



NOANET RFQQ 2024-11 Professional Services

Request for Quotes and Qualifications
(RFQQ)

regarding

Construction Management, Inspection,
Auditing, and Staking of Fiber to the
Home, Middle Mile, and Wireless
Construction

RFQQ Bid Schedule and Instructions

RFQQ Posting date: December 2nd, 2024, 5:00PM Pacific

Questions Due Date: 4:00PM Pacific, December 18th, 2024. Question responded to by close of business on December 20th, 2024. Please address questions and responses via email to: Stephen.Schulte@NoaNet.net. Unauthorized contact with NoaNet regarding this RFQQ may result in disqualification. All oral communications will be considered unofficial and non-binding. Email communication is the preferred method of correspondence.

Proposal Due Date: 12:00PM Pacific, January 6th, 2025.

Delivery Instructions: Complete proposals may be delivered either by hand, courier, postal service, or other means to the NoaNet offices located at 11707 E. Sprague, Suite 201, Spokane WA, 99206; or with an electronic copy either emailed to Stephen.Schulte@NoaNet.Net or included on a thumb drive or other suitable method (supplied by bidder). All proposals and accompanying documentation will become the property of NoaNet and will not be returned. Bidders accept all risk of late delivery of mailed proposal regardless of fault.

Please address questions and responses via electronically to: Stephen.Schulte@NoaNet.net

Public Announcement

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that NoaNet, an equal opportunity employer, is seeking an experienced, qualified firm to contract to perform construction staking, inspection, and auditing of wireless and fiber to the home telecommunication systems funded by a variety of sources, including but not limited to public and private sources (e.g. NoaNet, National Telecommunication and Infrastructure Administration, The Washington State Broadband Office, etc.). These projects could be funded/partially funded, by federal award number CPFFN0145 (ARPA Capital) awarded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. NoaNet requests firms who are licensed in the State of Washington to conduct business and to provide qualifications for construction, staking, inspection and auditing services. Small, Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (MWBE) are encouraged to submit bids. Submitted bids will be opened at 12:05PM PST, January 6th, 2025, at 11707 E. Sprague, Spokane Valley, WA, 99206. The firms should supply qualifications for all services requested in the RFQQ and incomplete bids will be rejected.

The RFQQ may be obtained on the NoaNet website at www.noanet.net/about/bidding-opportunities/. RFQQ details may also be obtained via email from Steve Schulte at Stephen.Schulte@NoaNet.Net.

Northwest Open Access Network Background Information

Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet) is a mutual non-profit corporation created by Public Utility Districts in rural Washington State. Formed with the mission to provide economic development opportunities for rural counties within the Northwest through broadband technology deployment, NoaNet has provided industry-leading services for more than 20 years across a fiber network that is now over 3,300 miles in total length touching every county in Washington State.

Project Description

NoaNet, their clients, and partners will be building new wireless, fiber to the home, and middle mile fiber optic distribution networks in and around Washington State. These systems will be deployed using towers and a mixture of both aerial and underground construction methods. Placement of loose tube fiber optic cables ranging from 2 count to 288 count will be deployed including splice and service drop locations. The construction-ready designs will be provided to consultant upon award or notice to proceed and will consist of wireless site plans and the planned routes of backbone cables, deployment methodology (aerial vs underground), splice cases, vaults, cabinet locations (splitter and active), and service drop locations (typically OFDCs).

General Schedule

Work on these projects is expected to commence in late 2024 or early 2025 and is expected to last for up to 3 years into 2027.

Request for Quotes and Qualifications, Scopes of Work

The Scope of Work requested by NoaNet are outlined as specific scopes below. These scopes are designed to provide staking, management, and auditing during the construction and turn up of wireless, fiber to the home, and middle mile activities. The professional services expected to be delivered as part of this procurement must include but are not limited to:

- (QC1) Construction Management
- (QC2) Staking

Items Not required in this scope of work:

- Construction

Scope QC1: Construction Management

The consultant will provide Construction Management Services for projects primarily in Washington State. The projects will be assigned as groups of 25 miles, more or less, of total construction distance. Multiple projects in multiple locations may be considered. Consultants should be aware that the typical hours of operation are Monday through Friday (eight-hour

shifts) or Monday through Thursday (ten-hour shifts). Seasonal changes may affect beginning and ending times and are based on the construction firm's schedule and preference. The consultants will be required to be on-site and able to perform duties concurrently with the work schedule of the construction firm.

Construction Management projects require the following components and are the basis of this scope of work. Consultants should provide four labor rates to perform the duties outlined below.

- 1) Project Manager
- 2) Construction Management Resident
- 3) Construction Management Inspector
- 4) Staking Technician (see scope QC2)

All jobs will require a Project Manager and a Construction Management Resident at a minimum with additional Construction Management Inspectors provided to compliment construction crew size.

The Project Manager will perform remote services such as scheduling, data and document management, and ensure that the project is fully supported and successful.

Construction Management Residents are the lead field representatives for the engineering team in charge of the route/region. Their responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Provide direction and assist Inspectors
- Print and review plans and specification requirements, RUS Standards for buried and aerial plant construction, and in affected areas convey the archeological treatment plans, best management practices for construction, and comply with the guidance detailed on the environmental assessment
- Conduct periodic safety sessions with personnel and subcontractors
- Captures construction data to provide for daily and weekly reports
- Inspect construction materials, material handling procedures, and equipment prior to construction, reject defective materials and equipment, and correct improper handling procedures
- Coordinate with joint use utilities both overhead and underground
- Test constructed facilities for continuity
- Obtain and disseminate appropriate permits

Construction Management Inspectors report to the Residents and support the construction crews utilized by the client. Their duties include but are not limited to the following:

- Print and review plans and specification requirements, RUS Standards for buried and aerial plant construction, and in affected areas convey the archeological treatment plans, best management practices for construction, and comply with the guidance detailed on the environmental assessment
- Inspect construction crews for compliance with plans and specifications, report variances to Resident
- Record as-built data on staking sheets and record cable sequential values

- Verify site clean-up is satisfactorily completed
- Communicate construction requirements, respond to questions, and report variances and deviations to Resident
- Field observations for such activities as splicing, environmental adherence, underground dirt work, aerial installations, wireless installations, facility transitions, and fiber testing and proofing of ducts.
- Participate in periodic safety training sessions

Scope QC2: Staking

Staking is the activity performed in the field to determine type of construction recommended at a given control point to the next control point. The wireless sites, aerial, underground cable route, and outside plant assembly units are recorded on the construction drawings developed during the staking process. Construction Management is an activity performed by Resident and Inspectors qualified to effectively manage and assure quality of the construction drawings, specifications, and contractor expectations.

The staking technician will begin by checking the status of rights of way or easements by marking control points on the maps and by reconnoitering the proposed construction areas checking for but not limited to the items listed below:

- Terrain
- Location of establishments and appurtenances
- Natural control points
- Appropriate locations of towers, poles, anchors, terminals, cabinets, etc.
- Location of primary premise attachment, network interface device, grounding point
- Required property access accommodations, clearing, and trimming

Control points are those points or areas along a proposed construction route where circumstances demand special consideration by the staking technician in specifying appropriate construction units.

Examples of control points can be but are not limited to the following:

- Street, alley, and highway intersections
- Street, alley, and property lines
- Rivers, streams, gullies, drainage ditches, and canals
- Ridges and depressions
- Angles and corners in highways, streets, and roads
- Private driveways, field entrances, and fence corners
- Railroad R/W
- Electric utility lines of other utilities
- Junctions between cable and wire
- Junctions with branch cables
- Cable terminal locations
- Trees, brush, ground cover
- Restricted Rights of Way

- Rock outcroppings or boulders
- Changes in grade
- Areas identified as environmentally or culturally sensitive

The details to be included in the construction drawings are those necessary to prepare the plans, specifications, and other items necessary to efficiently construct the facilities. The construction drawings should be prepared so that they may be used as permanent plant records. The cable path should be selected to minimize property damage. Location of the proposed structures and appurtenance should be selected to minimize possible damage from vehicular traffic and to allow for easy maintenance access. Road and highway crossings should be discussed with jurisdiction having authority verifying that necessary permits have been obtained.

The Construction Management Team will be responsible for coordinating and conveying the staking details to the construction contractor. The Construction Management Team will be composed of Residents and Inspectors commensurate with the size of the construction crew. The Construction Management and Construction Contracting teams will proceed along the route, marking, understanding and detailing the following information:

- Location and type of the aerial enclosures and poles
- Pole numbers
- Span lengths and cable sag
- The lengths of aerial service wires in meters (or feet) from aerial enclosures to subscriber's premises
- Type and size of fiber optic cable, colors of buffer tubes and fiber strands
- Number of optical fibers and type of fiber optic cable
- All miscellaneous construction units for the plant installation such as grounds, etc.
- Markers should be used to show the location of the following
 - Proposed pole and anchor location
 - Proposed miscellaneous units
 - Proposed street, road and/or highway crossing locations
- The cable route and pole number should be marked on the markers so as to be legible at the time of construction
 - The Underground cable Markers should be used to show the location of the following
 - Length and type of construction
 - Location of all Hand Holes, Vaults and Pull Points
 - Proposed Fiber Marker locations
 - All transitions of facilities from Aerial to Underground

Contract

NoaNet may negotiate a contract with the most qualified firm, but NoaNet has no obligation to enter any such negotiations and, if it does so, NoaNet reserves the right to terminate the negotiations without obligation and not execute a contract for the services.

Exhibits

NoaNet is providing the following exhibits with this bid:

- A – Sample Construction Prints
- B - Cost / Rate Sheet template
- C – Professional Services Contract
- D- Fiber Optic Construction Standards

Response Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

Proposals must include information on the background, experience, credentials, and certifications required for this work. NoaNet will evaluate responding firms using the following criteria to determine the most qualified firm with which NoaNet may decide to retain to provide the required services at a price NoaNet determines is fair and reasonable to NoaNet. NoaNet reserves the right to reject any and all submittals.

Response Requirements:

1. Company Profile
2. Company Approach to Projects
3. Proposed project team with
 - o organization chart
 - o resumes of key personnel
 - o applicable licensing and certification
4. Reference summary and narrative of similar projects including reference contacts.
5. Summary narrative describing firm's ability to provide Errors and Omissions Insurance commensurate with a project of this size and nature.
6. Proposed Project Team Deployment
 - o Estimated timelines
 - o Deployment activities
7. Exhibit B – Cost / Rate Schedule
8. If applicable, your firm's certification of Small, Women Business and Minority Business enterprise

The selected bidder will be required to sign Exhibit C, the included Professional Services Contract, and to work with NoaNet to develop a mutually agreed upon Scope of Work based on the Scopes outlined in this bid, project schedule, and Cost/Rate Schedule. It is understood that by submitting a bid, the consultant can satisfactorily comply with all QC Scopes of Work outlined above.

Firms submitting responses should NOT assume their responses will remain confidential, regardless of any statements regarding confidentiality in responses submitted. During the period of evaluating which responding firm is the most qualified firm with which NoaNet may, at its option, decide to negotiate a contract, NoaNet will attempt to maintain the confidentiality of responses to the extent permitted by law. Once a firm is selected, or if NoaNet decides at any time, at its option, not to proceed with the process of negotiating a contract for the services, proposals may no longer be assured of confidentiality.

NoaNet shall negotiate a contract with the most qualified firm for services at a price which NoaNet determines is fair and reasonable. In making its determination, NoaNet shall consider the estimated value of the services to be rendered as well as the scope, complexity, and professional nature thereof.

If NoaNet is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm selected at a price the agency determines to be fair and reasonable, negotiations with that firm shall be formally terminated and the agency shall select other firms in accordance with RCW 39.80.040 and continue in accordance, until an agreement is reached, or the process is terminated.