

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions have been submitted concerning RFP Erate 470 180005049, Internal Connections-Replace/install existing fiber (ES-Group 1). All questions received by the posted deadline of 5:00 PM, CST, Monday, December 4, 2017 are provided verbatim from what was received and have been answered, using blue font color.

It will be the responsibility of the proposer to determine what, if any, information from the Questions and Answers provided herein will be applicable in the submission of a proposal for the RFP 470. As stated in Section II (Special Terms and Conditions), Letter Q (Miscellaneous), Number 1: "The submission of a proposal will be prima facie evidence that the Responder has full knowledge of the scope, nature, quantity and quality of work to be performed; the detailed requirements of the specifications; and the conditions under which the work is to be performed."

No Amendment to the RFP will be issued and the Opening date remains unchanged.

Responder #1

1. Are the fiber optic cables in each of the schools originating in the same Communications Equipment Room or Closet, and if so, can the cables be co-located in the same patch panel or will there be a need for a separate patch panel at each end for each cable?
A. Existing panels are NOT to be re-used. New fiber patch panels are required. However, new panels can house multiple runs if appropriate.
2. Since the Panduit Opticom patch panel series is approved, is Panduit the preferred connector as well?
A. The language of the proposal states: "The approved fiber tray(s) to be used are from the Panduit Opticom series or equivalent. An approved equal may be substituted with sufficient documentation with the proposal for the Evaluation committee to review."
3. What type of Fiber connector is required? (LC; SC; etc.) This may affect the patch panel required since the density differs on the fiber Adapter panels.
A. All connectors are to be LC.
4. Can it be assumed that all the fiber will be purchased at the same time? There is typically better pricing in bulk and some of the individual schools do not meet the minimum length requirements for some fiber optic manufacturers.
A. The method to purchase materials will be the responsibility of the winning bidder.
5. Is it a requirement for the existing fiber to remain active while installing the new cables? If the existing fiber is currently installed in a conduit, it may be necessary to remove it to make room for the new fiber.
A. Existing fiber can be used as a pull cord if the work is coordinated to maintain normal operations and prevent disruptions. In no case should the work disrupt normal classroom operations.
6. If the existing fiber is to remain until the new fiber is installed, is there adequate space in the equipment cabinet for the new patch panels?

A. No guarantees are made as to the existing conditions, however, there should be adequate space for new patch panels.

7. Is it a requirement to remove the existing cables once the new cables are installed?

A. No. Existing cables may remain.

8. Are we to provide new patch cords or re-using existing patch cords to patch and ensure operability in conformance of this project?

A. The District will provide our own patch cords, that is not in the project scope.

9. Can we assume that testing and certification is required to provide a turn-key project?

A. Yes.

10. Is there an estimate on how much of this cable is outdoor versus indoor?

A. The majority will be run indoors. We cannot estimate beyond that. All fiber should be indoor/outdoor and plenum rated.

11. Will innerduct be required to protect the fiber in any of the locations?

A. While innerduct is not required, we do recognize that there will be locations that would benefit from innerduct. There is just no way for us to provide an exact footage.

Responder #2

1) Can we assume that all required conduits, cores and pathways are existing and not included in our Proposal? If not, please advise on the quantities and details of these items to be included in our submission.

A. The majority will be indoor. We cannot estimate beyond that. All fiber should be indoor/outdoor and plenum rated.

2) Is all cable required to be Indoor/Outdoor Plenum-rated, or will some be strictly indoor cable?

A. All fiber should be indoor/outdoor and plenum rated.

3) Will we be required to install new innerduct in vacant conduits or ducts?

A. While innerduct is not required, we do recognize that there will be locations that would benefit from innerduct. There is just no way for us to provide an exact footage.