



NEK Broadband
Danville, VT
802-424-1570
rfps@NEKBroadband.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FIBER CONSTRUCTION

Introduction

Project Overview

NEK Broadband has teamed with NRTC Broadband Solutions and Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecommunications (WCVT) to construct a Fiber to the Home (FTTH) network to reach premises in the Northeast Kingdom area of Vermont without access to high-speed broadband internet. The long-term goals of the project are to construct over 2,500 miles of fiber optic network across northern Vermont to offer service to approximately 26,000 passings. The project scope to bid will consist of approximately 240 miles of backbone fiber construction and distribution fiber, with aerial construction being the primary method of construction and underground construction as required, serving over 3,500 passings.

NEK Broadband's main office is located at 123 Red Barn Rd. Danville, VT.

Project Background

NEK Broadband has hired NRTC Broadband Solutions to design and manage the construction of a rural fiber optic network, to provide high-speed broadband Internet access to currently unserved and underserved markets, with a focus on rural areas. The selected Prime Contractor(s) will report to the primary interface with the NRTC Broadband Solutions Project Manager and the OSP Team for issues or questions during construction. NRTC Broadband Solutions and NEK Broadband will also inspect the Prime Contractor work before approving invoice payment. NEK Broadband will provide materials and hardware for fiber construction but will not provide the tools or labor necessary for the installation, which are the responsibility of the contractor.

NEK Broadband will be supplying materials for the project. Contractor will take ownership responsibility for all materials at the time of pickup and retain ownership responsibility of for materials until Final DA signoff. Contractor will be financially liable for all losses and damage of material for which it is responsible.

A pick list will be created and signed for by the contractor upon release of materials for each work packet at the NEK Warehouse. Any materials requested and signed for by the contractor and provided

by the NEK warehouse, beyond the BOM will be charged to the contractor by NEK Broadband and added to retainage until verified as installed at final inspection. Any incorrect or excess materials shall be returned to the warehouse for restock and or exchange. The intention of this stipulation is to ensure materials picked are used where intended in the project and waste is minimized.

NEK Broadband supports the philosophy of shared success with a focus on relationship building with their contracted construction firms. A main goal of NEK Broadband is to develop and enrich the workforce within the Northeast Kingdom. As such, NEK Broadband prefers to hire locally whenever possible. This RFP for construction is for a specific scope of work within the project. NEK Broadband expects additional areas outside of the March-2024 RFP scope to become ready to construct within the next 6-24 months. Future RFP bid evaluations for specific scopes of work will be weighted for choice of existing contractors on the NEK Broadband project.

Inquiries about the RFP

All inquiries about the RFP should be submitted in writing to the NRTC Broadband Solutions Project Manager and NEK BROADBAND:

NRTC Broadband Solutions
Program Manager
Andrew Gaidys
mailto:Andrew.gaidys@nrtc.coop
802-793-1896

NEK BROADBAND
Executive Director
Christa Shute
rfps@nekbroadband.org

Due Date for Prime Contractor Proposals

DATE EVENT

3/29/24 RFP Issued for Bids

4/03/24 Intent to bid

4/08/24 Questions submitted via email by end of day

4/10/24 Midday Questions compiled/answered and returned to all bidders

4/11/24 Final bids due by COB (5PM CST)

Proposal Submission and Format

Proposal Submission

Email an electronic copy of your proposal to:

NEK Broadband & NRTC Broadband Solutions:

rfps@nekbroadband.org and Andrew.gaidys@nrtc.coop

no later than the due date and time for receipt of proposals.

Late proposals will not be accepted.

Offers will be notified within 3 business days acknowledging receipt of their proposal.