

Connecticut Libraries Fiber Consortium

Responses to questions from vendors regarding the Internet Services RFP package:

Q&As posted on November 13, 2017:

1. Does this RFP include colleges? No, only public libraries.
2. Did you email this RFP to my company? No, the RFP is posted on the CT State Contracting Portal and in the E-rate Productivity Center.
3. Does this RFP include firewalls? No.
4. Does this RFP include any equipment? No.
5. Are you interested in mobile services? No.
6. Do the libraries currently have a relationship with CEN? Some do; others do not and get their internet service from other vendors. The CT State Library, which is leading this Consortium, is a CEN member and customer.
7. Are there pockets of libraries without CEN connections? Yes. Some of these libraries are included in the Consortium's other RFP for fiber (Form 470 application # 180003328). They are also included on a map available at <http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/erate/clfc>.
8. Is there information on where CEN PoPs and data centers are located? Information about CEN's network is available from their web site: <http://www.ct.gov/cen/site/default.asp>
9. If vendor is unable to reach some sites, is it acceptable to exclude some sites from the response? Yes, as noted in section 2.1 of the RFP, "Vendors may provide bids for all or part of the attached list of Consortium member libraries."
10. What is the process if a member library receives multiple bids for service? The Consortium will email the library with information from the multiple bids and guide them on selecting the most cost-effective option using the evaluation criteria defined in the RFP.
11. Have there been any changes in CEN's services and prices? Not from the state library's experience.
12. What is the allowable contract length? As stated in the RFP, section 1.1, "Multi-year contracts may be considered." As stated in the section on "State and Local Procurement Restrictions on the Form 470 application # 180003332, "The Applicant may consider multi-year and/or contracts with voluntary extensions and is willing to consider a month to month arrangement or contracts with varying terms. Any voluntary contract extensions must be identified within the awarded contract and must be of specified number and duration. Contracts with automatic or evergreen contract extension terms will NOT be considered."
13. Are the libraries interested in different internet speeds? Yes, these are noted in the RFP in sections 1.1 and 2.1.

Notes:

1. The Connecticut Libraries Fiber Consortium issued two RFPs, this one for leased lit fiber, internet access: ISP service only, or internet access and transport bundled to 242 member libraries (Form 470 application # 180003332) and another one for leased lit fiber, leased dark fiber, or self-provisioned dark fiber to 42 member libraries (Form 470 application # 180003328).
2. This is the third year in which the Consortium has issued RFPs for these services.
3. The posting on the CT State Contracting Portal was updated on November 13, 2017, to include the list of 242 member libraries.

4. Each member library currently has internet access, and they are authorized to sign their own contracts at the local level.
5. Vendors should provide accurate, specific costs for the libraries on which they bid.