bids-dyanez@e-ratecentral.com

Proposal submissions should include the following:

- Applicant name
- Form 470 number
- SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number)
- Service provider's terms and conditions

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

- monthly service fees
- managed router/modem lease fees (if required for service to function)
- one-time construction, installation, and/or connection charges
- estimated taxes, fees, and/or surcharges

Service Request

Applicant is seeking proposals for Dedicated Internet Access with bundled transport service to be delivered to the following locations:

Entity Name	Street Address	Requested Bandwidth
Nansemond-Suffolk Academy Main Campus	3373 Pruden Blvd, Suffolk, VA 23434	1 Gbps – 5 Gbps
Nansemond-Suffolk Academy Harbour View Campus (Annex)	6019 Harbour View Boulevard, Suffolk, VA 23435	100 Mbps – 1 Gbps

Service Requirements

Dedicated Internet Access: Applicant requires a minimum of 1 Gbps at the Main Campus and 100 Mbps at the Harbour View Campus dedicated, fully managed, symmetrical bandwidth to the specified sites. Service providers are requested to submit offers for incremental bandwidths from in the ranges listed above. All offerors should also provide static IP block pricing.

Applicant will consider offers for leased lit fiber and all services provided over third-party networks. Offerors may propose solutions for all modes of transport and all proposed solutions that meet the requested scope of service requirements will be evaluated.

All solutions must terminate service or infrastructure in the demarcation point at address(es) specified in the Service Request section of this document. Solutions bringing service to the property line but not to the demarcation point are not acceptable. Contract must terminate service at an MDF to be designated by the Applicant. Vendors must specify specific demarcation setup included in base fees, e.g. wall mounted CPE and CAT6a handoff, rack mount patch panel, etc.

Contract Term and Modifications

Offers of month-to-month or contracted services will be considered. Service providers submitting proposals for contracted service are requested to provide 12-month, 36-month, and 60-month pricing. Contracts may include an option for annual voluntary renewals for up to 5 additional years, when agreed to in writing by both parties. Offers requiring an initial term of more than 60 months will not be considered.

All contracts must allow for bandwidth increases up to 5 Gbps throughout the term of the contract; increases in bandwidth during the contract period and/or optional renewal periods shall be considered modifications to the existing agreement, not new agreements and thus do not extend the term of the contract.

All contracts must include a provision permitting early termination of circuits, with no penalty, should a location be closed by the Applicant.

If Applicant opens a new location, the final agreement must include a provision permitting that site to be added at the existing MRC rate for the duration of the contract, with the Applicant paying for any one-time charges associated with adding the new site to the network. Any additional sites added to the agreement will be co-terminus with the main agreement.

No increased pricing will be allowed during the term of the quoted special construction, NRC, and MRC rate. 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.

Disqualifying Factors

Applicant may disqualify proposals for the following reasons:

- Unauthorized Service Provider contact with Applicant.
- Proposal submitted after the posted bid due date.
- Proposal does not meet Service Requirements.
- Proposal does not provide definitive costs for the services requested (including recurring and/or one-time charges).
- Proposal includes generic/encyclopedic price lists and/or solution is proposed by an artificial intelligence system that does not take into consideration the specific needs of Applicant.
- Proposal requires an initial contract term longer than 60 months.
- Proposal does not include range of bandwidths allowing for increases over the life of the contract.
- SPI billing is not offered/available.

E-rate Specific Considerations/Information

Per USAC E-rate rules, "cost of eligible services" will be the highest valued criterion in the evaluation process; however, other criteria with a lesser value may also be considered.

Service providers proposing to temporarily loan equipment 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 on the requested services herein, the vendor certifies its proposed services and/or products comply with Part 47 Section 54.9 and 54.10 of the FCC rules which prohibits the sale, provision, maintenance, modification, or other support of equipment or services provided or manufactured by Huawei, ZTE, or any other covered company 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.

As required by Section 54.500(f) of Part 47 of the Code of Federal Regulation all bids in response to this RFP must offer the lowest corresponding price (LCP) which is defined as the lowest price that a service provider charges to nonresidential customers who are similarly situated to a particular E-rate applicant (school, library, or consortium) for similar services. See the following for more information on the requirements relating to LCP:
https://www.usac.org/e-rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/.

Additional Considerations/Information

Applicant reserves the right to award all, part or none of the services set forth in this procurement. This procurement in no manner obligates Applicant until a valid signed contract and/or valid Purchase Order is executed.

Applicant may in its sole discretion extend the time for the submission of proposals upon a finding that it is in the interest of Applicant to do so. Such extensions shall be by addendum(s), which may be issued before the submission due date.

After final contract is negotiated, approved, and awarded, all proposal documents pertaining to this procurement will be open to the public, except for material which is proprietary or confidential. Applicant will not make public any pages of a proposal on which the Offeror has stamped or imprinted “Proprietary” or “Confidential” subject to the following requirements. Proprietary or confidential data shall be readily separable from the proposal to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential portion of the proposal. The price of products offered, or the cost of services proposed shall not be designated as proprietary or confidential information.

By submitting a proposal, the Offeror certifies that no relationship exists between the Offeror and Applicant that interferes with fair competition or is a conflict of interest; and no relationship exists between such propose and another person or firm that constitutes a conflict of interest that is adverse to Applicant.

Evaluation Criteria

These criteria are to be utilized in the evaluation of offers to be considered. Individual criteria have been assigned a weight to reflect relative importance. Vendors are encouraged to provide details in their proposals that address the following criteria.

Criteria	Weight
Eligible Costs: E-rate eligible recurring and one-time costs	**35%**
Ineligible Costs: E-rate ineligible recurring and one-time costs	**5%**
Proposal Response: Completeness of proposal submission	**10%**
Technical Merit: Ability to support requirements of this solicitation	**20%**
Terms and Conditions: Vendor’s proposed contract terms and conditions	**15%**
Prior Experience: Applicant’s previous experience with vendor	**10%**
Responsiveness: Proximity of vendor offices/staff; local vendor representation	**5%**