



**Solicitation Information**  
8 March 06

**LOI # B06127 (Master Price Agreement # 321)**

**Title: Alternate Carriers for Local Data Communication and Transport**

**Submission Deadline: 30 March 06 @ 2:20 PM**

Questions concerning this solicitation may be e-mailed to the Division of Purchases at [questions@purchasing.state.ri.us](mailto:questions@purchasing.state.ri.us) no later than **16 March 06 at 12:00 Noon (EST)**. Questions should be submitted in a *Microsoft Word attachment*. Please reference the RFP / LOI # on all correspondence. Questions received, if any, will be posted on the Internet as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download this information.

**SURETY REQUIRED: No**

**BOND REQUIRED: No**

**Jerome D. Moynihan, C.P.M., CPPO**  
**Administrator of Purchasing Systems**

**Vendors must register on-line at the State Purchasing Website at**  
**[www.purchasing.state.ri.us](http://www.purchasing.state.ri.us).**

**NOTE TO VENDORS:**

Offers that are not accompanied by a completed and signed Bidder Certification Cover Form may be subject to disqualification.

**THIS PAGE IS NOT A BIDDER CERTIFICATION FORM**

**The Rhode Island Department of Administration / Division of Purchases, on behalf of the Department of Administration / Division of Information Technology (DoIT), is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors to provide *Alternate Carriers for Local Data and Voice Communication Transport* in accordance with the terms of this solicitation and the State's General Conditions of Purchase, which is available at [www.purchasing.state.ri.us](http://www.purchasing.state.ri.us). The following is to solicit costs for services to support this project.**

Although the State currently has in place a Master Price Agreement (MPA) with Verizon effective until August 28, 2008 under which Verizon provides all voice communications and some digital data circuits from 56Kb through OC12 bandwidths using data network services such as ISDN PRI, TLS, Frame Relay and ATM, the State is interested in augmenting that agreement with another Master Price Agreement (MPA), potentially adding other vendors and providing additional technologies for the purposes of local carrier services

The state anticipates cost savings and expanded network flexibility from using this approach.

It is the intent of the State to use this solicitation to establish a qualified vendor list for a three-year Master Price Agreement, administered by DoIT. There is no current Master Price Agreement for this service.

This is a Letter of Interest, not an Invitation for Bid: responses will be evaluated on the basis of the relative merits of the proposals, in addition to price; there will be no public opening and reading of responses received by the Office of Purchases pursuant to this Request, other than to name those offerors who have submitted proposals.

#### **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 State Purchasing Agent.
- 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 in the Division of Purchases at the time of opening for any cause will be determined to be late and

may not be considered. PROPOSALS FAXED, OR EMAILED, TO THE STATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

- It is intended that an award pursuant to this Request will be made to a prime contractor, who will assume responsibility for all aspects of the work. Joint venture and cooperative proposals will not be considered, but subcontracts are permitted, provided that their use is clearly indicated in the offeror's proposal, and the subcontractor(s) proposed to be used are identified in the proposal.
- In accordance with Title 7, Chapter 1.1 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, no foreign corporation, a corporation without a Rhode Island business address, 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).
- Bidders are advised that all materials submitted to the State of Rhode Island 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, without exception, and will be released for inspection immediately upon request, once an award has been made.
- The State of Rhode Island has a goal of ten per cent (10%) participation by MBE's in all State procurements. For further information, visit the web site [www.rimbe.org](http://www.rimbe.org). To speak with an M.B.E. Officer, call (401) 222-6253.
- Interested parties are instructed to peruse the Division of Purchases web site on a regular basis, as additional information relating to this solicitation may be released in the form of an addendum to this RFP / LOI

### **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

### **General Qualifications:** *To be considered qualified, offerors must demonstrate:*

- Capacity and capability to provide local carrier service for data transport ubiquitously throughout Rhode Island.
- Financial and organizational stability.

### **Vendor Business Requirements:** *To be considered qualified, offerors must demonstrate:*

- Proven experience in providing digital local carrier service in Rhode Island

### **Scope of Work**

- Although the State currently has in place a Master Price Agreement (MPA) with Verizon effective until August 28, 2008 under which Verizon provides all voice communications and some digital data circuits from 56Kb through OC12 bandwidths using data network services such as ISDN PRI, TLS, Frame Relay and ATM, the State is interested in

augmenting that agreement with another MPA, potentially adding other vendors and providing additional technologies for the purposes of local carrier services

- Under the current MPA, all services expire simultaneously at the end of the agreement, and may be removed prior to that date without termination liability. The State requires similar flexibility from vendors responding to this solicitation; i.e., purchases under the resulting agreement may be for a shorter period than the approximately 3 years of the agreement.
- The state is interested in both land-line and wireless transport providers using all available technologies, including, but not limited to cable, fiber, EVDO, WI-Max, Infrared, 3G and beyond to carry voice, data, VoIP and video transmissions.
- The state is interested in voice communications for DR purposes (with no minimum annual commitment “MAC”) using all available technologies, including, but not limited to digital and analog measured business lines, Centrex services, Flexpath and ISDN.
- The state is also interested in Internet Services. This service could be used as a primary or alternate ISP and needs to be priced with a base service with 1MB increments. The pricing must also include the cost of the carrier. Also include an options with the vendor supplying IP addresses.
- The state is also interested in establishing service level agreement provisions for both land-line and wireless transport providers using all available technologies
- The State intends to provide its own termination equipment; however, eligible purchasing entities include all state agencies, municipalities, and those telecommunications collaboratives in which the state participates, including RINet, OSHEAN, HELIN, etc.
- The state will consider all alternatives and award listing based upon a combination of price, service quality and vendor flexibility in respect to terms and conditions beyond those terms and conditions enumerated above.

## **Pre-Proposal Questions & PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Questions concerning this solicitation may be e-mailed to the Division of Purchases at [questions@purchasing.state.ri.us](mailto:questions@purchasing.state.ri.us) no later than **16 March 06 at 12:00 Noon (EST)**. Questions should be submitted in a *Microsoft Word attachment*. Please reference the RFP / LOI # on all correspondence. Questions received, if any, will be posted on the Internet as an addendum to this solicitation. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download this information.

Questions received, if any, will be answered and posted on the internet, at [www.purchasing.state.ri.us](http://www.purchasing.state.ri.us), as an addendum to this solicitation.. It is the responsibility of all interested parties to download the information. For technical assistance, call the Helpline at (401) 222-2142, ext 134.

Interested offerors may submit proposals to provide the services covered by this Request on or before the date & time indicated on page one of this solicitation. *Proposals received after this time and date may not be considered.*

Responses (an original plus five hard copies; **two copies on CD**) should be mailed or hand-delivered in a sealed envelope marked "**LOI# B06127: Alternate Local Carriers for Data Communication Transport**" to

**RI Dept. of Administration  
Division of Purchases, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5855**

NOTE: Proposals received after the above-referenced due date and time may not be considered. Proposals misdirected to other State locations or which are otherwise not presented in the Division of Purchases by the scheduled due date and time will be determined to be late and may not be considered.

**Proposals must include the following:**

- A completed and signed R.I.V.I.P.generated bidder certification cover form (downloaded from the R.I. Division of Purchases Internet home page at <http://www.purchasing.state.ri.us>)
- Details of services offered, including:
  - » manufacturer information
  - » transmission speeds supported
  - » maintenance options
  - » support systems; eg., NOC, Network management, etc.
- A signed Cost Proposal including the attached format including:
  - » transmission speeds supported
  - » cost to modify/upgrade service
  - » installation costs
  - » monthly service rates
  - » maintenance options and costs

Bidder must include pricing in hard copy and on disk (Microsoft Excel)

In addition to the multiple hard copies of proposals required, Respondents are requested to provide their proposal (technical & cost) in electronic format (CDRom or Diskette).

Microsoft Word / Excel OR PDF format is preferable. Two electronic copies are requested.

- Details of terms and conditions beyond standards State of RI terms and conditions, eg.:
  - » Billing policies
  - » acceptance of limited termination liabilities
  - » no minimum commitments
  - » handling of special construction costs
- A completed and signed W-9 Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification Form, which may be downloaded from [www.purchasing.state.ri.us](http://www.purchasing.state.ri.us) Call the Helpline at 401 222-2142, ext 134 if computer technical assistance is needed.

**Evaluation and Selection**

Only offerors who can demonstrate that they meet the General Requirements and Vendor Business Requirements above will be considered for selection.

The State will commission a Technical Review Committee, which will evaluate and score all proposals, using the following criteria:

- Business Capability, Capacity, and Qualifications of the Offeror 30 points
  - Aptness of solution(s) offered 30 points
  - Terms and conditions 10 points
  - Cost (Complete attached matrix) 30 Points
- 100 Points

*Submissions must receive a minimum of 75 points to qualify for inclusion in this Master Price Agreement. Once the M.P.A. is established, the Office of Library and Information Services will assist the using State Agency in selection of an appropriate vendor and negotiation of an appropriate scope of work statement. The selection will be based on the need of the Agency and the expertise, cost, and availability of vendors on the Master Price Agreement. Inclusion on the Master Price Agreement is no guarantee of income.*

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the State reserves the right not to award this contract or to award on the basis of cost alone, to accept or reject any or all proposals, and to award in its best interest.

Proposals found to be technically or substantially non-responsive at any point in the evaluation process will be rejected and not considered further

The State reserves the right to accept or reject any or all options, bids or submissions and to act in its own best own best interest.

The State may, at its sole option, elect to require presentation(s) by offerors clearly in consideration for award.

**Cost Format** (*sample*)

Transport	Bandwidth	Type of Service	Basic Cost (monthly)	Installation Cost (one-time)	Maintenance (monthly)	add PVCs (monthly)
<i>Copper</i>	<i>T-1 (1.54Mb)</i>	<i>Frame Relay</i>	<i>\$648</i>	<i>-0-</i>	<i>-0-</i>	<i>\$10/1<sup>st</sup> 5</i>