

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL #04-08
OPTICAL NETWORKING EQUIPMENT**

ADDENDUM/CLARIFICATION

NOVEMBER 16, 2007

This document is being provided in response to questions presented at the Pre-Proposal Conference held on November 16, 2007. Additionally, we are providing an amended Attachment A. This document is also posted on the University of Maine System, Office of Strategic Procurement's website, at http://www.maine.edu/strategic/upcoming_bids.php.

Addendum: Replace original Attachment A with Attachment A-Amended-1.

Question: Is there a desired format for submitting proposals?

Answer: We request that you follow the same outline as the RFP.

Question: Should bidders respond to terms and conditions included in sections 1, 2, and 3 of the RFP?

Answer: It is our preference that bidders acknowledge these areas where appropriate. If the bidder wishes to offer an alternative term it must be clearly stated in the proposal. When a term has no acknowledgement or response the University assumes the bidder agrees with the term in the RFP.

Question: Will the evaluation criteria be weighted and can you provide bidders with those weights?

Answer: The evaluation criteria will be weighted however we will not share that with bidders.

Question: What is the budget for this project and how is it being funded?

Answer: Funding is being provided from 2 major sources:

- Jackson Labs - State of Maine Bond
- State of Maine appropriations
- Additional smaller amounts are being provided from other sources, for example National Institute of Health.

Question: Where there is redundancy in the RFP, e.g. the information is included in both the RFP Document and in Attachment B; do bidders respond to both or one section?

Answer: Both sections; respond twice.

Question: Section 1.16 Anticipated Timeline. It is stated that bidder presentations will be scheduled the 1st & 2nd week of January 2008. Will there be any flexibility regarding scheduling of presentations? Additionally, is the March 2008 field implementation start date still desired?

Answer: Our desire is to stay as close to the timeline as presented in the RFP, however we can be somewhat flexible in scheduling bidder presentations. We would **not** allow an unreasonable length of time for a bidder to schedule a presentation if the result were to delay our process.

Question: After the initial review of proposals will there be a short list of bidders selected for presentations or will all bidders be asked to present?

Answer: There will be a short list of bidders asked to present.

Question: Attachment A, page 3, indicates the Ellsworth to Bangor Node is not yet fully completed. When do you anticipate it to be complete?

Answer: It is still not completed. Construction should start in the next few weeks.

Question: Attachment A, page 6, Rack and Power Environments:
1. Will those be provided by the University or by the Contractor?
2. They are mostly AC sites. If a bidder's equipment is powered via DC, should the bidder's proposal include a rectifier?
3. Does the bidder need to provide battery backup?

Answer:
1. Racks will be provided by the University.
2. Yes, in that case, the bidder should provide a recommended rectification system (reference section 4.2.12 of the RFP).
3. No battery backup or UPS equipment is required.

Question: Regarding Network Services, what are you looking for?

Answer: As stated in the RFP, we are looking for initial implementation and training. It is our intent that the University will fully maintain and operate the system once the initial implementation and training has been provided. Although we have the expertise in managing a statewide network, we'll need training and support to get up to speed on doing so for the optical infrastructure.

Question: Is there a standard fiber jumper length you require?

Answer: No.

Question: Is there an interest in lower DS1 or DS3?

Answer: No, our desire is to provide primarily Ethernet based services, outside of the initial transitional OC3 services required. We do not currently have need for transport of any storage protocols.

Question: Is there a specific plan or timeline for 40 Gbps?

Answer: No, there is no immediate need however we want to understand the bidder's capabilities/roadmap for bitrates above 10G (reference section 4.2.1 of the RFP).

Question: Are you requesting proposals include separate recommended spares for each geographic area or one complete recommended package?

Answer: One complete package.

Question (via e-mail):

Regarding Technical Question #3, item B. Please provide clarification of what you are looking for.

"How does the proposed system minimize the amount of unique system hardware components?"

Answer: We are looking for how the proposed system might minimize function/feature specific system hardware components. For example, through the use of tunable transponders, pluggable optics, non-banded mux/demuxs, multirate client interfaces.

Question: (via e-mail):

There is a reference to multi-degree ROADM and GMPLS. Is this a strict requirement, and if so, will ROADM ready be an acceptable response?

Answer: The RFP states the solution SHOULD have a form of ROADM capability. ROADM, as defined as an optical capability, is not a strict requirement. The RFP states it should have a form of ROADM capability to include those proposals which would implement a reconfigurable add/drop in some other way. For that matter, solutions may propose an OADM solution, but reconfigurable add/drop technologies will be preferred. The RFP further requests that bidders describe the architecture of any such capability. It would be in the best interest of the bidder to provide that information/roadmap as a matter of response completeness.

Question: Is the University interested in CD/PMD analysis?

Answer: Yes, that would be of interest as a pre-engineering service. Please itemize any pre-engineering service costs.

Question: Regarding the future Southern path to Cambridge - "will there be other nodes along the depicted path to Cambridge?"

Answer: Yes, the picture of the 'Southern path' is vague on purpose as the final path has not been engineered. The node marked as 'NH' may actually be comprised of more than one location, allowing for other site(s) on the way to Cambridge.

Question: How is power being delivered to the University within the collocation spaces?

Answer: DC power is being delivered directly to the equipment rack from the provider's fuse panel.

Question: Will the University have an external BITS clock source?

Answer: No.

Question: Is Bangor shown as a 3-degree node in order to accommodate possible future expansion?

Answer: Yes, we also have other sites north of Bangor we ultimately wish to add to this network. As stated this RFP is for equipment along the 'Western path.' We depicted the other Southern and Eastern paths to better describe the intent and future of this network - these other paths are being actively pursued. In addition we are also preliminarily investigating a Northern path with CANARIE, the Canadian R&E Network, to improve regional connectivity as an extension of the Northeast Research and Education Network (NEREN).