



**Solicitation Information
January 15, 2014**

Addendum #1

RFP # 7548375

TITLE: RFP – ENTERPRISE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER & CORE WAN SERVICES

Submission Deadline: February 4, 2014 @ 11:30 AM (Eastern Time)

PLEASE NOTE: SUBMISSION DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014 AT 11:30 AM.

THIS ADDENDUM #1 INCLUDES IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATED TO RFP #7548375.

QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM VENDORS WITH STATE RESPONSES WILL BE POSTED AS ADDENDUM #2.

**Gail Walsh
State of Rhode Island
Division of Purchases**

Addendum #1

RFP # 7548375 – Enterprise Internet Service Provider & Core WAN Services

As written, RFP # 7548375, Enterprise Internet Service Provider & Core WAN Services, requires bidders to provide a “bundled” solution encompassing Internet1, Internet2, and WAN services. The Rhode Island technological landscape in State government has utilized a bundled solution for many years. Therefore, the State prefers a bundled solution. Specifically, as stated in the RFP, the State utilizes Internet2 as a backup to Internet1. Additionally, Internet1 and Internet2 are currently integrated in the delivery of these services to the State. Thus, the State has concerns about unbundling its current solution.

Notwithstanding the State’s concerns, the RFP as published does not effectively foster competition among vendors for the various services. Accordingly, this Addendum shall amend the RFP to allow for a broader array of possible solutions to be proposed for the State’s consideration. Therefore, in addition to a bundled solution, the State will consider alternative approaches, including proposals for individual categories of services such as Internet1. Any vendor proposing an alternative/unbundled solution should address the State’s concerns and the costs of changing the State’s current bundled solution. The State will evaluate all of the costs and benefits and will determine during the evaluation phase of proposals whether a bundled solution or an alternative unbundled approach is in the best interests of the State.

Thus, the RFP’s requirements are therefore amended as follows in order to foster competition:

- Page 9, first paragraph:
 - The State currently has a bundled solution, and it prefers to keep a bundled solution moving forward. But should a vendor propose an alternative approach for an unbundled solution, the State will consider it and all associated costs and benefits during the evaluation phase.

- Page 9, third paragraph:
 - The State currently has a bundled solution, and it prefers to keep a bundled solution moving forward. But should a vendor propose an alternative approach for an unbundled solution, the State will consider it and all associated costs and benefits during the evaluation phase. Ultimately the State will weigh whether a bundled package versus a non-bundled solution is in the best interests of the State from both a cost and practical perspective. Additionally, the State will evaluate and consider the cost of transitioning the existing integrated solution to an unbundled model.

- Page 10:
 - Section 6, Cost Proposal, is amended to add the following:
 - Vendors may submit pricing for individual categories of services including Internet1 or Internet2, and/or in addition, may submit cost as a bundled solution. Vendors are not required to submit both individual and bundled cost proposals, but they may do so. Cost proposals shall clearly identify any costs or savings attributed to bundling one or more of the services. After reviewing proposals, the State shall determine whether the bundled or non-bundled solution is in the best interests of the State. Please note once again, the State currently has a bundled solution and prefers to maintain a bundled solution. However, the State will consider alternative options and weigh all costs and benefits.
 - All costs associated with unbundling the State's current solution shall be itemized by the vendor proposing an unbundled solution, as the RFP requires the winning bidder to bear said costs for all necessary modifications to the currently existing infrastructure.
 - The State will evaluate the cost and disruption of unbundling the current solution as part of the overall proposal review and in its sole discretion, the State reserves the right to award to the vendor or vendors which provide the most effective cost and technical solution.