NEK 2022-13 RFP Questions:

1. There is no separate line on the bid sheet for “traffic control” – is traffic control to be factored into the unit pricing or will it be a ‘pass through’ expense paid by NEK?
   Utilization and cost of traffic control will be the responsibility of the contractor. Costs can be factored into the unit pricing or added as a separate line if desired.

2. If traffic control is the burden of the contractor, can the owner or engineer identify the routes that will be built as part of the initial 227 mile project so traffic control can be evaluated – alternately, can the owner/engineer give a percentage of the project that will require traffic control?
   The routes to be constructed are depicted on the “Entire Area with and e-911 service levels” map within the RFP. This is a mixture of Federal, State and Municipal roadways, as well as off-road segments. Contractor is to use their discretion as to where traffic control is required and/or desirable.

3. Is there any consideration to altering design to utilize FAP’s instead of MST’s? This could reduce lashing/overlashing expenses and likely ease/eliminate material issues as there are lengthy lead times for MST’s and a broader range of options [and availability] for FAP’s.
   The use of MSTs is the owner’s desired design to assure consistency throughout previous, current, and future projects.

4. PM25 units [MST’s] are using a UOM of ‘feet’….will payment be based on the MST factory length or actual footage lashed?
   Payment will be made on the actual footage lashed.

5. Are PM 25 units to be single lashed or double lashed?
   Units can be single lashed or double lashed at the contractors discretion.

6. BFOV units have a very broad depth range of 24” – 60”, shall we consider this a minimum depth of 24” with contractor discretion to go up to 60” or is it possible that the engineering will require 60” depth on some of these units? A depth of 60” can require additional safety considerations, such at trench boxes, that can add considerably to unit expense.

BFOV should be at a minimum depth of 24". Additional depth will be at contractor discretion or per requirement set by permitting agency.

7. Item CO(AO)10M appears to be strand-only placement [no fiber], why is lashing wire included? Can you please explain this unit?
   This unit typically depicts leads that will be served via MST tails and/or long drops. This unit is only associated with MST tails where mainline cable is not also being placed. The lashing wire is included to last the tail as part of the build-up with the strand to accomplish this. Drops are not part of this unit.

8. There does not appear to be a designation for adding a tracer wire to any of the buried units – being a dielectric cable, fiber will need tracer wire pulled in for locating purposes, what unit will include that?
   Typically, duct placed will have integrated tracer wire.

9. Will an optional flexnap pricing sheet [that better reflects flexnap units] be generated for contractors interested in providing rates?
   NEK will explore this. Please indicate your willingness to provide FlexNap pricing and we will follow-up.

10. RFP indicates a requirement to test all fiber before it leaves the warehouse, how does the contractor bill and/or get reimbursed for this?
    This requirement is intended to be protection for both NEK and the contractor against manufacturing defects and/or damage incurred in transportation. Cost can be included in your cable unit pricing, or as a separate line item if desired.

11. Will reel testing require every strand or (1) strand per tube for testing.
    The extent of this testing is at the contractor discretion; however contractor assumes responsibility for all fiber they deem tests 'good' when taken from the warehouse.

12. What wavelengths are required for reel testing?
    Same as above.

13. What is the average reel lengths ordered for this project?

NRTC reels are typically 20,000Ft. 288ct fiber is often 15,000ft.

14. RFP references installation based on Product and Services specifications, NEK specifications, NRTC specifications, manufacturer recommendations and best industry practices: is there a single project specification reference for this job?
    No please refer to RFP sections

15. If there is no project specifications, which entity is the governing entity concerning specifications?
    There are project specifications related to the specific material or installation please refer to RFP

16. Where can we find the governing entities specifications, can we receive it electronically?
    Specific material related specification will be available

17. What date can we receive project specifications by?
    Design standards are available now. Final design due by July 5th for WF01 work packet.

18. Specifically, what are the specifications for:
    - Lashing; dual and/or single
      RUS standards – Single lash at the moment. Exceptions may be made for exceedingly long spans.
    - Testing requirements/methods
      Determined by material manufacture and network design
    - Tree trimming
      TBD based on existing conditions and agreement with NEK
    - Bonding/grounding
      RUS and Industry standards – see question 22.
    - Trenching/boring
      TDB - minimum depth of 3ft.

19. RFP indicates that drops/installation are not part of this proposal, why is NID pricing and drop pricing requested?

NEK is seeking only labor pricing for the placement of drops and NIDs as this may be included in future projects.

20. If NID pricing will remain a necessary response, can you please send drawings and specifications for each NID unit type?
    See above

21. Is fiber cable armored or unarmored?
    Fiber on order with NRTC is armored; NEK is using multiple sources for materials so other source fiber types are unknown. Example of item on order with NRTC: FORTEX DT-100% DRY LIGHT ARMOR SINGLE PE JKT, SINGLE ARMOR, DIELECTRIC CENTRAL MEMBER ALLWAVE + SM-.35/.31/.25 DB/KM @1310/1385/1550NM

22. If fiber cable is armored, please provide any applicable grounding requirements for splicing enclosures
    The following ground bonding is required
    - Every Pole
    - Every Splice Point
    - Cable to be grounded at least every 6600'

23. If existing anchors have open eyes, will we be permitted to utilize them?
    Determined by pole owner as a result

24. Are there any restrictions on workdays and hours?
    No restrictions

25. Are there any prevailing wage/Davis Bacon rates associated with this project?
    Yes, we believe due to federal funding for this project.

26. Can you detail what a CO(xx) STUB unit is and how it will be utilized in the project?
    These are fiber optic cables looped between two enclosures. Utilization is expected to be infrequent.

27. Will drip loops be required under clamps for CO construction?
    Drip loops should be utilized per RUS specifications.

28. Can closure be either strapped or lashed at contractors discretion?
    RUS specifications; The splice closure locations will be strapped up.

29. Is HAPO (1xSplitter] units for installing the cartridge only and splicing pigtails to be compensated with HO units?
    Compensated with HO units; place and splice all under the HAPO.

30. Will OLT cabinets by pole mounted or pad mounted?
    Negotiations are currently in progress with property owners. There may be a mixture of pole mounted and pad mounted cabinets.

31. Are as-builts required in a specific electronic format? If so, please indicate requirements.
    ESRI Compatible ; the staking sheet is what we need filled out for as builts; the rest will be handled electronically by the redline process. The best practice is for these to be turned in weekly to ensure pace is maintained and construction team isn't overwhelmed at the end of a work packet.

32. Can the strand used Be ¼" 6.6M EHS as opposed to the 5/16(10m) preposed?
10M stand is provided and 10M stand will be the standard
33. Have the 25 and 50 mile segments been identified? If so, around which areas would those be? And to confirm, you don't have any materials for these segments, correct?
    The initial segments are still being determined at this time. All materials have been ordered and fiber and strand will be on site soon.

34. How much materials do you have on order, and what's the ETA on that?
    All materials are on order and have varying lead times. Material required for initial construction segments will be available to start the project on time.