

NEK Community Broadband

Request for Information

for

**Construction of Fiber-to-the-Premise Network in the Towns of
Concord, Waterford and Lunenburg, VT.**

Issued September 17, 2021

Response due September 24th, 2021

I. Introduction

NEK Broadband is a Communications Union District (CUD) working to bring reliable and affordable high-speed internet options (at least 100Mbps symmetrical) to every grid tied residential and business e911 address in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. Formed on March 3, 2020, NEK Community Broadband, currently consists of 45 towns across 4 counties.

Mission Broadband is an independent technology consulting firm retained by NEK Broadband to manage the RFI and RFP processes for the Concord / Waterford FTTP project. Mission Broadband will be the recipient of Vendor correspondence related to this RFI as described below and will provide consultative support to NEK throughout the process.

NEK Broadband has secured federal CARES funds that must be expended by the end of the year. We are issuing this RFI to identify respondents interested in providing a bid. Respondents must indicate they can meet the time frame required by the federal funding. Each RFI respondent will then be given the opportunity to bid on the project as soon as the final design is complete. That date is estimated to be October 15, 2021.

II. Network Design and Construction Parameters

- a. This RFI is for construction of a fiber optic network in the Concord Vermont area. NEK Broadband is seeking information from companies interested in constructing approximately 12 miles in one project and approximately 8 miles in an additional project (the second project is subject to funding but likely).
- b. The project will place strand and fiber (144 or 48), splice, strand mounted terminals and splitters. Most of the construction is roadside but there are some close to the road but not accessible from the road. All construction is aerial except for the possibility of two short underground placements, one at the headend (pole to cabinet pad) and the other at a splice point with a fiber transport provider (from transport provider pole mounted splice to closest distribution pole).

III.

NEK - Concord, VT Project summary			
Project 1	Description - Area	Poles	Footage
	Oregon Rd; Cedar St; Maple St; Leonard Hill Rd	175	35,654
	E. Concord Rd	33	7,400
	Leonard Hill Rd	43	10,521
	Shadow Lake to Whites Corner	39	7,775

Project 2			
	US Route 2; Dance Hall Rd	56	11,941
	Miles Ln - (Miles Pond North Shore)	14	2,598
	Cross Rd; Marko Rd; Privacy Ln	69	12,707
	Cross Rd (Not Likely to be built)	39	7,855
	Campers Ln - (Miles Pond South Shore)	45	8,760

IV. RFI Response Requests

- a. Cover Letter
 - i. Respondents will provide a cover stating their understanding of the project, their interest in providing a bid under an RFP, and their commitment to complete construction prior to the end of 2021 if selected during the RFP process.
- b. Experience
 - i. Respondent will provide a brief summary of their experience
- c. Construction and Project Management Approach
 - i. Respondent will provide a brief summary how they will perform construction for the proposed project and provide their project management methodology within the timelines described
- d. Schedule
 - i. Make ready work will be completed in mid-October
 - ii. Construction is anticipated to begin early November and complete by the end of November.
 - 1. Materials for the construction will be provided including fibers, strand, hardware etc.
- e. References
 - i. Respondent will provide a list of 3 references

V. Questions

- a. Email: mikereed@missionbroadband.com

VI. Response Process

- a. Contact:
 - Mission Broadband
 - Mike Reed
 - mikereed@missionbroadband.com
 - 207-272-4609
- b. Response Deadline
 - Final RFI submissions must be received via e-mail no later than September 24th, 2021
 - Please send to mikereed@missionbroadband.com

c. Summary of RFI/RFP Process deadlines

September 17, 2021 – RFI Issued

September 24, 2021 – Deadline for submitting RFI response

RFP will be issued as soon as the design is available and RFP responses will be due one week later. Anticipate RFP issued October 15, 2021. RFP responses due October 26, 2021

October 28, 2021 – Vendor Selection