

ADDENDUM #1

Questions and Answers for Erie County Request for Proposal (RFP) To Provide Broadband Internet Feasibility Study, RFP #1534VF, issued October 13, 2015, Proposals due 3:00 p.m. on November 20, 2015.

Question # 1.

How will you share the questions that have been asked and your replies to all potential participants to assure a “level playing field”?

Answer # 1

Our standard procedure is to have all questions answered in one response which will be shared with all potential firms at the same time. Firms asking questions will not be identified.

Question # 2

The County of Erie insurance matrix requires \$5 million in Professional Liability for Classification “C”, Professional Services. Can this be reduced?

Answer # 2

The County Attorney’s Office will accept \$1 million in Professional Liability for this project.

Question # 3

Would you be willing to consider a modified approach and different deliverables, as long as your goals were met?

Answer # 3

The approach outlined in the RFP will be adhered to.

Question # 4

Both the FCC and NYS Broadband Office define broadband service as a minimum of 25 Mbps. Do you wish to include services that are not capable of delivering this speed (which may include dial-up Internet services)?

Answer # 4

We do not want to include dial-up service or speeds below 25 Mbps.

Question # 5

Do you wish to include satellite or DSL services in the research?

Answer # 5

No

Question # 6

In regards to the request to research potential infrastructure which may be available but currently underutilized or unused for broadband service in Erie County, what infrastructure is to be considered?

Answer # 6

The infrastructure to be considered includes cable, fiber, copper, conduit and pathway. This study does not need to consider cell towers.

Question # 7

Could you provide an example of “underutilized”?

Answer # 7

Examples of underutilized infrastructure would include conduit that could contain more lines or fiber that could be operating at higher speeds. (i.e. a multi-strand fiber link with 6 of the 24 pairs utilized).

Question #8

Please define “level of service”

Answer #8

This will be a determination of those areas where current levels of service from existing providers is greater than 25 Mbps.

Question #9

Is it your intent to release study data to the NYS Broadband Program Office or to maintain local ownership of the data.

Answer #9

Erie County intends to share the results of this study with the NYS Broadband Program Office.

Question #10 Could you provide examples of what you had in mind when crafting the phrase, “positive and negative outcomes” regarding public/private systems.to help guide responses?

Answer #10

Erie County is looking for case studies where positive outcomes included systems that provided broader coverage, lower prices faster speeds and continued operational capability. Conversely, we are also interested in learning from systems which have not been able to start or survive for reasons that may include technical, legal or capitalization issues.

Question #11

Is it the intent of this RFP that willing providers that are outside of Erie County would not be considered?

Answer # 11

Providers will be considered without regard to their location.

Question # 12

Private network operators are under no obligation to document or share information on their infrastructure. What accommodations are you willing to accept, given the probability that the documentation of “all networks operating in Erie County” is low?

Answer # 12

It is understood that this information is hard to come by, even for government entities. Erie County will work with the consultant to make every effort to obtain whatever information is available.

Question # 13

What are the acceptable GIS standards referenced in the RFP?

Answer # 13

GIS data is to be provided in ESRI shapefile or geodatabase format. All data is to be in NY Stateplane Western Zone NAD 83 feet.

Question # 14

Would you please define the phrase “sub-sectors of the County”?

Answer # 14

The phrase refers to areas such as City of Buffalo, First ring suburbs, rural areas, northtowns or southtowns.