

Answers to Dark Fiber RFP Questions

1.) On page 8 of the RFP, insurance requirements are listed as:

General Liability aggregate limit to be \$5 million – (Contractor) has \$2 million.

Auto Liability to be \$2 million – (Contractor) has \$1 million.

However, we have an umbrella coverage.

The Umbrella will cover what is not covered in either of the above categories. Will that be acceptable? **If the umbrella covers the limits required then note it on your submission of the RFP. If the umbrella does not cover the General Liability and Auto Liability requirements, then simply note in your RFP that you are taking an exception to the requirement.**

2.) (Contractor Name) covers defects in our work, plus there will be product warranties from Manufacturers. (Contractor Name) does not offer Product Liability Coverage, can this provision be waved? **The product liability provision covers manufactured items and installation if applicable. If you are providing an RFP as a contractor only, then note it on your RFP and also note that any products installed will be covered by manufacturers warranty. You do not need to list all parts individually. Simply note items will be covered by manufacturer's warranty. and that you are providing installation only.**

3.) What exactly is a Supplier's Manager's Certificate?

Any certifications you may have from your industry that would indicate training or education relative to the fiber industry. It is not a requirement, but could help your RFP rate higher than others.

4.) What is required to meet the Engineer Certificate requirement? **Any certificate which indicates you have an engineer for the project or affiliated with the project. Examples include a PE, ME, or someone with an engineering degree from an accredited college.**

5.) (Contractor Name) Warrantees our work often through our construction contracts for a specified period of time, what else is needed as a sample to meet the Warrantee Certificate requirement? **The Warranty certificate language in the RFP is there to allow a supplier or manufacturer to provide a sample of what equipment warranties are offered. It is not a requirement for submitting and RFP, although preference may be given to those firms or vendors who provide warranty samples.**

6.) Since all proposals are in writing, what is required to meet the Digital Media Proposal requirement? **Any form of current modern electronic media (CD, flash drive, etc.)**

7.) The proposal term sheet requests pricing as “Price per Pair”. This term does not apply to Fiber, but is a “Copper Cable” term. Would you rather have pricing in Price per strand, or price per foot, or, Simply a Lump Sum – Labor and Equipment? **The minimum request for the RFP is the availability on one pair (two strands). Some companies may offer one pair for lease. Others pay have more available for lease or purchase. The pricing should be clear in your proposal to indicate per pair and not individual strands. If you have 10 strands to offer, then simply refer to them as "five pair."**

8.) Besides the North Route and the South Route, is the county also requesting a route connecting the two terminal end locations? In other words, a direct route between the location at the corner of CR6 & CR11 and the location at US 20 and CR3?

The intent and desire of the County is to have a connection from the North termini (CR 6) connected to Union Station, and the South route (CR 20 or Mishawaka Rd.) to Data Realty. Redundancy is desired and thus there should be a connector between the North route and the South route, ideally running between Data Realty and Union Station. However, vendor may offer any kind of North-South route connection other than running between the data centers. Redundancy is the most important desire of the RFP, thus the closer to the data centers the North-South connection is made, the less chance for service interruption to users.

9) Is it one cable hooking up all 4 locations with a 144 stub to each location? Or, are you looking for two pt-pt connections, one from each intersection going back to one of the data centers? **One from each intersection going back to each data center. I.E. the CR 6 termini would connect to Union Station and the CR 20 termini would connect to Data Realty. Then there could be a connection between the two data centers for redundancy.**

10) Are you going to own the conduit that the cable is being placed in? **Elkhart County could own the conduit, or another option would be for (Company Name) to offer a lease or some other alternative.**

11) Do they need connectivity to other parts of the County? (Company Name) is building from Ligonier to Goshen to Elkhart. **There could be other connectivity needs, but for the purposes of answering the RFP, you should focus on the data center connection.**

12) Does the County have any available conduit for our use? **No**

13) Are they paying to have the cable brought into GAP and Data Realty? **Please add bringing the cable in to GAP and Data Realty as an alternate cost.**

14) The RFP requests connections to corner of CR6/CR11 and corner of CR20/CR3 and references terminals. What exactly is at these two locations that the fiber will be connected to?

Both termini are the end of our existing county owned fiber. They both end in handholes with 50' of 144 SMF coiled and ended inside a splice case.