



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminister Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

LOI #: 2011- 555 INTERNET ACCESS

Title: INTERNET ACCES FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

Submission DEADLINE: DECEMBER 23, 2010 @ 10:00am (Eastern Time)

<p>PRE-BID/Conference: YES Date: November 22, 2010 Time: 10:00am (EDT) Mandatory: NO Location: RI Department of Education, 255 Westminister Street, Providence, RI Room 606</p>
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Questions concerning this solicitation may be e-mailed to Karen A. Cooper at RIDE Office of Finance at Karen.cooper@ride.ri.gov no later than November 23, 2010 @ NOON (EDT), **Send your questions in Microsoft Word format.** Please reference the LOI # on all correspondence.

Telephone (401) 222-4600 Fax (401) 222-6178 TTY 800-745-5555 Voice 800-745-6575
www.ride.ri.gov

The Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, or disability.

***REQUEST for LETTERS of INTEREST
Internet Access for Schools and Libraries***

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is requesting Letters of Interest from qualified vendors to provide Internet Access on behalf of a consortium that includes all schools, public and private, in the State of Rhode Island. The complete list of sites that need Internet Access is provided in a spreadsheet, which accompanies the Telecommunications Line RFP located at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/intech/E-Rate/ERate1.aspx>

INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS TO OFFERORS:

Potential offerors are advised to review all sections of this Request carefully and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein may result in rejection of the proposal.

Alternative approaches and/or methodologies to accomplish the desired or intended results of this procurement are solicited. However, proposals which depart from or materially alter the terms, requirements, or scope of work defined by this Request will be rejected as being non-responsive.

All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this Request, or to provide oral or written clarification of its content shall be borne by the offeror. The State assumes no responsibility for these costs.

Proposals are considered to be irrevocable for a period of not less than sixty (60) days following the opening date, and may not be withdrawn, except with the express written permission of the RIDE

All pricing submitted will be considered to be firm and fixed unless otherwise indicated herein.

Proposals misdirected to other State locations or which are otherwise not present at the RI Department of Education by December 23, 2010 at 10:00am (4th floor reception area) at the time of opening for any cause will be determined to be late and may not be considered. The "Official" time clock is in the reception area RIDE.

In accordance with Title 7, Chapter 1.1 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, no foreign corporation shall have the right to transact business in the state until it shall have procured a Certificate of Authority to do so from the Rhode Island Secretary of State (401-222-3040). *This will be a requirement only of the successful bidder (s).*

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Offerors are advised that all materials submitted to RIDE for consideration in response to this Request for Proposals will be considered to be public records, as defined in Title 38 Chapter 2 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

Equal Employment Opportunity (RIGL 28-5.1)

§ 28-5.1-1 Declaration of policy. – (a) Equal opportunity and affirmative action toward its achievement is the policy of all units of Rhode Island state government, including all public and quasi-public agencies, commissions, boards and authorities, and in the classified, unclassified, and non-classified services of state employment. This policy applies in all areas where the state dollar is spent, in employment, public service, grants and financial assistance, and in state licensing and regulation. For further information, contact the Rhode Island Equal Employment Opportunity Office, at 222-3090 or via email raymondl@gw.doa.state.ri.us

***REQUEST for LETTERS of INTEREST
Internet Access for Schools and Libraries***

Background/Overview:

The Department of Education (RIDE) and the Library network operate a high-speed wide area network(s) through relationships with consortia serving each type of entity with equitable access to network services regardless of location for all school or library sites. It is comprised of a wide range of network circuits inter-connected to create an information network. RIDE is interested in having a vendor supply a shared, technology-base infrastructure that delivers safe and reliable access, at an affordable cost, to Rhode Island public, private, charter, state operated and selected private libraries, and consortia.

RIDE makes every effort to provide Internet access for all RI schools and districts that is economical and at a high quality. RIDE must also guarantee safe Internet experience for our most vulnerable citizens such as school age children, educators, librarians and other who support our children.

SCOPE OF THE WORK:

Tasks: RIDE is limiting its request to the provision of basic conduit access to the Internet, and certain related services integral to the reaching the public Internet. Service Providers for Internet Access need not be eligible telecommunications providers, but they must be prepared to provide installation and services to all sites for the various technologies which might be deployed at the eligible schools/sites.

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Project Schedule: Service provider would commence on July 1, 2011 and end June 30, 2012.

Services:

Internet Access services should include those necessary features associated with adequate functionality and performance. Such features could include Domain Name Service (registration), to assist use of the standard Internet naming convention; Firewall services are also of interest to some consortium members. On premise leased equipment for Internet Access may be of interest to consortium members. Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol, to assist with providing devices with a unique address; firewall services if necessary for operation of the network; Web Hosting; and e-mail services. Such access may include transport of digital communication using any Internet-based protocols, including encapsulation of data, video, or voice so long as this is the most cost effective way to access the Internet.

CONTRACT:

Individual contracts will be signed by RI schools, districts and libraries with the selected vendor. The local schools, districts and libraries may have specific and/or additional request and requirements. The Selected Vendor's services will begin July 1, 2011 and end June 30, 2012. The scope of the work, such as site locations etc., may be modified by RIDE prior to the vendor selection. Schools, districts and libraries may modify prior to beginning work on a given task. Because this program is funded and/or subsidized by public or federal funds, there should be no expectation that funding can exceed the original request or that costs not explicitly listed on the bid response will be accepted.

The Rhode Island state Department of Education is exempt from state and federal taxes. The Department will not accept added taxes and added charges to the pricing submitted by the Vendor, including but not limited to a gross earnings tax.

PRICING PROPOSAL:

Our constituencies include a broad range of needs. Therefore, the vendor must prepare a pricing grid that demonstrates the ability to serve the full range of demands from the consortium members. The vendor must prepare a pricing grid that fully describes all service that can be provided, the various bandwidths available, minimum and maximum bandwidth, price breakpoints, technologies used for the bandwidth offered, end user equipment requirements, or equipment provided by the vendor. Special service level pricing, such as incentives, multi-year offers, technical enhancements, etc. should be explained.

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Proposal Submission:

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Proposals (an original plus 4 copies) should include the following:

1. A Pricing proposal grid as described above.
2. A *separate* Technical Proposal (see below) describing the qualifications and background of the applicant and experience with similar programs, as well as the work plan or approach proposed for this requirement.
3. A completed and signed W-9 (taxpayer identification number and certification).

Deliver to: Rhode Island Department of Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
4th Floor Reception
Attention: Karen A. Cooper

Contractor assumes all responsibilities for proposals submitted by mail or commercial delivery service. Proposals misdirected to other state locations or which are otherwise not present in the RI Department of Education at the time of opening, for any cause, will be determined to be late and will not be considered. Faxed responses will not be considered.

Technical Proposal Required Elements:

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|---|-------------|
| 1. Vendor understanding of the Issues | (20 points) |
| 2. Work Plan | (15 points) |
| 3. Capacity of the vendor to effectively administer the Project | (20 points) |
| 4. Quality of Key Personnel (including Curriculum vitae) | (15 points) |
| 5. Pricing Proposal | (30 points) |

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