



ADDENDUM # 1
RFP-24-041-RS- BRDBND -AMBMON

Proposals whether mailed, shipped, or personally delivered must be officially received by the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) by **4:00 pm on May 3rd, 2024**, in order to be considered. Proposals received after the deadline, regardless of circumstance, will be disqualified. **ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

All solicitation documents are posted here: <http://www.aacog.com/bids.aspx>
<https://www.txsmartbuy.com>

This addendum is to address Questions & Answers. All parties shall be responsible for reading this entire addendum. The failure to list an item or items of this addendum does not relieve any party affected from performing as per instructions, provided that the information is set forth one time any place in this addendum. The addendum will form a part of the contract document. All other conditions of this RFP remain unchanged.

Q&A The following questions were received according to submission instruction in the RFP.

1. Based on the reading of this are all counties within the COG participating?
This project is for the 12 counties that surround Bexar County.
2. Are there individual counties considering municipal networks? Or have they taken steps to develop these?
There are a number of communities that are considering municipal networks.
3. Are individuals considering PPP? If so, have they begun discussing with providers? Is the municipality looking for an ownership stake or revenue share?
We have not ventured that far into the project and cannot answer this question.
4. Have any of the areas- COG/Counties had feasibility studies?
That is unknown to AACOG.
5. Is the intention of the grant writing portion to be done on behalf of the municipalities or the partner providers?
Municipalities and counties.
6. Is the overarching goal of the project a municipal network, a COG/municipality supported project by a provider, or a Public Private Partnership? Depending on each scenario the scope can vary greatly.
None of the above.
7. If 13 counties are participating separate and intend to procure funding through various sources there are 13+ grant applications that must be developed in a highly competitive broadband grant space. The RFP states the payment will be used from grant funds



procured. If there are no grant funds received for certain applications then it's assumed the costs allocated to that grant development is lost, correct?

Yes; however, respondents should provide a fee structure for grant writing.

8. In section 1.3.1 it is mentioned that the minimum is 25/3 but most federal funding now calls for 100/20 or above—suggest adjusting this speed to at least 100/20 to match current funding programs.

Noted.

9. The contract section has the agreement ending May 2026 but it also says 3 years- can this be clarified?

Agreement will have extension options.

10. The end date in the contract section is prior to the closure of projects in programs such as BEAD. Technical assistance, engineering, construction, etc. need to take place throughout the entire project completion. Is the contract extendable or renewable?

Yes.

11. Will there be one or multiple awarded proposers?

Multiple.

12. In section 4.2.3.1, Is the expected average cost a cost to build a COG-wide network? Please clarify.

Cost to build a county-wide network. Also consider multiple-county projects.

13. In sections 5.4 and 5.5 contradict one another on page lengths for the executive summary and the proposal narrative. Please clarify.

Thank you. 3-page limit.

14. In section 5.5.4 there is a reference in the Proposal narrative and it says “please refer to criteria in section 6.4 for order of narrative.” Section 6.4 references the certification sheet and does not mention the proposal narrative. Can you please clarify the criteria and order of narrative?

Please refer to 6.3.

15. Can an additional 30 days be allowed to prepare submissions to this RFP as some of the questions dictate response.

No.

16. Are all 13 counties included as part of the Scope of Work and committed to this project, including: funding application assistance, engineering, environmental/permitting, construction, and installation to support broadband service?

Concentrate on 12 counties surrounding Bexar County.



17. Is payment of any of the services described, including to support funding applications, contingent on successful funding awards?

Yes.

18. Will projects (or funding mechanisms) be included that do not limit the eligibility to areas less than 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download speed and 3 Mbps upload speed? In other words, would populated areas that have sufficient access to broadband service be included in the proposed project areas?

Yes.

19. Who is planned to operate the proposed broadband network(s)? Will AACOG consider using an operating partner identified by the Bidder to support network operations and customer support?

Federal and State grant programs specify ownership; grant recipients will follow grant stipulations.

This RFP is not for companies seeking to own and operate a network.

20. If this contract is awarded to multiple entities, how will AACOG ask for bids from each entity on a specific grant?

Based on each vendor's experience and expertise, task orders will be issued. All vendors will have an opportunity to respond. The amount of time given as notice will depend on the grant due date and when the notice of funding was released.

AACOG will issue the task orders for grant writing. AACOG will partner with the public entity to issue task orders for engineering; however, it is expected that AACOG will be the lead agency for all task orders.

All responders should submit fee schedules.

- A. Will task orders be issued, or other communications? If not task orders, how will contractors be notified?
 - B. How much notice will be given ahead of a grant submission deadline? 6 weeks, 3 months, or other?
21. Who will be issuing the task orders, AACOG or individual members, or both?
- C. This question is for both grants services and engineering.



22. The proposal respondent will likely provide grant writing services for fees. We cannot perform standalone grant writing services on contingency.

23. Is the scope to provide assistance in planning the network, create a high level design, identify grant funding, apply for grants, and develop an RFP for a construction company, private partner, or ISP contractor? Is it to perform a detailed design, construct and operate a network?

Yes; but, the scope does not include construction and operation of a network.

24. Are you seeking hourly rates or cost estimates for completing the individual tasks above?

Responders should provide a fee schedule for all services. If hourly rates are provided, an estimate on the number of hours per service would be appreciated. For example, if preparing a grant application for a U.S. Department of Transportation grant would take 50 to 60 hours, then the hourly rate can easily be used to calculate an approximate cost for the grant writing work.

25. What is the size of the proposed network? How many locations are to be served, and over what area? Is there a preference for a wireless or fiber network? Or determining these factors to be part of the initial analysis?

The size has not been determined. As each county or area develops its project, the size will be identified as will preferences.

26. Are you seeking legal assistance or will you have counsel to perform legal review of the materials developed?

If the proposer has legal services as part of their response, it will be accepted.

27. Is AACOG expecting the proposed vendor to perform actual design and construction of the network?

No.

28. Who is expected to own and operate the proposed network?

This RFP is not intended for companies seeking to own and operate a network. The RFP is intended for companies that can assist with project proposals and grant writing.

29. In 1.4 the RFP is asking for the cost of design, construction, and installation of broadband infrastructure in areas identified in 1.1 and 1.3. Sections 1.1 and 1.3 do not identify any



areas where the build is expected. Will AACOG provide detailed areas (maps) and locations to be covered by this build so the cost can be estimated?

Selected consultants must be able to address these when a project is identified for funding and implementation. 1.4 is not asking for information as part of the RFP process.

All other conditions of this RFP remain unchanged.

END OF ADDENDUM
