State of Nebraska (State Purchasing Bureau)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES FORM

RETURN TO:
State Purchasing Bureau
1526 K Street, Suite 130
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
Phone: 402-471-6500
Fax: 402-471-2089

SOLICITATION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE
5153Z1	**October 23, 2015**
OPENING DATE AND TIME	PROCUREMENT CONTACT
December 18, 2015 2:00 p.m. Central Time	**Robert Thompson / Michelle Thompson**

This form is part of the specification package and must be signed in ink and returned, along with proposal documents, by the opening date and time specified.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

SCOPE OF SERVICE

The State of Nebraska, Administrative Services (AS), Materiel Division, State Purchasing Bureau, is issuing this Request for Proposal, RFP Number 5153Z1 for the purpose of selecting a qualified Contractor to provide High speed transport services for participants of Network Nebraska-Education.

Written first round questions are due no later than November 6, 2015, and should be submitted via e-mail to as.materielpurchasing@nebraska.gov Written questions may also be sent by facsimile to (402) 471-2089.

Written second round questions are due no later than November 18, 2015, and should be submitted via e-mail to as.materielpurchasing@nebraska.gov Written questions may also be sent by facsimile to (402) 471-2089.

An Optional Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on November 16, 2015 at 10:00 AM Central Time, at a location to be determined, Lincoln NE 68508 and via Video Conferencing by request.

Bidder should submit one (1) original of the entire proposal. Proposals must be submitted by the proposal due date and time.

PROPOSALS MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO BE CONSIDERED VALID. PROPOSALS WILL BE REJECTED IF NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS.

1. Sealed proposals must be received in State Purchasing Bureau by the date and time of proposal opening indicated above. No late proposals will be accepted. No electronic, e-mail, fax, voice, or telephone proposals will be accepted.
2. This form "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES" MUST be manually signed, in ink, and returned by the proposal opening date and time along with bidder's proposal and any other requirements as specified in the Request for Proposal in order for a bidder's proposal to be evaluated.
3. It is the responsibility of the bidder to check the website for all information relevant to this solicitation to include addenda and/or amendments issued prior to the opening date. Website address is as follows: http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-602.02, all State contracts in effect as of January 1, 2014 will be posted to a public website beginning July 1, 2014. All non-proprietary or confidential information as defined by Law **WILL BE POSTED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING.**

Contractor hereby grants permission to the State of Nebraska and/or its agencies to reprint or republish any and all copyrighted documents related to Contractor's response to this Request for Proposal, and any and all figures, illustrations, photographs, charts, and other supplementary material on a website accessible by the public pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-602.02. This waiver does not apply to proprietary information properly submitted in a separate sealed, package clearly marked "Proprietary."

Contractor represents and warrants that the contents of this response to Request for Proposal and all figures, illustrations, photographs, charts, and other supplementary material herein are original and do not libel anyone

or infringe upon any patent, copyright, proprietary right, or any other right whatsoever of any other party. Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor has full power and authority to execute this Copyright Release and to grant the State of Nebraska and/or its agencies the right granted herein.

Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State of Nebraska and/or its agencies against any and all claims, suits, and/or judgments, including costs, expenses, damages, and reasonable legal fees based upon and arising from Contractor's violation of the rights of others and/or by reason of a breach of any of the foregoing warranties.

BIDDER MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

By signing this Request for Proposal for Contractual Services form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this Request for Proposal, agrees to the terms and conditions unless otherwise agreed to (see Section III) and certifies that bidder maintains a drug free work place environment.

Per Nebraska's Transparency in Government Procurement Act, Neb. Rev Stat §73-603 DAS is required to collect statistical information regarding the number of contracts awarded to Nebraska Contractors. This information is for statistical purposes only and will not be considered for contract award purposes.

_____ **NEBRASKA CONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT**: Bidder hereby attests that bidder is a Nebraska Contractor. "Nebraska Contractor" shall mean any bidder who has maintained a bona fide place of business and at least one employee within this state for at least the six (6) months immediately preceding the posting date of this RFP.

_____ I hereby certify that I am a **Resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone** in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §73-107 and wish to have preference, if applicable, considered in the award of this contract.

FIRM: _____

COMPLETE ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ FAX NUMBER: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

TYPED NAME & TITLE OF SIGNER: _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES FORM ..... **i**

TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... **iii**

GLOSSARY OF TERMS ..... **vi**

ACRONYMN LIST ..... **xii**

I. SCOPE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL **1**

A. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 1

II. PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES **2**

A. PROCURING OFFICE AND CONTACT PERSON 2
B. GENERAL INFORMATION 2
C. CUSTOMER SERVICE 2
D. COMMUNICATION WITH STATE STAFF AND EVALUATORS 2
E. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 3
F. PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE 3
G. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS 3
H. PROPOSAL OPENING 3
I. LATE PROPOSALS 4
J. REJECTION OF PROPOSALS 4
K. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS 4
L. REFERENCE CHECKS 4
M. SECRETARY OF STATE/TAX COMMISSIONER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS 5
N. VIOLATION OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS 5

III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS **6**

A. GENERAL 6
B. AWARD 6
C. COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT / NONDISCRIMINATION 7
D. PERMITS, REGULATIONS, LAWS 7
E. OWNERSHIP OF INFORMATION AND DATA 7
F. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS 8
G. COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONTRACTORS 9
H. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR 10
I. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY 10
J. CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL 10
K. STATE OF NEBRASKA PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT PROHIBITION 11
L. CONFLICT OF INTEREST 11
M. PROPOSAL PREPARATION COSTS 11
N. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS 12
O. BEGINNING OF WORK 12
P. ASSIGNMENT BY THE STATE 12
Q. ASSIGNMENT BY THE CONTRACTOR 12
R. DEVIATIONS FROM THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 13

S. GOVERNING LAW 13
T. ATTORNEY'S FEES 13
U. ADVERTISING 13
V. STATE PROPERTY 14
W. SITE RULES AND REGULATIONS 14
X. NOTIFICATION 14
Y. EARLY TERMINATION 15
Z. FUNDING OUT CLAUSE OR LOSS OF APPROPRIATIONS 16
AA. BREACH BY CONTRACTOR 16
BB. ASSURANCES BEFORE BREACH 16
CC. ADMINISTRATION – CONTRACT TERMINATION 17
DD. PENALTY 17
EE. FORCE MAJEURE 18
FF. PROHIBITION AGAINST ADVANCE PAYMENT 18
GG. PAYMENT 18
HH. INVOICES 18
II. RIGHT TO AUDIT 19
JJ. TAXES 19
KK. INSPECTION AND APPROVAL 20
LL. CHANGES IN SCOPE/CHANGE ORDERS 20
MM. SEVERABILITY 20
NN. CONFIDENTIALITY 21
OO. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION 21
PP. CERTIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION/COLLUSIVE BIDDING 22
QQ. STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION 22
RR. PRICES 22
SS. BEST AND FINAL OFFER 23
TT. ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING 23
UU. INDEMNIFICATION 23
VV. NEBRASKA TECHNOLOGY ACCESS STANDARDS 24
WW. ANTITRUST 24
XX. DISASTER RECOVERY/BACK UP PLAN 25
YY. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE 25
ZZ. RECYCLING 25
AAA. DRUG POLICY 25
BBB. EMPLOYEE WORK ELIGIBILITY STATUS 26
CCC. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION AND INELIGIBILITY 26
DDD. POLITICAL SUB-DIVISIONS 27
EEE. OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL 27
FFF. LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN 27
GGG. LICENSE/SERVICE OR OTHER AGREEMENTS 27

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK 29

A. E-RATE 29

PROJECT 1 31

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW 31
B. PROJECT ENVIRONMENT 32
C. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS 32

D. TRANSITION REQUIREMENT 32
E. TECHNOLOGY REFRESH 33
F. SCOPE OF WORK 33
G. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS 34
H. PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT 34
I. SERVICE LEVEL GUARANTEES 35
J. SPECIFICATIONS 36
K. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 36
L. DEPLOYMENT STATUS REPORTS 37
M. BILLING 37
N. CERTIFICATION 37
O. COST 37

PROJECT 2 40

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW 40
B. PROJECT ENVIRONMENT 40
C. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS 40
D. TRANSITION REQUIREMENT 41
E. TECHNOLOGY REFRESH 41
F. SCOPE OF WORK 41
G. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS 42
H. PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT 43
I. SERVICE LEVEL GUARANTEES 44
J. SPECIFICATIONS 44
K. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 45
L. DEPLOYMENT STATUS REPORTS 45
M. BILLING 45
N. CERTIFICATION 46
O. COST 46

DELIVERABLES 47

Form A Bidder Contact Sheet 48

Form B Notification of Intent to Attend Pre-Proposal Conference 49

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

802.1ad: Is an Ethernet networking standard informally known as IEEE 802.1QinQ and is an amendment to IEEE standard IEEE 802.1Q-1998. The technique is also known as provider bridging, Stacked VLANs or simply QinQ or Q-in-Q. The original 802.1Q specification allows a single VLAN header to be inserted into an Ethernet frame. QinQ allows multiple VLAN headers to be inserted into a single frame, an essential capability for implementing Metro Ethernet network topologies. Just as QinQ extends 802.1Q, QinQ itself is extended by other Metro Ethernet protocols.

802.1p: IEEE P802.1p is the name of a task group active during 1995–98 responsible for adding traffic class expediting and dynamic multicast filtering to the IEEE 802.1D standard. The QoS technique developed by the working group, also known as class of service (CoS), is a 3-bit field called the Priority Code Point (PCP) within an Ethernet frame header when using VLAN tagged frames as defined by IEEE 802.1Q.

802.1Q: Is the networking standard that supports Virtual LANs (VLANs) on an Ethernet network. The standard defines a system of VLAN tagging for Ethernet frames and the accompanying procedures to be used by bridges and switches in handling such frames. The standard also contains provisions for the quality of service prioritization scheme commonly known as IEEE 802.1p.

Acceptance: Acceptance of circuit, system, or service, as solely tested and determined by the State of Nebraska and/or authorized agent of the State of Nebraska, is when the circuit, system, or service is free of defect and reliably transporting data at, or in excess of, the ordered bandwidth or speed capacity. (See KK. Inspection and Approval)

Acceptance Test Procedure: Benchmarks and other performance criteria, developed by the State of Nebraska or other sources of testing standards, for measuring the effectiveness of products or services and the means used for testing such performance.

Addendum: Something to be added or deleted to an existing document; a supplement.

After Receipt of Order (ARO): After Receipt of Order

Agency: Any state agency, board, or commission other than the University of Nebraska, the Nebraska State colleges, the courts, the Legislature, or any other office or agency established by the Constitution of Nebraska.

Agent/Representative: A person authorized to act on behalf of another.

Amend: To alter or change by adding, subtracting, or substituting.

Amendment: A written correction or alteration to a document.

Appropriation: Legislative authorization to expend public funds for a specific purpose. Money set apart for a specific use.

Award: All purchases, leases, or contracts which are based on competitive proposals will be awarded according to the provisions in the Request for Proposal. The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, wholly or in part, or to award to multiple bidders in whole or in part. The State reserves the right to waive any deviations or errors that are not material, do not invalidate the legitimacy of the proposal, and do not improve the bidder's competitive position. All awards will be made in a manner deemed in the best interest of the State.

Best and Final Offer (BAFO): In a competitive bid, the final offer submitted which contains the bidder's (vendor's) most favorable terms for price.

Bid/Proposal: The offer submitted by a vendor in a response to written solicitation.

Bid Bond: An insurance agreement, accompanied by a monetary commitment, by which a third party (the surety) accepts liability and guarantees that the vendor will not withdraw the bid.

Bidder: A vendor who submits an offer bid in response to a written solicitation.

Business: Any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint-stock company, joint venture, or any other private legal entity.

Business Day: Any weekday, except State-recognized holidays.

Calendar Day: Every day shown on the calendar including Saturdays, Sundays, and State/Federal holidays.

Cancellation: To call off or revoke a purchase order without expectation of conducting or performing it at a later time.

Central Processing Unit (CPU): Any computer or computer system that is used by the State to store, process, or retrieve data or perform other functions using Operating Systems and applications software.

Collusion: An agreement or cooperation between two or more persons or entities to accomplish a fraudulent, deceitful, or unlawful purpose.

Commodities: Any equipment, material, supply or goods; anything movable or tangible that is provided or sold.

Commodities Description: Detailed descriptions of the items to be purchased; may include information necessary to obtain the desired quality, type, color, size, shape, or special characteristics necessary to perform the work intended to produce the desired results.

Competition: The effort or action of two or more commercial interests to obtain the same business from third parties.

Confidential Information: Unless otherwise defined below, "Confidential Information" shall also mean proprietary trade secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-712.05(3)). In accordance with Nebraska Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, proof that information is proprietary requires identification of specific, named competitor(s) who would be advantaged by release of the information and the specific advantage the competitor(s) would receive.

Contract: An agreement between two or more parties creating obligations that are enforceable or otherwise recognizable at law; the writing that sets forth such an agreement.

Contract Administration: The management of the contract which includes and is not limited to contract signing, contract amendments and any necessary legal actions.

Contract Management: The management of day to day activities at the agency which includes and is not limited to ensuring deliverables are received, specifications are met, handling meetings and making payments to the Contractor.

Contract Period: The duration of the contract.

Contractor: Any individual or entity having a contract to furnish commodities or services.

Cooperative Purchasing: The combining of requirements of two or more political entities to obtain advantages of volume purchases, reduction in administrative expenses or other public benefits.

Copyright: A property right in an original work of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, giving the holder the exclusive right to reproduce, adapt and distribute the work.

Core Site: The term refers to the high capacity communication facilities that connect primary nodes. Core sites provide paths for the exchange of information between different sub-networks. Core sites are the communication aggregation locations for regional sub-networks.

Critical Program Error: Any Program Error, whether or not known to the State, which prohibits or significantly impairs use of the Licensed Software as set forth in the documentation and intended in the contract.

Customer Service: The process of ensuring customer satisfaction by providing assistance and advice on those products or services provided by the Contractor.

Default: The omission or failure to perform a contractual duty.

Deviation: Any proposed change(s) or alteration(s) to either the terms and conditions or deliverables within the scope of the written solicitation or contract.

Documentation: The user manuals and any other materials in any form or medium customarily provided by the contractor to the users of the Licensed Software which will provide the State with sufficient information to operate, diagnose, and maintain the Licensed Software properly, safely, and efficiently.

Education Entity: Education entity, for the purposes of this RFP, is defined by N.R.S. 79-1201.01 (3) as a school district, a private, denominational, or parochial school, an educational service unit, a community college, a state college, the University of Nebraska, or a nonprofit private postsecondary educational institution.

E-rate: The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, commonly known as "E-Rate," is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

Ethernet Frame: A data packet on an Ethernet link is called an Ethernet frame. See also http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethernet_frame.

Ethernet Hand-off: A standard Ethernet handoff to the facility means there is no need for CSU/DSU and protocol conversion equipment. The connection to the customer is a copper or fiber connection that connects directly to the customers Ethernet based equipment and supports Ethernet Frame transmission between the provided and the customer.

Evaluation: The process of examining an offer after opening to determine the vendor's responsibility, responsiveness to requirements, and to ascertain other characteristics of the offer that relate to determination of the successful award.

Evaluation Committee: Committee(s) appointed by the requesting agency that advises and assists the procuring office in the evaluation of bids/proposals (offers made in response to written solicitations).

Extension: Continuance of a contract for a specified duration upon the agreement of the parties beyond the original Contract Period. Not to be confused with "Renewal Period".

Free on Board (F.O.B.) Destination: The delivery charges are included in the quoted price and prepaid by the vendor. Vendor is responsible for all claims associated with damages during delivery of product.

Free on Board (F.O.B.) Point of Origin: The delivery charges are not included in the quoted price and are the responsibility of the agency. Agency is responsible for all claims associated with damages during delivery of product.

Foreign Corporation: A foreign corporation that was organized and chartered under the laws of another state, government, or country.

Installation Date: The date when the procedures described in "Installation by Contractor", and "Installation by State", as found in the RFP, or contract, are completed.

Last mile: The common colloquialism referring to the provider that connects the portion of the telecommunications network that physically reaches the end-user's / customer's premises.

Late Bid/Proposal: An offer received after the Opening Date and Time.

Layer 2: In the seven-layer OSI model of computer networking, the data link layer is layer 2. The data link layer provides the functional and procedural means to transfer data.

Licensed Software Documentation: The user manuals and any other materials in any form or medium customarily provided by the Contractor to the users of the Licensed Software which will provide the State with sufficient information to operate, diagnose, and maintain the Licensed Software properly, safely, and efficiently.

Link Aggregation Control Protocol (LACP): The vendor-independent standard Link Aggregation Control Protocol (LACP) for Ethernet defined in IEEE 802.1AX and IEEE 802.1aq or the previous IEEE 802.3ad.

Mandatory/Must: Required, compulsory, or obligatory.

May: Discretionary, permitted; used to express possibility.

Module (see System): A collection of routines and data structures that perform a specific function of software.

Must: See Shall/Will/Must.

National Institute for Governmental Purchasing (NIGP): National Institute of Governmental Purchasing – Source used for assignment of universal commodity codes to goods and services.

Network Nebraska—Education: The Nebraska statewide telecommunications network comprised of over 285 educational entities from K-12 and higher education, public and private.

Open Market Purchase: Authorization may be given to an agency to purchase items above direct purchase authority due to the unique nature, price, quantity, location of the using agency, or time limitations by the AS Materiel Division, State

Purchasing Bureau.

Opening Date and Time: Specified date and time for the public opening of received, labeled, and sealed formal proposals.

Operating System: The control program in a computer that provides the interface to the computer hardware and peripheral devices, and the usage and allocation of memory resources, processor resources, input/output resources, and security resources.

Outsourcing: The contracting out of a business process which an organization may have previously performed internally or has a new need for, to an independent organization from which the process is purchased back.

Packet: A packet is a formatted unit of data carried by a communication network. It consists of two kinds of data: control information and user data (also known as payload). The control information provides data the network needs to deliver the user data, for example: source and destination addresses, error detection codes like checksums, and sequencing information.

Payload: Is the cargo of a data transmission. It is the part of the transmitted data which is the fundamental purpose of the transmission, to the exclusion of information sent with it (such as headers or metadata, sometimes referred to as overhead data) solely to facilitate delivery.

Payroll & Financial Center (PFC): Electronic procurement system of record.

Performance Bond: An insurance agreement, accompanied by a monetary commitment, by which a third party (the surety) accepts liability and guarantees that the Contractor fulfills any and all obligations under the contract.

Platform: A specific hardware and Operating System combination that is different from other hardware and Operating System combinations to the extent that a different version of the Licensed Software product is required to execute properly in the environment established by such hardware and Operating System combination.

Pre-Bid/Pre-Proposal Conference: A meeting scheduled for the purpose of clarifying a written solicitation and related expectations.

Product: Something that is distributed commercially for use or consumption and that is usually (1) tangible personal property, (2) the result of fabrication or processing, and (3) an item that has passed through a chain of commercial distribution before ultimate use or consumption.

Program Error: Code in Licensed Software which produces unintended results or actions, or which produces results or actions other than those described in the specifications. A program error includes, without limitation, any Critical Program Error.

Program Set: The group of programs and products, including the Licensed Software specified in the RFP, plus any additional programs and products licensed by the State under the contract for use by the State.

Project: The total scheme, program, or method worked out for the accomplishment of an objective, including all documentation, commodities, and services to be provided under the contract.

Proposal: See Bid/Proposal.

Proprietary Information: Proprietary information is defined as trade secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-712.05(3)). In accordance with Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, proof that information is proprietary requires identification of specific, named competitor(s) who would be advantaged by release of the information and the specific advantage the competitor(s) would receive.

Protest/Grievance: A complaint about a governmental action or decision related to a Request for Proposal or resultant contract, brought by a vendor who has timely submitted a bid response in connection with the award in question, to AS Materiel Division or another designated agency with the intention of achieving a remedial result.

Public Proposal Opening: The process of opening correctly submitted offers at the time and place specified in the written solicitation and in the presence of anyone who wished to attend.

Q-in-Q Tunneling: 802.1Q tunneling enables service providers to use a single VLAN to support customers who have multiple VLANs, while preserving customer VLAN IDs and keeping traffic in different customer VLANs segregated.

Quality of Service (QoS): Quality of service is the ability to provide different priority to different applications, users, or data flows, or to guarantee a certain level of performance to a data flow.

Recommended Hardware Configuration: The data processing hardware (including all terminals, auxiliary storage, communication, and other peripheral devices) to the extent utilized by the State as recommended by the Contractor.

Release Date: The date of public release of the written solicitation to seek offers

Renewal Period: Optional contract periods subsequent to the original Contract Period for a specified duration with previously agreed to terms and conditions. Not to be confused with Extension.

Request for Information (RFI): A general invitation to vendors requesting information for a potential future solicitation. The RFI is typically used as a research and information gathering tool for preparation of a solicitation.

Request for Proposal (RFP): A written solicitation utilized for obtaining competitive offers.

Responsible Bidder: A bidder who has the capability in all respects to perform fully and lawfully all requirements with integrity and reliability to assure good faith performance.

Responsive Bidder: A bidder who has submitted a bid which conforms to all requirements of the solicitation document.

RFC-2544: IETF RFC defines Benchmarking Methodology for Network Interconnect Devices. See also http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2544

Shall/Will/Must: An order/command; mandatory.

Should: Expected; suggested, but not necessarily mandatory.

Software License: Legal instrument with or without printed material that governs the use or redistribution of licensed software.

Sole Source – Commodity: When an item is available from only one source due to the unique nature of the requirement, its supplier, or market conditions.

Sole Source – Services: A service of such a unique nature that the vendor selected is clearly and justifiably the only practical source to provide the service. Determination that the vendor selected us justifiably the sole source is based on either the uniqueness of the service or sole availability at the location required.

Specifications: The detailed statement, especially of the measurements, quality, materials, and functional characteristics, or other items to be provided under a contract.

System (see Module): Any collection or aggregation of two (2) or more Modules that is designed to function, or is represented by the Contractor as functioning or being capable of functioning, as an entity.

Termination: Occurs when either party, pursuant to a power created by agreement or law, puts an end to the contract prior to the stated expiration date. All obligations which are still executory on both sides are discharged but any right based on prior breach or performance survives.

Trade Secret: Information, including, but not limited to, a drawing, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, code, or process that (a) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being known to, and not being ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and (b) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §87-502(4)).

Trademark: A word, phrase, logo, or other graphic symbol used by a manufacturer or vendor to distinguish its product from those of others, registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Upgrade: Any change that improves or alters the basic function of a product of service.

Vendor: An individual or entity lawfully conducting business in the State of Nebraska, or licensed to do so, who seeks to provide goods or services under the terms of a written solicitation.

Vendor Performance Report: A report issued to the Contractor by State Purchasing Bureau when products or services delivered or performed fail to meet the terms of the purchase order, contract, and/or specifications, as reported to State

Purchasing Bureau by the agency. The State Purchasing Bureau shall contact the Contractor regarding any such report. The vendor performance report will become a part of the permanent record for the Contractor. The State may require vendor to cure. Two such reports may be cause for immediate termination.

Will: See Shall/Will/Must.

Work Day: See Business Day.

ACRONYMN LIST

BEAR--Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement FCC Form 472: The form filed by the applicant and approved by the service provider after the telecommunications services have been paid in full.

CoS: The QoS technique developed by the working group, also known as class of service (CoS), is a 3-bit field called the Priority Code Point (PCP) within an Ethernet frame header when using VLAN tagged frames as defined by IEEE 802.1Q.

CPE: Customer-premises equipment or customer-provided equipment (CPE) is any terminal and associated equipment located at a subscriber's premises and connected with a carrier's telecommunication channel(s) at the demarcation point ("demarc").

ESU: Educational Service Unit, one of 17 intermediate service agencies in Nebraska, serving K-12 school districts.

MPLS--Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS): A mechanism in high-performance telecommunications networks that directs data from one network node to the next based on short path labels rather than long network addresses, avoiding complex lookups in a routing table.

NUSF: Nebraska Universal Service Fund. A surcharge of approximately 6.95% levied against intrastate telecommunications services as authorized by Neb. Rev. Stat. 86-1401 to 86-1410.

SPI-- Service Provider Invoice FCC Form 474: The form filed by the service provider after the applicant has been billed for the non-discount portion of the cost of eligible services.

SPIN--Service Provider Identification Number: Assigned by the Universal Service Administrative Company and is unique to each telecommunications provider.

ITU-T: Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the International Telecommunications Union

ITU-T Y.156sam: Ethernet Service Activation Test Methodology, a draft recommendation under study by the ITU-T. A draft recommendation tailored more toward service activation than the RFC 2544 benchmark testing methodology.

USF: Federal Universal Service Fund. A variable surcharge ranging between 15% and 20% levied against interstate telecommunications services as authorized by the Federal Communications Commission in 1997.

WAN (Wide Area Network): Unless otherwise specified, WAN refers to a high bandwidth (e.g. >10Mbps) wide area data network using IP communication and routing protocols for the purposes of interconnecting numerous Local Area Networks (LANs).

I. SCOPE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The State of Nebraska, Administrative Services (AS), Materiel Division, Purchasing Bureau (hereafter known as State Purchasing Bureau), is issuing this Request for Proposal, RFP Number 5153Z1 for the purpose of selecting a qualified Contractor(s) to provide High speed transport services for participants of Network Nebraska-Education. Any resulting contract is not an exclusive contract to furnish the services provided for in this Request for Proposal, and does not preclude the purchase of similar services from other sources.

A contract resulting from this Request for Proposal will be issued from the date of award through June 30, 2020. The contract has the option to renew for four (4) additional one (1) year periods as mutually agreed upon by all parties. The State reserves the right to extend the period of this contract beyond the termination date when mutually agreeable to the Contractor and the State of Nebraska.

ALL INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET AT: http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html

A. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The State expects to adhere to the tentative procurement schedule shown below. It should be noted, however, that some dates are approximate and subject to change.

	ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME
1.	Release Request for Proposal	October 23, 2015
2.	Last day to submit "Notification of Intent to Attend Pre-Proposal Conference"	November 6, 2015
3.	Last day to submit first round written questions	November 6, 2015
4.	State responds to first round written questions through Request for Proposal "Addendum" and/or "Amendment" to be posted to the Internet at: http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html	November 10, 2015
5.	Optional Pre-Proposal Conference Location: To be Determined, Lincoln Ne. & via videoconferencing by request. Requests received after close of business November 6, 2015 may not be accommodated. Requests for video conference should submit a "Notification of Intent to Attend Pre-Proposal Conference" ** Registration Advisement: Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference but attendance is not required.*	November 16, 2015 10:00 AM Central Time
6.	Last day to submit written second round questions after Pre-Proposal conference	November 18, 2015
7.	State responds to second round written questions through Request for Proposal "Addendum" and/or "Amendment" to be posted to the Internet at: http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html	November 20, 2015
8.	Proposal Opening Location: State Purchasing Bureau 1526 K Street, Suite 130 Lincoln, NE 68508	December 18, 2015 2:00 PM Central Time
9.	Review for conformance of mandatory requirements	December 18, 2015
10.	Evaluation period	December 21, 2015 – December 23, 2015
11.	Post "Letter(s) of Intent to Contract" to Internet at: http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html	December 24, 2015
12.	Contract finalization period	December 24, 2015 – January 29, 2016
13.	Contract award	February 1, 2016
14.	Contractor start date	February 1, 2016

II. PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

A. PROCURING OFFICE AND CONTACT PERSON

Procurement responsibilities related to this Request for Proposal reside with the State Purchasing Bureau. The point of contact for the procurement is as follows:

Name: Robert Thompson / Michelle Thompson
Agency: State Purchasing Bureau
Address: 1526 K Street, Suite 130
Lincoln, NE 68508

Telephone: 402-471-6500
Facsimile: 402-471-2089
E-Mail: as.materielpurchasing@nebraska.gov

B. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Request for Proposal is designed to solicit proposals from qualified vendors who will be responsible for providing High speed transport services for participants of Network Nebraska-Education at a competitive and reasonable cost. Proposals that do not conform to the mandatory items as indicated in the Request for Proposal will not be considered.

Proposals shall conform to all instructions, conditions, and requirements included in the Request for Proposal. Prospective bidders are expected to carefully examine all documentation, schedules, and requirements stipulated in this Request for Proposal, and respond to each requirement in the format prescribed.

A fixed-price contract will be awarded as a result of this proposal. In addition to the provisions of this Request for Proposal and the awarded proposal, which shall be incorporated by reference in the contract, any additional clauses or provisions required by the terms and conditions will be included as an amendment to the contract.

C. CUSTOMER SERVICE

In addition to any specified service requirements contained in this agreement, the Contractor agrees and understands that satisfactory customer service is required. Contractor will develop or provide technology and business procedures designed to enhance the level of customer satisfaction and to provide the customer appropriate information given their situation. Contractor, its employees, Subcontractors, and agents must be accountable, responsive, reliable, patient, and have well-developed communication skills as set forth by the customer service industry's best practices and processes.

D. COMMUNICATION WITH STATE STAFF AND EVALUATORS

From the date the Request for Proposal is issued until a determination is announced regarding the selection of the Contractor, contact regarding this project between potential Contractors and individuals employed by the State is restricted to only written communication with the staff designated above as the point of contact for this Request for Proposal. Bidders shall not have any communication with, or attempt to communicate with or influence in any way, any evaluator involved in this RFP.

Once a Contractor is preliminarily selected, as documented in the intent to contract, that Contractor is restricted from communicating with State staff until a contract is signed. Violation of this condition may be considered sufficient cause to reject a Contractor's proposal and/or selection irrespective of any other condition.

The following exceptions to these restrictions are permitted:

1. Written communication with the person(s) designated as the point(s) of contact for this Request for Proposal or procurement;
2. Contacts made pursuant to any pre-existing contracts or obligations;
3. state staff and/or Contractor staff present at the Pre-Proposal Conference when recognized by the State Purchasing Bureau staff facilitating the meeting for the purpose of addressing questions; and
4. State-requested presentations, key personnel interviews, clarification sessions or discussions to finalize a contract.

Violations of these conditions may be considered sufficient cause to reject a bidder's proposal and/or selection irrespective of any other condition. No individual member of the State, employee of the State, or member of the Evaluation Committee is empowered to make binding statements regarding this Request for Proposal. The buyer will issue any clarifications or opinions regarding this Request for Proposal in writing.

E. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Any explanation desired by a bidder regarding the meaning or interpretation of any Request for Proposal provision must be submitted in writing to the State Purchasing Bureau and clearly marked "RFP Number 5153Z1; High speed transport services for participants of Network Nebraska-Education Questions". It is preferred that questions be sent via e-mail to as.materielpurchasing@nebraska.gov Questions may also be sent by facsimile to 402-471-2089, but must include a cover sheet clearly indicating that the transmission is to the attention of Robert Thompson / Michelle Thompson, showing the total number of pages transmitted, and clearly marked "RFP Number 5153Z1; High speed transport services for participants of Network Nebraska-Education Questions".

It is recommended that Bidders submit questions sequentially numbered, include the RFP reference and page number using the following format.

Question Number	RFP Section Reference	RFP Page Number	Question

Written answers will be provided through an addendum to be posted on the Internet at http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html on or before the date shown in the Schedule of Events.

F. PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

A pre-proposal conference will be held on the date, time and location shown in the Schedule of Events. Attendance at the pre-proposal conference is optional. Bidders will have an opportunity to ask questions at the conference to assist in the clarification and understanding of the Request for Proposal requirements. The State will make every reasonable attempt to answer those questions before the end of the conference. Bidders attending the pre-proposal meeting may submit further questions in writing for questions which the bidder requires an official written response as shown in the Schedule of Events.

Written answers to written questions along with a list of conference attendees will be provided through an addendum to be posted on the Internet at http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html on or before the date shown in the Schedule of Events. Verbal responses provided during the pre-proposal meeting shall not be binding on the State of Nebraska.

G. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The following describes the requirements related to proposal submission, proposal handling, and review by the State.

To facilitate the proposal evaluation process, one (1) original of the entire proposal should be submitted. Proposals must be submitted by the proposal due date and time. **A separate sheet must be provided that clearly states which sections have been submitted as proprietary or have copyrighted materials.** All proprietary information the bidder wishes the State to withhold must be submitted in accordance with the instructions outlined in Section III, Proprietary Information. Proposal responses should include the completed Form A, Bidder Contact Sheet. Proposals must reference the Request for Proposal number and be sent to the specified address. Container(s) utilized for original documents should be clearly marked "ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS". Please note that the address label should appear as specified in Section II part A on the face of each container or bidder's bid response packet. Rejected late proposals will be returned to the bidder unopened, if requested, at bidder's expense. If a recipient phone number is required for delivery purposes, 402-471-6500 should be used. The Request for Proposal number must be included in all correspondence.

Emphasis should be concentrated on conformance to the Request for Proposal instructions, responsiveness to requirements, completeness and clarity of content. If the bidder's proposal is presented in such a fashion that makes evaluation difficult or overly time consuming, it is likely that the proposal will be rejected.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-602.02, all State contracts in effect as of January 1, 2014 will be posted to a public website beginning July 1, 2014. All non-proprietary or confidential information as defined by State Law **WILL BE POSTED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING**.

H. PROPOSAL OPENING

The sealed proposals will be publicly opened and the bidding entities announced on the date, time, and location shown in the Schedule of Events. Proposals will be available for viewing by those present at the proposal opening. Vendors may also contact the State to schedule an appointment for viewing proposals after the Intent to Award has been posted to the website.

I. LATE PROPOSALS

Proposals received after the time and date of the proposal opening will be considered late proposals. Rejected late proposals will be returned to the bidder unopened, if requested, at bidder's expense. The State is not responsible for proposals that are late or lost due to mail service inadequacies, traffic, or any other reason(s).

J. REJECTION OF PROPOSALS

The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, wholly or in part, or to award to multiple bidders in whole or in part. The State reserves the right to waive any deviations or errors that are not material, do not invalidate the legitimacy of the proposal and do not improve the bidder's competitive position. All awards will be made in a manner deemed in the best interest of the State.

K. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

The proposals will first be examined to determine if all mandatory requirements listed below have been addressed to warrant further evaluation. Proposals not meeting mandatory requirements will be excluded from further evaluation. The mandatory requirement items are as follows:

1. Request For Proposal For Contractual Services form, signed in ink;
2. Cost Proposal(s) (Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C).

Neb. Rev. Stat. §73-107 allows for a preference for a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone. When a state contract is to be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, a resident disabled veteran or a business located in a designated enterprise zone under the Enterprise Zone Act shall be allowed a preference over any other resident or nonresident bidder, if all other factors are equal.

Resident disabled veterans means any person (a) who resides in the State of Nebraska, who served in the United States Armed Forces, including any reserve component or the National Guard, who was discharged or otherwise separated with a characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions), and who possesses a disability rating letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing a service-connected disability or a disability determination from the United States Department of Defense and (b)(i) who owns and controls a business or, in the case of a publicly owned business, more than fifty percent of the stock is owned by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection and (ii) the management and daily business operations of the business are controlled by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection. Any contract entered into without compliance with this section shall be null and void.

Therefore, if a resident disabled veteran or business located in a designated enterprise zone submits a bid in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §73-107 and has so indicated on the RFP cover page under "Bidder must complete the following" requesting priority/preference to be considered in the award of this contract, the following will need to be submitted by the vendor within ten (10) business days of request:

a. Documentation from the United States Armed Forces confirming service;
b. Documentation of discharge or otherwise separated characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions);
c. Disability rating letter issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs establishing a service-connected disability or a disability determination from the United States Department of Defense; and
d. Documentation which shows ownership and control of a business or, in the case of a publicly owned business, more than fifty percent of the stock is owned by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection; and the management and daily business operations of the business are controlled by one or more persons described in subdivision (a) of this subsection.

Failure to submit the requested documentation within ten (10) business days of notice will disqualify the bidder from consideration of the preference.

L. REFERENCE CHECKS

The State reserves the right to check any reference(s), regardless of the source of the reference information, including but not limited to, those that are identified by the company in the proposal, those indicated through the explicitly specified contacts, those that are identified during the review of the proposal, or those that result from communication with other entities involved with similar projects. The State may use a third-party to conduct reference checks.

Information to be requested and evaluated from references may include, but is not limited to, some or all of the following: financial stability of the company, project description and background, job performed, functional and technical abilities, communication skills and timeliness, cost and schedule estimates and accuracy, problems (poor

quality deliverables, contract disputes, work stoppages, et cetera), overall performance, and whether or not the reference would rehire the firm or individual. Only top scoring bidders may receive reference checks, and negative references may eliminate bidders from consideration for award.

M. SECRETARY OF STATE/TAX COMMISSIONER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

All bidders should be authorized to transact business in the State of Nebraska. All bidders are expected to comply with all Nebraska Secretary of State Registration requirements. It is the responsibility of the bidder to comply with any registration requirements pertaining to types of business entities (e.g. person, partnership, foreign or domestic limited liability company, association, or foreign or domestic corporation or other type of business entity). The bidder who is the recipient of an Intent to Award will be required to certify that it has so complied and produce a true and exact copy of its current (within (90) calendar days), valid Certificate of Good Standing or Letter of Good Standing; or in the case of a sole proprietorship, provide written documentation of sole proprietorship. This must be accomplished prior to the award of the contract. Construction Contractors are expected to meet all applicable requirements of the Nebraska Contractor Registration Act and provide a current, valid certificate of registration. Further, all bidders shall comply with any and all other applicable Nebraska statutes regarding transacting business in the State of Nebraska. Bidders should submit the above certification(s) with their bid.

If a bank is registered with the Office of Comptroller of Currency, it is not required to register with the State. However, the Office of Comptroller of Currency does have a certificate of good standing/registration. The bank could provide that for verification. (Optional)

N. VIOLATION OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Violation of the terms and conditions contained in this Request for Proposal or any resultant contract, at any time before or after the award, shall be grounds for action by the State which may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Rejection of a bidder's proposal;
2. Suspension of the bidder from further bidding with the State for the period of time relative to the seriousness of the violation, such period to be within the sole discretion of the State.

III. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By signing the "Request for Proposal for Contractual Services" form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this Request for Proposal, agrees to the Terms and Conditions unless otherwise agreed to and certifies bidder maintains a drug free work place environment.

Bidders are expected to closely read the Terms and Conditions and provide a binding signature of intent to comply with the Terms and Conditions; provided, however, a bidder may indicate any exceptions to the Terms and Conditions by (1) clearly identifying the term or condition by subsection, and (2) including an explanation for the bidder's inability to comply with such term or condition which includes a statement recommending terms and conditions the bidder would find acceptable. Rejection in whole or in part of the Terms and Conditions may be cause for rejection of a bidder's proposal. **Bidders must include completed Section III with their proposal response**.

A. GENERAL

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The contract resulting from this Request for Proposal shall incorporate the following documents:

1. Amendment to Contract Award with the most recent dated amendment having the highest priority;
2. Contract Award and any attached Addenda;
3. The Request for Proposal form and the Contractor's Proposal, signed in ink;
4. Amendments to RFP and any Questions and Answers; and
5. The original RFP document and any Addenda.

These documents constitute the entirety of the contract.

Unless otherwise specifically stated in a contract amendment, in case of any conflict between the incorporated documents, the documents shall govern in the following order of preference with number one (1) receiving preference over all other documents and with each lower numbered document having preference over any higher numbered document: 1) Amendment to Contract Award with the most recent dated amendment having the highest priority, 2) Contract Award and any attached Addenda, 3) the signed Request for Proposal form and the Contractor's Proposal, 4) Amendments to RFP and any Questions and Answers, 5) the original RFP document and any Addenda.

Any ambiguity in any provision of this contract which shall be discovered after its execution shall be resolved in accordance with the rules of contract interpretation as established in the State of Nebraska.

Once proposals are opened they become the property of the State of Nebraska and will not be returned.

B. AWARD

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

All purchases, leases, or contracts which are based on competitive proposals will be awarded according to the provisions in the Request for Proposal. The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, wholly or in part, or to award to multiple bidders in whole or in part, and at its discretion, may withdraw or amend the Request for Proposal at any time. The State reserves the right to waive any deviations or errors that are not material, do not invalidate the legitimacy of the proposal, and do not improve the bidder's competitive position. All awards will be made in a manner deemed in the best interest of the State. The Request for Proposal does not commit the State to

award a contract. If, in the opinion of the State, revisions or amendments will require substantive changes in proposals, the due date may be extended.

By submitting a proposal in response to this Request for Proposal, the bidder grants to the State the right to contact or arrange a visit in person with any or all of the bidder's clients.

Once intent to award decision has been determined, it will be posted to the Internet at:
http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html

Grievance and protest procedure is available on the Internet at:
http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchase_bureau/docs/vendors/protest/ProtestGrievanceProcedureForVendors.pdf

Any protests must be filed by a vendor within ten (10) business days after the intent to award decision is posted to the Internet.

C. COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT / NONDISCRIMINATION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall comply with all applicable local, state and federal statutes and regulations regarding civil rights laws and equal opportunity employment. The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act prohibits Contractors of the State of Nebraska, and their Subcontractors, from discriminating against any employee or applicant for employment, with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, compensation, or privileges of employment because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, or national origin (Neb. Rev. Stat. §48-1101 to 48-1125). The Contractor guarantees compliance with the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, and breach of this provision shall be regarded as a material breach of contract. The Contractor shall insert a similar provision in all Subcontracts for services to be covered by any contract resulting from this Request for Proposal.

D. PERMITS, REGULATIONS, LAWS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall procure and pay for all permits, licenses and approvals necessary for the execution of the contract. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, rules, orders, and regulations.

E. OWNERSHIP OF INFORMATION AND DATA

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State of Nebraska shall have the unlimited right to publish, duplicate, use, and disclose all information and data developed or derived by the Contractor pursuant to the contract.

The Contractor must guarantee that it has the full legal right to the materials, supplies, equipment, and other rights or titles (e.g. rights to licenses transfer or assign deliverables) necessary to execute the contract. The contract price shall, without exception, include compensation for all royalties and costs arising from patents, trademarks, and copyrights that are in any way involved in the contract. It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to pay for all royalties and costs, and the State must be held harmless from any such claims.

F. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall not commence work under this contract until all the insurance required hereunder has been obtained and such insurance has been approved by the State. The Contractor shall maintain all required insurance for the life of this contract and shall ensure that the State Purchasing Bureau has the most current certificate of insurance throughout the life of this contract. If Contractor will be utilizing any Subcontractors, the Contractor is responsible for obtaining the certificate(s) of insurance required herein under from any and all Subcontractor(s). The Contractor is also responsible for ensuring Subcontractor(s) maintain the insurance required until completion of the contract requirements. The Contractor shall not allow any Subcontractor to commence work on any subcontract until all similar insurance required of the Subcontractor has been obtained and approved by the Contractor. Approval of the insurance by the State shall not limit, relieve, or decrease the liability of the Contractor hereunder.

If by the terms of any insurance a mandatory deductible is required, or if the Contractor elects to increase the mandatory deductible amount, the Contractor shall be responsible for payment of the amount of the deductible in the event of a paid claim.

1. WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

The Contractor shall take out and maintain during the life of the contract the statutory Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for all of the contactors' employees to be engaged in work on the project under the contract and, in case any such work is sublet, the Contractor shall require the Subcontractor similarly to provide Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance for all of the Subcontractor's employees to be engaged in such work. This policy shall be written to meet the statutory requirements for the state in which the work is to be performed, including Occupational Disease. This policy shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the State. The amounts of such insurance shall not be less than the limits stated hereinafter.

2. COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE AND COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE

The Contractor shall take out and maintain during the life of the contract such Commercial General Liability Insurance and Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance as shall protect Contractor and any Subcontractor performing work covered by the contract from claims for damages for bodily injury, including death, as well as from claims for property damage, which may arise from operations under the contract, whether such operation be by the Contractor or by any Subcontractor or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them, and the amounts of such insurance shall not be less than limits stated hereinafter.

The Commercial General Liability Insurance shall be written on an occurrence basis, and provide Premises/Operations, Products/Completed Operations, Independent Contractors, Personal Injury and Contractual Liability coverage. The policy shall include the State, and others as required by the contract documents, as Additional Insured(s). This policy shall be primary, and any insurance or self-insurance carried by the State shall be considered excess and non-contributory. The Commercial Automobile Liability Insurance shall be written to cover all Owned, Non-owned and Hired vehicles.

3. INSURANCE COVERAGE AMOUNTS REQUIRED

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY	
Coverage A	Statutory
Coverage B	Statutory
Bodily Injury by Accident	$100,000 each accident
Bodily Injury by Disease	$500,000 policy limit
Bodily Injury by Disease	$100,000 each employee
COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY	
General Aggregate	$2,000,000
Products/Completed Operations Aggregate	$2,000,000
Personal/Advertising Injury	$1,000,000 any one person
Bodily Injury/Property Damage	$1,000,000 per occurrence
Fire Damage	$50,000 any one fire
Medical Payments	$5,000 any one person
COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY	
Bodily Injury/Property Damage	$1,000,000 combined single limit
UMBRELLA/EXCESS LIABILITY	
Over Primary Insurance	$1,000,000 per occurrence
SUBROGRATION WAIVER	
"Waiver of Subrogation on the Worker's Compensation in favor of the State of Nebraska."	
LIABILITY WAIVER	
"The State of Nebraska, Certificate holder, is an additionally insured, primary & noncontributory on the General Liability."	

4. EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE

The Contractor should furnish the State, with their proposal response, a certificate of insurance coverage complying with the above requirements to the attention of the Buyer at 402-471-2089 (fax)

Administrative Services
State Purchasing Bureau
1526 K Street, Suite 130
Lincoln, NE 68508

These certificates or the cover sheet shall reference the RFP number, and the certificates shall include the name of the company, policy numbers, effective dates, dates of expiration, and amounts and types of coverage afforded. If the State is damaged by the failure of the Contractor to maintain such insurance, then the Contractor shall be responsible for all reasonable costs properly attributable thereto.

Notice of cancellation of any required insurance policy must be submitted to Administrative Services State Purchasing Bureau when issued and a new coverage binder shall be submitted immediately to ensure no break in coverage.

G. COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONTRACTORS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State may already have in place or choose to award supplemental contracts for work related to this Request for Proposal, or any portion thereof.

1. The State reserves the right to award the contract jointly between two or more potential Contractors, if such an arrangement is in the best interest of the State.

2. The Contractor shall agree to cooperate with such other Contractors, and shall not commit or permit any act which may interfere with the performance of work by any other Contractor.

H. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

It is agreed that nothing contained herein is intended or should be construed in any manner as creating or establishing the relationship of partners between the parties hereto. The Contractor represents that it has, or will secure at its own expense, all personnel required to perform the services under the contract. The Contractor's employees and other persons engaged in work or services required by the Contractor under the contract shall have no contractual relationship with the State; they shall not be considered employees of the State.

All claims on behalf of any person arising out of employment or alleged employment (including without limit claims of discrimination against the Contractor, its officers, or its agents) shall in no way be the responsibility of the State. The Contractor will hold the State harmless from any and all such claims. Such personnel or other persons shall not require nor be entitled to any compensation, rights, or benefits from the State including without limit, tenure rights, medical and hospital care, sick and vacation leave, severance pay or retirement benefits.

I. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor is solely responsible for fulfilling the contract, with responsibility for all services offered and products to be delivered as stated in the Request for Proposal, the Contractor's proposal, and the resulting contract. The Contractor shall be the sole point of contact regarding all contractual matters.

If the Contractor intends to utilize any Subcontractor's services, the Subcontractor's level of effort, tasks, and time allocation must be clearly defined in the Contractor's proposal. The Contractor shall agree that it will not utilize any Subcontractors not specifically included in its proposal in the performance of the contract without the prior written authorization of the State. Following execution of the contract, the Contractor shall proceed diligently with all services and shall perform such services with qualified personnel in accordance with the contract.

J. CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor warrants that all persons assigned to the project shall be employees of the Contractor or specified Subcontractors, and shall be fully qualified to perform the work required herein. Personnel employed by the Contractor to fulfill the terms of the contract shall remain under the sole direction and control of the Contractor. The Contractor shall include a similar provision in any contract with any Subcontractor selected to perform work on the project.

Personnel commitments made in the Contractor's proposal shall not be changed without the prior written approval of the State. Replacement of key personnel, if approved by the State, shall be with personnel of equal or greater ability and qualifications.

The State reserves the right to require the Contractor to reassign or remove from the project any Contractor or Subcontractor employee.

In respect to its employees, the Contractor agrees to be responsible for the following:

1. any and all employment taxes and/or other payroll withholding;
2. any and all vehicles used by the Contractor's employees, including all insurance required by state law;
3. damages incurred by the Contractor's employees within the scope of their duties under the contract;
4. maintaining workers' compensation and health insurance and submitting any reports on such insurance to the extent required by governing State law; and
5. determining the hours to be worked and the duties to be performed by the Contractor's employees.

K. STATE OF NEBRASKA PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT PROHIBITION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall not, at any time, recruit or employ any State employee or agent who has worked on the Request for Proposal or project, or who had any influence on decisions affecting the Request for Proposal or project.

L. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

By submitting a proposal, bidder certifies that there does not now exist any relationship between the bidder and any person or entity which is or gives the appearance of a conflict of interest related to this Request for Proposal or project.

The bidder certifies that it shall not take any action or acquire any interest, either directly or indirectly, which will conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder or which creates an actual or appearance of conflict of interest.

The bidder certifies that it will not employ any individual known by bidder to have a conflict of interest.

M. PROPOSAL PREPARATION COSTS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State shall not incur any liability for any costs incurred by bidders in replying to this Request for Proposal, or in any other activity related to bidding on this Request for Proposal.

N. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The bidder shall not take advantage of any errors and/or omissions in this Request for Proposal or resulting contract. The bidder must promptly notify the State of any errors and/or omissions that are discovered.

O. BEGINNING OF WORK

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The bidder shall not commence any billable work until a valid contract has been fully executed by the State and the successful Contractor. The Contractor will be notified in writing when work may begin.

P. ASSIGNMENT BY THE STATE

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State shall have the right to assign or transfer the contract or any of its interests herein to any agency, board, commission, or political subdivision of the State of Nebraska. There shall be no charge to the State for any assignment hereunder.

Q. ASSIGNMENT BY THE CONTRACTOR

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor may not assign, voluntarily or involuntarily, the contract or any of its rights or obligations hereunder (including without limitation rights and duties of performance) to any third party, without the prior written consent of the State, which will not be unreasonably withheld.

R. DEVIATIONS FROM THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The requirements contained in the Request for Proposal become a part of the terms and conditions of the contract resulting from this Request for Proposal. Any deviations from the Request for Proposal must be clearly defined by the bidder in its proposal and, if accepted by the State, will become part of the contract. Any specifically defined deviations must not be in conflict with the basic nature of the Request for Proposal, mandatory requirements, or applicable state or federal laws or statutes. "Deviation", for the purposes of this RFP, means any proposed changes or alterations to either the contractual language or deliverables within the scope of this RFP. The State discourages deviations and reserves the right to reject proposed deviations.

S. GOVERNING LAW

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The contract shall be governed in all respects by the laws and statutes of the State of Nebraska. Any legal proceedings against the State of Nebraska regarding this Request for Proposal or any resultant contract shall be brought in the State of Nebraska administrative or judicial forums as defined by State law. The Contractor must be in compliance with all Nebraska statutory and regulatory law.

T. ATTORNEY'S FEES

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

In the event of any litigation, appeal, or other legal action to enforce any provision of the contract, the Contractor agrees to pay all expenses of such action, as permitted by law, including attorney's fees and costs, if the State is the prevailing party.

U. ADVERTISING

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor agrees not to refer to the contract award in advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the company or its services are endorsed or preferred by the State. News releases pertaining to the project shall not be issued without prior written approval from the State.

V. STATE PROPERTY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall be responsible for the proper care and custody of any State-owned property which is furnished for the Contractor's use during the performance of the contract. The Contractor shall reimburse the State for any loss or damage of such property; normal wear and tear is expected.

W. SITE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall use its best efforts to ensure that its employees, agents, and Subcontractors comply with site rules and regulations while on State premises. If the Contractor must perform on-site work outside of the daily operational hours set forth by the State, it must make arrangements with the State to ensure access to the facility and the equipment has been arranged. No additional payment will be made by the State on the basis of lack of access, unless the State fails to provide access as agreed to between the State and the Contractor.

X. NOTIFICATION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

During the bid process, all communication between the State and a bidder shall be between the bidder's representative clearly noted in its proposal and the buyer noted in Section II. A., Procuring Office and Contact Person, of this RFP. After the award of the contract, all notices under the contract shall be deemed duly given upon delivery to the staff designated as the point of contact for this Request for Proposal, in person, or upon delivery by U.S. Mail, facsimile, or e-mail. Each bidder should provide in its proposal the name, title, and complete address of its designee to receive notices.

1. Except as otherwise expressly specified herein, all notices, requests, or other communications shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given if delivered personally or mailed, by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to the parties at their respective addresses set forth above, or at such other addresses as may be specified in writing by either of the parties. All notices, requests, or communications shall be deemed effective upon personal delivery or three (3) calendar days following deposit in the mail.

2. Whenever the Contractor encounters any difficulty which is delaying or threatens to delay its timely performance under the contract, the Contractor shall immediately give notice thereof in writing to the State reciting all relevant information with respect thereto. Such notice shall not in any way constitute a basis for an extension of the delivery schedule or be construed as a waiver by the State of any of its rights or remedies to which it is entitled by law or equity or pursuant to the provisions of the contract. Failure to give such notice, however, may be grounds for denial of any request for an extension of the delivery schedule because of such delay.

Either party may change its address for notification purposes by giving notice of the change, and setting forth the new address and an effective date.

For the duration of the contract, all communication between Contractor and the State regarding the contract shall take place between the Contractor and individuals specified by the State in writing. Communication about the contract between Contractor and individuals not designated as points of contact by the State is strictly forbidden.

Y. EARLY TERMINATION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The contract may be terminated as follows:

1. The State and the Contractor, by mutual written agreement, may terminate the contract at any time.

2. The State, in its sole discretion, may terminate the contract for any reason upon thirty (30) calendar day's written notice to the Contractor. Such termination shall not relieve the Contractor of warranty or other service obligations incurred under the terms of the contract. In the event of termination the Contractor shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for products or services satisfactorily performed or provided.

3. The State may terminate the contract immediately for the following reasons:

a. if directed to do so by statute;
b. Contractor has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors, has admitted in writing its inability to pay debts as they mature, or has ceased operating in the normal course of business;
c. a trustee or receiver of the Contractor or of any substantial part of the Contractor's assets has been appointed by a court;
d. fraud, misappropriation, embezzlement, malfeasance, misfeasance, or illegal conduct pertaining to performance under the contract by its Contractor, its employees, officers, directors, or shareholders;
e. an involuntary proceeding has been commenced by any party against the Contractor under any one of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code and (i) the proceeding has been pending for at least sixty (60) calendar days; or (ii) the Contractor has consented, either expressly or by operation of law, to the entry of an order for relief; or (iii) the Contractor has been decreed or adjudged a debtor;
f. a voluntary petition has been filed by the Contractor under any of the chapters of Title 11 of the United States Code;
g. Contractor intentionally discloses confidential information;
h. Contractor has or announces it will discontinue support of the deliverable;
i. second or subsequent documented "vendor performance report" form deemed acceptable by the State Purchasing Bureau; or
j. Contractor engaged in collusion or actions which could have provided Contractor an unfair advantage in obtaining this contract.

Z. FUNDING OUT CLAUSE OR LOSS OF APPROPRIATIONS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, in the event funding is no longer available. The State's obligation to pay amounts due for fiscal years following the current fiscal year is contingent upon legislative appropriation of funds for the contract. Should said funds not be appropriated, the State may terminate the contract with respect to those payments for the fiscal years for which such funds are not appropriated. The State will give the Contractor written notice thirty (30) calendar days prior to the effective date of any termination, and advise the Contractor of the location (address and room number) of any related equipment. All obligations of the State to make payments after the termination date will cease and all interest of the State in any related equipment will terminate. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any authorized work which has been satisfactorily completed as of the termination date. In no event shall the Contractor be paid for a loss of anticipated profit.

AA. BREACH BY CONTRACTOR

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, if the contractor fails to perform its obligations under the contract in a timely and proper manner. The State may, by providing a written notice of default to the Contractor, allow the Contractor to cure a failure or breach of contract within a period of thirty (30) calendar days (or longer at State's discretion considering the gravity and nature of the default). Said notice shall be delivered by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, or in person with proof of delivery. Allowing the Contractor time to cure a failure or breach of contract does not waive the State's right to immediately terminate the contract for the same or different contract breach which may occur at a different time. In case of default of the Contractor, the State may contract the service from other sources and hold the Contractor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby.

BB. ASSURANCES BEFORE BREACH

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

If any document or deliverable required pursuant to the contract does not fulfill the requirements of the Request for Proposal/resulting contract, upon written notice from the State, the Contractor shall deliver assurances in the form of additional Contractor resources at no additional cost to the project in order to complete the deliverable, and to ensure that other project schedules will not be adversely affected.

CC. ADMINISTRATION – CONTRACT TERMINATION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

1. Contractor must provide confirmation that upon contract termination all deliverables prepares in accordance with this agreement shall become the property of the State of Nebraska subject to the ownership provision (section E) contained herein, and is provided to the State of Nebraska at no additional cost to the State.

2. Contractor must provide confirmation that in the event of contract termination, all records that are the property of the State will be returned to the State within thirty (30) calendar days. Notwithstanding the above, Contractor may retain one copy of any information as required to comply with applicable work product documentation standards or as are automatically retained in the course of Contractor's routine back up procedures.

DD. PENALTY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

In the event that the Contractor fails to perform any substantial obligation under the contract, the State may withhold all monies due and payable to the Contractor, without penalty, until such failure is cured or otherwise adjudicated. Failure to meet the dates for the deliverables as agreed upon by the parties may result in an assessment of penalty due the State of $500.00 dollars per day per circuit or service, until the deliverables are approved. Contractor will be notified in writing when penalty will commence.

The contract expectation is for a service that, at a minimum, will meet required specifications 99.955% of the year - equivalent to a maximum of 4 total hours of downtime/service non-compliance per year. Any service not meeting contract specifications to include violation of QoS parameters will incur a contract performance penalty according to the following formula:

For every hour and fraction of an hour of service violation, the customer will be refunded one day of service credit. Repeated violations of service performance agreements during any single calendar day will be considered a continuous event from the beginning of the original violation until the last violation. Violations on consecutive days will be considered continuous from the initial violation until the service has been restored. The service will be considered restored when no violation has occurred for 24 continuous hours (the 24 hour validation period is not considered part of the penalty). Penalty duration will round up to the next whole hour.

Example: Intermittent connectivity from 9:15a-2:20p on the same day; Duration of the actual service violation would be 5 hours and 5 minutes. Violation assessment is rounded up to the next whole hour, so the duration is considered as 6 total hours. A yearly downtime credit of 4 hours can be applied to account for the 99.955% performance expectation yielding a 2 hour penalty violation and 2 days of service credit due. The 4 hour credit can only be applied in one hour whole increments with a total of 4 hours of remission during any given calendar year.

EE. FORCE MAJEURE

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Neither party shall be liable for any costs or damages resulting from its inability to perform any of its obligations under the contract due to a natural disaster, or other similar event outside the control and not the fault of the affected party ("Force Majeure Event"). A Force Majeure Event shall not constitute a breach of the contract. The party so affected shall immediately give notice to the other party of the Force Majeure Event. The State may grant relief from performance of the contract if the Contractor is prevented from performance by a Force Majeure Event. The burden of proof for the need for such relief shall rest upon the Contractor. To obtain release based on a Force Majeure Event, the Contractor shall file a written request for such relief with the State Purchasing Bureau. Labor disputes with the impacted party's own employees will not be considered a Force Majeure Event and will not suspend performance requirements under the contract.

FF. PROHIBITION AGAINST ADVANCE PAYMENT

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Payments shall not be made until contractual deliverable(s) are received and accepted by the State.

GG. PAYMENT

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

State will render payment to Contractor when the terms and conditions of the contract and specifications have been satisfactorily completed on the part of the Contractor as solely determined by the State. Payment will be made by the responsible agency in compliance with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act (See Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-2401 through 81-2408). The State may require the Contractor to accept payment by electronic means such as ACH deposit. In no event shall the State be responsible or liable to pay for any services provided by the Contractor prior to the Effective Date, and the Contractor hereby waives any claim or cause of action for any such services.

HH. INVOICES

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Invoices for payments must be submitted by the Contractor as described in Section IV. Project 1, M. Billing and Section IV. Project 2, M. Billing, with sufficient detail to support payment. Invoices for the high speed transport service will be issued to the entity being served by such services. The terms and conditions included in the Contractor's invoice shall be deemed to be solely for the convenience of the parties. No terms or conditions of any

such invoice shall be binding upon the State, and no action by the State, including without limitation the payment of any such invoice in whole or in part, shall be construed as binding or estopping the State with respect to any such term or condition, unless the invoice term or condition has been previously agreed to by the State as an amendment to the contract.

II. RIGHT TO AUDIT

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Contractor shall establish and maintain a reasonable accounting system that enables the State to readily audit contract. The State and its authorized representatives shall have the right to audit, to examine, and to make copies of or extracts from all financial and related records (in whatever form they may be kept, whether written, electronic, or other) relating to or pertaining to this contract kept by or under the control of the Contractor, including, but not limited to those kept by the Contractor, its employees, agents, assigns, successors, and Subcontractors. Such records shall include, but not be limited to, accounting records, written policies and procedures; all paid vouchers including those for out-of-pocket expenses; other reimbursement supported by invoices; ledgers; cancelled checks; deposit slips; bank statements; journals; original estimates; estimating work sheets; contract amendments and change order files; back charge logs and supporting documentation; insurance documents; payroll documents; timesheets; memoranda; and correspondence.

Contractor shall, at all times during the term of this contract and for a period of ten (10) years after the completion of this contract, maintain such records, together with such supporting or underlying documents and materials. The Contractor shall at any time requested by the State, whether during or after completion of this contract and at Contractor's own expense make such records available for inspection and audit (including copies and extracts of records as required) by the State. Such records shall be made available to the State during normal business hours at the Contractor's office or place of business. In the event that no such location is available, then the financial records, together with the supporting or underlying documents and records, shall be made available for audit at a time and location that is convenient for the State. Contractor shall ensure the State has these rights with Contractor's assigns, successors, and Subcontractors, and the obligations of these rights shall be explicitly included in any Subcontracts or agreements formed between the Contractor and any Subcontractors to the extent that those Subcontracts or agreements relate to fulfillment of the Contractor's obligations to the State.

Costs of any audits conducted under the authority of this right to audit and not addressed elsewhere will be borne by the State unless certain exemption criteria are met. If the audit identifies overpricing or overcharges (of any nature) by the Contractor to the State in excess of one-half of one percent (.5%) of the total contract billings, the Contractor shall reimburse the State for the total costs of the audit. If the audit discovers substantive findings related to fraud, misrepresentation, or non-performance, the Contractor shall reimburse the State for total costs of audit. Any adjustments and/or payments that must be made as a result of any such audit or inspection of the Contractor's invoices and/or records shall be made within a reasonable amount of time (not to exceed 90 days) from presentation of the State's findings to Contractor.

JJ. TAXES

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State is not required to pay taxes of any kind and assumes no such liability as a result of this solicitation. Any property tax payable on the Contractor's equipment which may be installed in a state-owned facility is the responsibility of the Contractor.

KK. INSPECTION AND APPROVAL

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Final inspection and approval of all work required under the contract shall be performed by the designated State officials. The State and/or its authorized representatives shall have the right to enter any premises where the Contractor or Subcontractor duties under the contract are being performed, and to inspect, monitor or otherwise evaluate the work being performed. All inspections and evaluations shall be at reasonable times and in a manner that will not unreasonably delay work.

LL. CHANGES IN SCOPE/CHANGE ORDERS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State may, upon the written agreement of Contractor, make changes to the contract within the general scope of the RFP. The State may, at any time work is in progress, by written agreement, make alterations in the terms of work as shown in the specifications, require the Contractor to make corrections, decrease the quantity of work, or make such other changes as the State may find necessary or desirable. The Contractor shall not claim forfeiture of contract by reasons of such changes by the State. Changes in work and the amount of compensation to be paid to the Contractor shall be determined in accordance with applicable unit prices if any, or a pro-rated value.

Corrections of any deliverable, service or performance of work required pursuant to the contract shall not be deemed a modification.
Changes or additions to the contract beyond the scope of the RFP are not permitted.

MM. SEVERABILITY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

If any term or condition of the contract is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and conditions shall not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.

NN. CONFIDENTIALITY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

All materials and information provided by the State or acquired by the Contractor on behalf of the State shall be regarded as confidential information. All materials and information provided by the State or acquired by the Contractor on behalf of the State shall be handled in accordance with federal and state law, and ethical standards. The Contractor must ensure the confidentiality of such materials or information. Should said confidentiality be breached by a Contractor; Contractor shall notify the State immediately of said breach and take immediate corrective action.

It is incumbent upon the Contractor to inform its officers and employees of the penalties for improper disclosure imposed by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. Specifically, 5 U.S.C. 552a (i)(1), which is made applicable to Contractors by 5 U.S.C. 552a (m)(1), provides that any officer or employee of a Contractor, who by virtue of his/her employment or official position has possession of or access to agency records which contain individually identifiable information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by the Privacy Act or regulations established thereunder, and who knowing that disclosure of the specific material is prohibited, willfully discloses the material in any manner to any person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than $5,000.

OO. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Data contained in the proposal and all documentation provided therein, become the property of the State of Nebraska and the data becomes public information upon opening the proposal. If the bidder wishes to have any information withheld from the public, such information must fall within the definition of proprietary information contained within Nebraska's public record statutes. **All proprietary information the bidder wishes the State to withhold must be submitted in a sealed package, which is separate from the remainder of the proposal, and provide supporting documents showing why such documents should be marked proprietary.** The separate package must be clearly marked PROPRIETARY on the outside of the package. **Bidders may not mark their entire Request for Proposal as proprietary.** Bidder's cost proposals may not be marked as proprietary information. Failure of the bidder to follow the instructions for submitting proprietary and copyrighted information may result in the information being viewed by other bidders and the public. Proprietary information is defined as trade secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose (see Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-712.05(3)). In accordance with Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, bidders submitting information as proprietary may be required to prove specific, named competitor(s) who would be advantaged by release of the information and the specific advantage the competitor(s) would receive. Although every effort will be made to withhold information that is properly submitted as proprietary and meets the State's definition of proprietary information, the State is under no obligation to maintain the confidentiality of proprietary information and accepts no liability for the release of such information.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-602.02, all State contracts in effect as of January 1, 2014 will be posted to a public website beginning July 1, 2014. All non-proprietary or confidential information as defined by State Law **WILL BE POSTED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING**.

PP. CERTIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION/COLLUSIVE BIDDING

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

By submission of this proposal, the bidder certifies that it is the party making the foregoing proposal and that the proposal is not made in the interest of, or on behalf of, any undisclosed person, partnership, company, association, organization, or corporation; that the proposal is genuine and not collusive or sham; that the bidder has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other bidder to put in a false or sham proposal, and has not directly or indirectly colluded, conspired, connived, or agreed with any bidder or anyone else to put in a sham proposal, or that anyone shall refrain from bidding; that the bidder has not in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement, communication, or conference with anyone to fix the proposal price of the bidder or any other bidder, or to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of the proposal price, or of that of any other bidder, or to secure any advantage against the public body awarding the contract of anyone interested in the proposed contract; that all statements contained in the proposal are true; and further that the bidder has not, directly or indirectly, submitted the proposal price or any breakdown thereof, or the contents thereof, or divulged information or data relative thereto, or paid, and will not pay, any fee to any corporation, partnership, company association, organization, proposal depository, or to any member or agent thereof to effectuate a collusive or sham proposal.

QQ. STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The proposal shall be arrived at by the bidder independently and be submitted without collusion with, and without any direct or indirect agreement, understanding or planned common course of action with, any person; firm; corporation; bidder; Contractor of materials, supplies, equipment or services described in this RFP. Bidder shall not collude with, or attempt to collude with, any state officials, employees or agents; or evaluators or any person involved in this RFP. The bidder shall not take any action in the restraint of free competition or designed to limit independent bidding or to create an unfair advantage.

Should it be determined that collusion occurred, the State reserves the right to reject a bid or terminate the contract and impose further administrative sanctions.

RR. PRICES

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

All prices, costs, and terms and conditions outlined in the proposal shall remain fixed and valid commencing on the opening date of the proposal until an award is made (and for bidder receiving award, prices shall remain as bid for the duration of the contract unless otherwise so stated in the contract) or the Request for Proposal is cancelled.

Contractor represents and warrants that all prices for services, now or subsequently specified are as low as and no higher than prices which the Contractor has charged or intends to charge customers other than the State for the same or similar products and services of the same or equivalent quantity and quality for delivery or performance during the same periods of time. If, during the term of the contract, the Contractor shall reduce any and/or all prices charged to any customers other than the State for the same or similar products or services specified herein, the

Contractor shall make an equal or equivalent reduction in corresponding prices for said specified products or services.

Contractor also represents and warrants that all prices set forth in the contract and all prices in addition, which the Contractor may charge under the terms of the contract, do not and will not violate any existing federal, state, or municipal law or regulations concerning price discrimination and/or price fixing. Contractor agrees to hold the State harmless from any such violation. Prices quoted shall not be subject to increase throughout the contract period unless specifically allowed by these specifications.

SS. BEST AND FINAL OFFER

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The State will compile the final scores for all parts of each proposal. The award may be granted to the lowest responsible bidder. Alternatively, bidders may be requested to submit best and final offers. If best and final offers are requested by the State and submitted by the bidder, they will be evaluated based on cost. The award will then be granted to the lowest responsible bidder. However, a bidder should provide its best offer in its original proposal. Bidders should not expect that the State will request a best and final offer.

TT. ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

No bidder shall pay or offer to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission compensation, gift, gratuity, or anything of value to any State officer, legislator, employee or evaluator based on the understanding that the receiving person's vote, actions, or judgment will be influenced thereby. No bidder shall give any item of value to any employee of the State Purchasing Bureau or any evaluator.

Bidders shall be prohibited from utilizing the services of lobbyists, attorneys, political activists, or consultants to secure the contract. It is the intent of this provision to assure that the prohibition of state contact during the procurement process is not subverted through the use of lobbyists, attorneys, political activists, or consultants. It is the intent of the State that the process of evaluation of proposals and award of the contract be completed without external influence. It is not the intent of this section to prohibit bidders from seeking professional advice, for example consulting legal counsel, regarding terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal or the format or content of their proposal.
If the bidder is found to be in non-compliance with this section of the Request for Proposal, they may forfeit the contract if awarded to them or be disqualified from the selection process.

UU. INDEMNIFICATION

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

1. GENERAL

The Contractor agrees to defend, indemnify, hold, and save harmless the State and its employees, volunteers, agents, and its elected and appointed officials ("the indemnified parties") from and against any and all claims, liens, demands, damages, liability, actions, causes of action, losses, judgments, costs, and

expenses of every nature, including investigation costs and expenses, settlement costs, and attorney fees and expenses ("the claims"), sustained or asserted against the State, arising out of, resulting from, or attributable to the willful misconduct, negligence, error, or omission of the Contractor, its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents, except to the extent such Contractor liability is attenuated by any action of the State which directly and proximately contributed to the claims.

2. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Contractor agrees it will, at its sole cost and expense, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any and all claims, to the extent such claims arise out of, result from, or are attributable to, the actual or alleged infringement or misappropriation of any patent, copyright, trade secret, trademark, or confidential information of any third party by the Contractor or its employees, Subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents; provided, however, the State gives the Contractor prompt notice in writing of the claim. The Contractor may not settle any infringement claim that will affect the State's use of the Licensed Software without the State's prior written consent, which consent may be withheld for any reason.

If a judgment or settlement is obtained or reasonably anticipated against the State's use of any intellectual property for which the Contractor has indemnified the State, the Contractor shall, at the Contractor's sole cost and expense, promptly modify the item or items which were determined to be infringing, acquire a license or licenses on the State's behalf to provide the necessary rights to the State to eliminate the infringement, or provide the State with a non-infringing substitute that provides the State the same functionality. At the State's election, the actual or anticipated judgment may be treated as a breach of warranty by the Contractor, and the State may receive the remedies provided under this RFP.

3. PERSONNEL

The Contractor shall, at its expense, indemnify and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any claim with respect to withholding taxes, worker's compensation, employee benefits, or any other claim, demand, liability, damage, or loss of any nature relating to any of the personnel provided by the Contractor.

VV. NEBRASKA TECHNOLOGY ACCESS STANDARDS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Contractor shall review the Nebraska Technology Access Standards, found at http://nitc.nebraska.gov/standards/2-201.html and ensure that products and/or services provided under the contract are in compliance or will comply with the applicable standards. In the event such standards change during the Contractor's performance, the State may create an amendment to the contract to request the contract comply with the changed standard at a cost mutually acceptable to the parties.

WW. ANTITRUST

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor hereby assigns to the State any and all claims for overcharges as to goods and/or services provided in connection with the contract resulting from antitrust violations which arise under antitrust laws of the United States and the antitrust laws of the State.

XX. DISASTER RECOVERY/BACK UP PLAN

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor shall have a disaster recovery and back-up plan, of which a copy should be provided to the State, which includes, but is not limited to equipment, personnel, facilities, and transportation, in order to continue services as specified under the specifications in the contract in the event of a disaster.

YY. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Time is of the essence in the contract. The acceptance of late performance with or without objection or reservation by the State shall not waive any rights of the State nor constitute a waiver of the requirement of timely performance of any obligations on the part of the Contractor remaining to be performed.

ZZ. RECYCLING

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Preference will be given to items which are manufactured or produced from recycled material or which can be readily reused or recycled after their normal use as per Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-15,159.

AAA. DRUG POLICY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Contractor certifies it maintains a drug free work place environment to ensure worker safety and workplace integrity. Contractor agrees to provide a copy of its drug free workplace policy at any time upon request by the State.

BBB. EMPLOYEE WORK ELIGIBILITY STATUS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor is required and hereby agrees to use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system means the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a, known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the work eligibility status of an employee.

If the Contractor is an individual or sole proprietorship, the following applies:

1. The Contractor must complete the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the Department of Administrative Services website at http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchasing.html

The completed United States Attestation Form should be submitted with the Request for Proposal response.

2. If the Contractor indicates on such attestation form that he or she is a qualified alien, the Contractor agrees to provide the US Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation required to verify the Contractor's lawful presence in the United States using the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program.

3. The Contractor understands and agrees that lawful presence in the United States is required and the Contractor may be disqualified or the contract terminated if such lawful presence cannot be verified as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §4-108.

CCC. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION AND INELIGIBILITY

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor, by signature to this RFP, certifies that the Contractor is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any federal department or agency from participating in transactions (debarred). The Contractor also agrees to include the above requirements in any and all Subcontracts into which it enters. The Contractor shall immediately notify the Department if, during the term of this contract, Contractor becomes debarred. The Department may immediately terminate this contract by providing Contractor written notice if Contractor becomes debarred during the term of this contract.

Contractor, by signature to this RFP, certifies that Contractor has not had a contract with the State of Nebraska terminated early by the State of Nebraska. If Contractor has had a contract terminated early by the State of Nebraska, Contractor must provide the contract number, along with an explanation of why the contract was terminated early. Prior early termination may be cause for rejecting the proposal.

DDD. POLITICAL SUB-DIVISIONS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The Contractor may extend the contract to political sub-divisions conditioned upon the honoring of the prices charged to the State. Terms and conditions of the Contract must be met by political sub-divisions. Under no circumstances shall the State be contractually obligated or liable for any purchases by political sub-divisions or other public entities not authorized by Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-145, listed as "all officers of the state, departments, bureaus, boards, commissions, councils, and institutions receiving legislative appropriations." A listing of Nebraska political subdivisions may be found at the website of the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts.

EEE. OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

If it provides, under the terms of this contract and on behalf of the State of Nebraska, health and human services to individuals; service delivery; service coordination; or case management, Contractor shall submit to the jurisdiction of the Office of Public Counsel, pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 81-8,240 et seq. This section shall survive the termination of this contract and shall not apply if Contractor is a long-term care facility subject to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-2237 et seq.

FFF. LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

If it is a long-term care facility subject to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 81-2237 et seq., Contractor shall comply with the Act. This section shall survive the termination of this contract.

GGG. LICENSE/SERVICE OR OTHER AGREEMENTS

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

Any License/Service or other such agreements which the bidder may want the State to consider must be submitted with the bid. Any License/Service or other such agreements submitted to the State post bid opening may result in the bid being rejected in its entirety. Any such agreement, if agreed to by the State, will be considered an addendum to the contract. Any terms and conditions contained in any such accepted agreement (addendum) must not conflict with or alter the State's Terms and Conditions (Terms and Conditions) as contained in the RFP and finalized in the contract. In the event of any conflict between the Terms and Conditions and any addendum the Terms and Conditions will prevail.

The State reserves the right to reject any submitted addendum and considers the submission of any such addendum to be a proposed alteration of the Terms and Conditions. This clause does not apply to any third party license or service agreements.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK

The objective of this RFP is to update and expand the network that is currently in place to serve the eligible education entities of Network Nebraska as defined by Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-1201.01(3). Network Nebraska is defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 86-5,100 (LB1208, 2006). Network Nebraska shall consist of contractual agreements with providers to meet the demand of state agencies, local governments, and educational entities. Such network shall provide access to a reliable and affordable infrastructure capable of carrying a spectrum of services and applications, including distance education across the state. Only E-rate eligible entities will apply for E-rate discounts.

The State of Nebraska bids these services on behalf of numerous E-rate eligible education entities across the State. Each entity must be allowed a reasonable duration to hold a public meeting of its administrative board to approve its purchase from the resulting state contract(s) and to file its E-rate Form 471 prior to the national deadline of mid-March, 2016 and each succeeding year. Once Intents to Contract have been announced by the State, each contractor must work expeditiously toward a signed contract in order to allow enough time for the local approval process. Failure to reach a signed contract with the State prior to Friday, January 29, 2016, may risk negation of purchases for the July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 performance year.

The bidder may present supplemental text for any of the sections following the "Accept (Initial)", Reject (Initial)", "Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)" table. If a bidder must state noncompliance on any Technical Requirement, they must complete the "Notes/Comments" field in the table immediately following such section. "Notes/Comments" responses should be used only with a narrative response explaining in detail any deviation from the bidder's ability to meet the condition, and an explanation of how this would be determined to be an acceptable alternative to meeting the condition. Alternatives must be detailed in such a way that allows such deviations to be fully understood. The State of Nebraska shall determine in its sole discretion whether or not the bidder's alternative is an acceptable alternative.

The following link provides entity site location and geolocation data.

https://www.google.com/fusiontables/DataSource?docid=1HZWH30bpZw5rO5vDCFIhs8qIn-0MqMxsp4QPRy9A

A. E-RATE

The originating FCC Form 470 number for this RFP is 160001443.
Each Bidder must have a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) from the Universal Service Administrative Company and be eligible to participate in the Universal Service Fund discount program for telecommunications services provided to the E-rate eligible entities. Bidder agrees to provide any discounts, including any accrued credits, for which the entity is eligible under the Universal Service Fund for school telecommunications services. Bidder will, at its expense, prepare and file all carrier documents and reports required for the eligible entities to receive the benefit of such discounts and credits. The Bidder's Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) issued to bidder by the Universal Service Administrative Company must be included in the responding bid.

As required by federal law, providers of eligible services must comply with the Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP) rule:

1. 47 CFR § 54.500(f)

Lowest corresponding price is the lowest price that a service provider charges to non-residential customers who are similarly situated to a particular school, library, or library consortium for similar services. ("Similarly situated" means the "geographic service area" in which a service provider is seeking to serve customers with any of its E-rate services.)

2. 47 CFR § 54.511(b)

Providers of eligible services shall not charge schools, school districts, libraries, library consortia, or consortia including any of these entities a price above the lowest corresponding price for supported services, unless the Federal Communications Commission, with respect to interstate services or the state commission with respect to intrastate services, finds that the lowest corresponding price is not compensatory.

The Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) FCC Form 472 is filed by the applicant and approved by the service provider after the applicant has paid for services in full. The Service Provider Invoice (SPI) FCC Form 474 is filed by the service provider after the applicant has been billed for the non-discount portion of the cost of eligible services. Note: Applicants can choose their method of invoicing; service providers cannot force applicants to use a particular method.

As required by USAC policy, the contractor must retain documents from the bidding process through five (5) years past the last date of service. Documents may be retained in electronic format or paper. The

document list includes, but is not limited to, copies of bids, signed contracts, proof of service delivery, invoices, documentation of any service down time, and any other document retention required by the FCC.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

The bidder should provide the following information in response to this Request for Proposal and must provide prior to contract award.
Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN): _____

PROJECT 1
INDIVIDUAL SITES AGGREGATING AT THE FOLLOWING NETWORK NEBRASKA CORE LOCATIONS (Appendix A sites are e-rate eligible):

Project 1 is a bid for Ethernet connectivity from Network Nebraska participant locations to one or more of the listed core aggregate locations (below). An award will be made for each participant location to a single core aggregation location based on lowest cost.

a. Omaha (2 locations)
b. Lincoln
c. Grand Island
d. Scottsbluff

NOTES:

a. All services listed above will be offered to Schools and Libraries and therefore must meet E-rate guidelines for eligible services, products, service providers and contracts.
b. All State agencies, the University of Nebraska, political subdivisions and other "eligible participants" will be allowed to purchase off of this contract.
c. There is no guarantee that any or all of the institutions listed will purchase any or all of the services requested in this RFP.
d. Network Nebraska has five (5) major network node locations that are used as "core" aggregation points:

i. Peter Kiewit Institute
University of Nebraska – Omaha
1110 South 67th Street, Room 166
Omaha, Nebraska 68182-0694

ii. NCC Carrier "Hotel"/NCC Co-location Centers, LLC.
1623 Farnam Street, Suite 300A
Omaha, NE 68102

iii. University of Nebraska Computing Services Network
Room 230 Nebraska Hall
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
901 North 17th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0521

iv. College Park
3180 W Hwy 34. Room 208.5
Grand Island, NE 68801-7279

v. Panhandle Research and Extension Center
4502 Avenue I
Scottsbluff, NE 69361-4939

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The objective of this section of the RFP is to identify a Contractor or Contractors who will design, develop, and implement high-speed data connectivity that will meet the current and future telecommunications needs of eligible participants over the term of the contract. Each bidder will provide cost-effective, scalable and flexible high speed data transport services that can connect eligible entities listed in Appendix A to Network Nebraska. In each Section the bidder may bid on one or more of the eligible entities listed in each Appendix. Each site/service within each appendix will be reviewed individually. When bidding Appendix A locations, the Bidder must bid all costs to provide connectivity from the entity listed to at least one of the Network Nebraska aggregation points listed in the Appendix A.

For Appendix A, the Bidder will include transport from the identified location with connectivity through the carriers' cloud and ending at one of the identified aggregation locations. Connectivity back to the aggregation location must have the capacity to support all eligible entities bid transmitting at full capacity at any given time. A one (1) Gigabit Ethernet interface physical hand-off is required as a minimum for the connection at the identified aggregation locations. The cost for connectivity back to the aggregation location MUST be figured into the MRC (monthly recurring charge) for the individual sites being bid. The State of Nebraska will not accept separate costs for the aggregation ports that connect all of the eligible entities to Network Nebraska. All co-location data center cross-connect and fiber path costs needed to provide the physical interface hand-over to Network Nebraska equipment

will be the responsibility of the bidder. A co-location space will be provided at the aggregation locations for the Contractor.

Eligible entities may include colleges, universities, state government, political subdivisions and K-12 institutions. The network design must accommodate the full implementation of Network Nebraska connections including a statewide, multi-purpose backbone.

All proposals must meet the technical requirements as stated in the RFP. All Bidders may bid one or more sites/services as shown in Appendix A. In appendix A, K-12 sites are arranged numerically by ESU and alphabetically by billed entity name.

The State requires the Bidder to bid a multi-purpose transport connection to interconnect the listed institutions along with the corresponding services that considers present, as well as future, state-of-the-art technologies.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

B. PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

The current environment consists of a multi-provider layer-2 high-speed Ethernet network. Multiple provider clouds connect to the various eligible entities. Appendix A connects eligible entities to Network Nebraska at one of the identified destination locations.

C. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

The K-12 schools and educational service units that require this service must be converted during the month of July 2016 and the month of July for each succeeding year. The circuits should be installed and tested by the first Friday in August 2016 and each succeeding year, however neither the State nor the participating eligible entities can incur charges on these circuits until after July 1 of the implementation year due to E-rate. The cutover to the customer must be complete by the first Friday in August 2016 and each succeeding year or incur a penalty (see Section III, DD Penalty). Existing service must remain active until the final cutover (see D. Transition Requirement). The State of Nebraska is cognizant of a growing demand for bandwidth. The State is interested in identifying contractor(s) who will meet the current and future telecommunications needs of eligible participants over the term of the contract. The contractor(s) will provide a cost-effective, scalable, and flexible transport service that will be able to meet the demands of the network participants and it is expected the services would meet any future needs of other eligible participants as deemed appropriate. Bidders shall identify services that are a normal part of their offering without additional fees.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

D. TRANSITION REQUIREMENT

Upon award of the contract to a new vendor, the Contractor shall continue providing any part or all of the services in accordance with the terms and conditions, requirements and specifications of the contract for a period not to exceed 90 calendar days after the expiration or termination of the contract for a price not to exceed those prices set forth in the contract.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

E. TECHNOLOGY REFRESH

The State and the Contractor will work in partnership to ensure the services provided under this contract will be continuously refreshed as technologies evolve and user needs grow. The Chief Information Officer, in conjunction with, or on behalf of, all other participants, will assume the primary role in seeking and proposing new technologies and enhancements. This technology refreshment clause will be a required condition of the contract.

The State and the Contractor may conduct an annual review of the contract to review service offerings and pricing. These reviews may result in expanding the services offered by the Contractor to include new pricing elements or pricing modifications associated with improved economies of scale and/or technological innovations. Changes in the industry related to regulation and/or pricing mechanisms may also result in modification of rates identified in the services offered by the Contractor. These reviews will commence at the request of the State.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

F. SCOPE OF WORK

The Contractor shall design, develop and implement a high-speed, IP-based, layer-2, Ethernet, wide area network to interconnect eligible entities as requested. The network interface to the customer's CPE must physically be Ethernet with the capability to provide multiple virtual Ethernet interfaces via 802.1Q VLAN tagging.

The eligible entities' network connections must be bid according to the bandwidth ranges and to the acceptable aggregation sites as stipulated in Appendix A. The conversion will be performed over the summer of 2016 and each succeeding year and must be as transparent as possible with completion by the first Friday in August 2016 and each succeeding year.

For Appendix A, each connection that is bid must be connected from the site address identified to the aggregation site address. The core aggregation site connectivity MUST have the capacity to support all eligible entities connectivity to the core site transmitting at full capacity over a single 1 Gigabit Ethernet interface or over a single 10 Gigabit Ethernet interface; multiple interfaces are allowed only as a redundant path for the primary connectivity. The new connectivity capacity can be aggregated at an existing "core" site interface as long as overall capacity of the core interface is not exceeded due to the introduction of the additional remote site capacity. The State will not allow a separate cost for this "aggregation connection", that cost must be included as part of the individual site or sites being bid.

Appendix A includes site choices that are "grayed out". The State will only accept bids for the bandwidths cited between the locations and the core aggregation sites that are not "grayed out". The Bidder can choose to give a price to bring the eligible entity back to any one or more of the eligible core destination locations except locations that are "grayed out" within the Appendix. For locations where multiple speeds have been requested, the State will add all bandwidths bid to arrive at a total overall site cost that will be the basis for a lowest cost award.
All bids for a single service location to multiple aggregation points will be compared against each other. Each service location will only have one award and the State will award the lowest cost bid from that service location to one of the identified locations that meets the technical requirements as stated in the RFP.

The support of end-to-end customer VLANs (C-VLANs) is REQUIRED. Support can be provided either by using the IEEE 802.1ad provider bridging standard (also referred to as QinQ tunneling), or by directly bridging the customer VLANs from end-to-end, without C-VLAN modification and without provider interaction. For example; as a customer VLAN tagged packet travels from a customer to the service provider, a customer-specific 802.1Q tag is added by the provider to each packet. This additional tag is used to segregate traffic into service–provider–defined service VLANs (S-VLANs). The original customer 802.1Q tag of the packet remains and is transmitted transparently, passing through the service provider's network. The Service Provider VLAN (S-VLAN) tag is added on egress for incoming packets, optionally including untagged packets. As the packet leaves the S-VLAN in the downstream direction, the service provider 802.1Q tag is removed, leaving the original customer tag on the packet.

Eligible entities that select this service will purchase their own network equipment and video equipment. The Contractor will need to work closely with these eligible entities (school districts, educational service units; etc.) to ensure that the appropriate network equipment and video equipment delivery is coordinated and ready for installation at the time the network conversion takes place.

This connectivity will transmit Internet, distance learning, and data transport between the eligible entities of Network Nebraska.

Appendix A additionally identifies the potential Network Nebraska Locations where transport can be handed off for each location bid.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

G. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The bidder must provide a network design in which:

1. Layer 2 (802.1q/802.1p) VLAN and QoS tags must be allowed through the provided network connection and must remain unchanged by the provider.

2. Ethernet frames containing a 1500 byte payload (for a total minimum supported Ethernet frame size of 1542 bytes), must be allowed and flow as a single complete frame without any fragmentation by the provider's equipment. Reference: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethernet_frame

3. Layer 2 performance must be adequate to support jitter and latency sensitive applications (i.e. video over IP).

4. The network interface to the customer's CPE must be an Ethernet-based handover connection. The connection must support either 802.1q tagged frames or must support 802.1ad provider bridging. Network Nebraska WILL NOT coordinate customer VLAN tags with the provider; the provider must either tunnel the customer VLAN tags through the provider network or must leave the customer VLAN tags unchanged from end-to-end.

5. Allow participating institutions to manage their own IP address space and routing.

6. Performance metrics on contracted circuits must be provided to Network Nebraska staff within 24 hours of request.

7. Network Nebraska must be notified within 24 hours of performing QoS changes, network monitoring changes or any other network changes that may have a positive or negative effect on performance as outlined in the RFP.

8. The provided connection must be tested to prove performance before it will be considered complete and usable. Testing according to ITU-T Y.156sam or RFC-2544 for performance, frame-loss and latency is preferred but detailed performance, frame-loss, latency and QOS test disclosure is also acceptable. Testing must validate the minimum frame size specified is supported.

9. Every connection's receive AND transmit capacity must each meet or exceed the bandwidth amount that is bid. Testing must validate that capacity meets the amount purchased before the connection will be considered complete and usable.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

H. PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

The State of Nebraska acknowledges that project management and implementation procedures will require alignment and adjustment of work processes for the Contractor's organizations, the educational entities, and the State. The alignment will be part of the contract finalization, however the bidder will respond to this RFP assuming the following responsibilities.

1. STATE OF NEBRASKA AND EDUCATIONAL ENTITY MANAGEMENT STAFF

The State of Nebraska and educational entity management staff will:

a. Provide overall project direction and management.

b. Review and approve all project plans and deliverables.

c. Ensure that technical assistance and support are provided during the Contractor's implementation phases and ongoing upgrade design of this project.
d. Establish project management guidelines by meeting with the Contractor's project management team as needed.
e. Review and approve all project specific documentation standards and requirements for the various types of reports, technical/procedural documentation, and management materials that will be produced during the project.
f. Coordinate other resources as needed to support the implementation process.
g. Provide on-site assistance, as needed during the implementation phases of the project.
h. Assist the Contractor in identifying eligible participants in the network as well as establishing guidelines with the Contractor for ordering, moving, adding or changing services.

2. CONTRACTOR

The Contractor will:

a. Coordinate and administer the requirements of the network service(s) that are proposed.
b. Maintain toll free lines for voice and facsimile from the State to operational facilities for order entry and after hours help desk. Installation and maintenance may be subcontracted to one or more third parties to adequately cover the locations of the core transport backbone sites and to provide for rapid response in the event of a service disruption. The Contractor will provide information regarding intent to maintain its facilities after project implementation has been completed.
c. Maintain toll free voice lines for after-hours helpdesk support for the duration of the contract. This point of contact will serve as the single point of contact for all services and equipment provided by the contract, including services and equipment subcontracted to another vendor.
d. Provide upon request, technical information, graphs, charts, maps, photographs, block diagrams, operating manuals, and other information that will clearly show that the services offered are in full compliance with the minimum requirements of this RFP. In the event that the documentation furnished is at variance with the requirements of this RFP, the Contractor will explain in detail, with full engineering support data, the reasons why the proposed services meet the RFP requirements and should not be considered an exception.
e. Provide upon request, detailed network diagrams and drawings that clearly illustrate the network configuration and the functional relationships, as they are associated with the proposed services. These network diagrams will be available to the State electronically in a format agreed upon by the Contractor and the State to allow for import into various computer programs.
f. Provide upon request, basic technical specifications for each item of equipment included in the proposal. The information to be provided will be in the form of published specification sheets or other illustrative literature.

If the Contractor is working with other "last mile" telecommunication providers to create an end to end solution, the Contractor must provide the State with technical contacts for the "last mile" provider.

If the bidder intends to Subcontract any part of its performance hereunder, the bidder must provide:

a. name, address, and telephone number of the Subcontractor(s);
b. specific tasks for each Subcontractor(s);
c. percentage of performance hours intended for each Subcontract; and
d. total percentage of Subcontractor(s) performance hours.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

I. SERVICE LEVEL GUARANTEES

This network must support production applications that require a high degree of reliability and must operate with little or no service disruptions for twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. Contractor(s) must provide solutions with the necessary redundancy, backup systems, and/or other disaster avoidance and recovery capabilities to support these needs. Contractor(s) must have the necessary staff for the installation and maintenance of their network responsibilities and necessary staff to assist the State in its installation and maintenance of critical network services. Upon request, the contractor will provide an explanation of any

redundancy that is available as part of the site/service that will assure the required availability of the services. The following performance specifications are required service level guarantees. The Contractor will conform to these service level agreements, which are to include details concerning restoration procedures and goals, escalation procedures, and non-conformance penalties.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

J. SPECIFICATIONS

When planned network maintenance activities are conducted by the contractor which entails the risk of interrupting or diminishing service to Network Nebraska or its participants, the Network Nebraska Operation Center(s) must be notified at least three (3) business days in advance of the maintenance planned. Additionally, the contractor must agree to work with the Network Nebraska to find an alternate date and time of maintenance, if the proposed time would be particularly detrimental to Network Nebraska business needs. Mutually agreed upon maintenance activities are not considered a service violation and will not incur a service penalty.

The contractor must have in inventory the necessary spare equipment capable of restoring service in the event of contractor equipment failure. Maintenance contracts specifying next-day replacement or longer will not be considered an acceptable substitute for carrying inventory of appropriate replacement equipment.

The contractor must operate its own Network Operations Center(s) and provide a centralized trouble reporting and maintenance system that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The contractor shall provide sufficient staff for peak and critical hours. The contractor shall provide Network Nebraska with a local and toll-free number for trouble reporting.

The contractor must respond to trouble reports within one (1) hour of notification. The Contractor must also provide an escalation procedure and contact list to be used for unresolved issues, including names, titles and phone numbers of contact persons in the escalation chain. Major service-affecting problems that are not resolved within two (2) hours of time after the notification of trouble shall constitute a prolonged outage and must be escalated.

Access to performance service metrics is required, with a preference toward live metrics.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

K. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Bidder should submit with their proposal response, and must provide prior to award, an implementation plan for the deployment of the services, that reflect the services to be included in the associated contract. The plan must clearly represent the constraints of time, scope and cost. At a minimum the implementation plan must include the project approach, scope of work, work breakdown structure (WBS), schedule, milestones, deliverables, risk assessment, mitigation strategies, resource planning and communication plans.

The Contractor will adhere to the implementation plan for deployment of services submitted as a requirement of this RFP.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

L. DEPLOYMENT STATUS REPORTS

The Contractor's designated project manager will provide weekly reports of the status of any deployment schedules to the State's designated project manager. Deployment status reports will provide weekly information related to the adherence to the deployment schedule identified in Section C. Project Requirements, including identification of issues affecting the deployment schedule, and recommended resolution(s) to any identified barriers to network deployment.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

M. BILLING

The State will provide detailed billing instructions for each order as placed. In some cases the billed entity will be a consolidated billing to the State in an electronic format. For E-rate eligible entities, the Contractor may be instructed to bill each entity directly to ensure that appropriate E-rate processing can be accomplished. The Contractor must comply with all applicable E-rate requirements. The State may request a copy or summary of billings to other entities. Billings for the Individual Sites High Speed WAN must comply with the following specific requirements:

1. Eligible participants must file contract orders for equipment or services under this section that specifies the number and location of sites.

2. The billing to all eligible participants in a region for services under this section must reflect a cost per Individual location.

3. The Contractor must bill each entity directly that connects to the statewide network, rather than presenting a consolidated billing to the State of Nebraska.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

N. CERTIFICATION

The State requires that the Bidder be certificated or permitted by, or registered with, the Public Service Commission (PSC) to provide the services outlined in this Section of this RFP (Neb.Rev.Stat. 81-1120.19). The Bidder must be willing to file Tariffs with the PSC specific to the network proposed in their bid. The Bidder must be willing to accept direct payment for USF and NUSF contributions to their proposed network. The bidder must include these contributions in their bid prices.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

O. COST

Proposals will address the impact of normal growth, as well as planned and unplanned network expansion or service enhancement. All prices shall be proposed as an individual location/school cost on a recurring or non-recurring basis. **All bidder costs must be reflected in either the monthly recurring or non-recurring charges. All fees, taxes and pass-through charges such as NUSF must also be included in the cost. No additional charges will be accepted.** The State shall not be required to purchase any specific service or minimum quantities of network services. The quantities provided are for the sole purpose of assisting the Bidders in preparation of their proposals and for the State to consider the feasibility of the proposed network solutions. The State shall not be responsible for any cost that is not identified in the Bidder's cost proposal. The State will not consider bids that offer discounts based upon the number of network locations that join the network.

Please display costs in the format provided in the Appendix. The bid prices listed must include the cost of doing business as indicated below. Simply placing a cost number in the appropriate cell is all that is needed.

1. NETWORK EQUIPMENT AND HARDWARE COSTS

Network equipment and hardware (non-CPE) will be part of and included in the itemized circuit costs. Circuit costs will be bundled costs and must include all necessary components needed to utilize the circuit at the bandwidth bid.

2. INSTALLATION COSTS

If non-recurring installation/set-up charges are applicable, these rates shall be delineated in the cost portion of the proposal. This cost for the circuit installation shall include all one-time costs associated with termination to the demarcation point from the network side and/or fees associated with interconnection to local exchange carriers.

a. All fees that would be incurred for a fully functioning end-to-end connection, whether recurring or non-recurring, must be included in the cost. All cross-connect, and facilities related charges that would be incurred to physically connect the circuit to Network Nebraska equipment on both ends must be included in the cost.

3. SOFTWARE, WARRANTY, AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

The Bidder will include costs for software, warranty, and maintenance of the provided circuits in the service rates.

a. Software includes any initial or upgraded software required by each item of equipment proposed for the network to perform as a fully functional, integrated part of the Bidder's network and associated service rates. The software costs shall include all of the following applicable costs:

i. Initial purchase and installation costs.
ii. Use and licensing fees.
iii. Software maintenance costs, including upgrades.
iv. All other costs relative to the network such as acquiring and using the software for the life of the network.
v. Costs and procedures related to the transfer of the software from damaged or out of service equipment to new equipment and the reprogramming of the software to place equipment spares into service and to meet changing network needs.

4. QUANTITY

The State has the option of purchasing any quantity of services in any increment proposed. The State reserves the right to purchase any quantity of service. There will be no minimum or maximum quantities imposed as a result of any contract. All State agencies, the University of Nebraska, political subdivisions and other "eligible participants" will be allowed to purchase off of this contract.

5. PROPOSAL COST TABULATION

The proposal cost will be tabulated with an intent to award made based on the monthly recurring costs multiplied by the applicable length of service in months (48), not to include extensions, plus the one-time non-recurring costs.

SAMPLE—Bidder 'B' is awarded School X based on lowest overall cost for 48 months.

Entity	Bandwidth	Bidder 'A' NRC	Bidder 'A' MRC	Bidder 'A' 48-month Cost	Bidder 'B' NRC	Bidder 'B' MRC	Bidder 'B' 48-month Cost
School X	100Mbps	$0	$500	$24,000	$100	$450	$21,700
School X	200Mbps	$0	$600	$28,800	$100	$550	$26,500
School X	300Mbps	$0	$700	$33,600	$100	$650	$31,300
School X	400Mbps	$0	$800	$38,400	$100	$750	$36,100
Total				$124,800			$115,600

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

PROJECT 2
INDIVIDUAL SITES AGGREGATING AT THE FOLLOWING NETWORK NEBRASKA CORE LOCATIONS (Appendix B and Appendix C sites are not e-rate eligible):

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The objective of this section of the RFP is to identify a Contractor or Contractors who will design, develop, and implement high-speed data connectivity that will meet the current and future telecommunications needs of eligible participants over the term of the contract. Each bidder will provide cost-effective, scalable and flexible high speed data transport services that can connect eligible entities listed in Appendix B and Appendix C to Network Nebraska. In each Section the bidder may bid on one or more of the eligible entities listed in each Appendix. Each site/service within each appendix will be reviewed individually. When bidding Appendix B and Appendix C locations, the Bidder must bid all costs to provide connectivity from the entity listed to at least one of the Network Nebraska aggregation points listed in Appendix B and Appendix C.

For Appendix B and Appendix C, the Bidder will include transport from the identified location with connectivity through the carriers' cloud and ending at one of the identified aggregation locations. Connectivity back to the aggregation location must have the capacity to support all eligible entities bid transmitting at full capacity at any given time. A one (1) Gigabit Ethernet interface physical hand-off is required as a minimum for the connection at the identified aggregation locations. The cost for connectivity back to the aggregation location MUST be figured into the MRC (monthly recurring charge) for the individual sites being bid. The State of Nebraska will not accept separate costs for the aggregation ports that connect all of the eligible entities to Network Nebraska. All co-location data center cross-connect and fiber path costs needed to provide the physical interface hand-over to Network Nebraska equipment will be the responsibility of the bidder. A co-location space will be provided at the aggregation locations for the Contractor.

Eligible entities may include colleges, universities, state government and political subdivisions. The network design must accommodate the full implementation of Network Nebraska connections including a statewide, multi-purpose backbone.

All proposals must meet the technical requirements as stated in the RFP. All Bidders may bid one or more sites/services as shown in Appendix B and Appendix C.

The State requires the Bidder to bid a multi-purpose transport connection to interconnect the listed institutions along with the corresponding services that considers present, as well as future, state-of-the-art technologies.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

B. PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

The current environment consists of a multi-provider layer-2 high-speed Ethernet network. Multiple provider clouds connect to the various eligible entities. Appendix B and Appendix C connects eligible entities to Network Nebraska at one of the identified destination locations.

C. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Existing service must remain active until the final cutover (see D Transition Requirement). The State of Nebraska is cognizant of a growing demand for bandwidth. The State is interested in identifying contractor(s) who will meet the current and future telecommunications needs of eligible participants over the term of the contract. The contractor(s) will provide a cost-effective, scalable, and flexible transport service that will be able to meet the demands of the network participants and it is expected the services would meet any future needs of other eligible participants as deemed appropriate. Bidders shall identify services that are a normal part of their offering without additional fees.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

D. TRANSITION REQUIREMENT

Upon award of the contract to a new vendor, the Contractor shall continue providing any part or all of the services in accordance with the terms and conditions, requirements and specifications of the contract for a period not to exceed 90 calendar days after the expiration or termination of the contract for a price not to exceed those prices set forth in the contract.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

E. TECHNOLOGY REFRESH

The State and the Contractor will work in partnership to ensure the services provided under this contract will be continuously refreshed as technologies evolve and user needs grow. The Chief Information Officer, in conjunction with, or on behalf of, all other participants, will assume the primary role in seeking and proposing new technologies and enhancements. This technology refreshment clause will be a required condition of the contract.

The State and the Contractor may conduct an annual review of the contract to review service offerings and pricing. These reviews may result in expanding the services offered by the Contractor to include new pricing elements or pricing modifications associated with improved economies of scale and/or technological innovations. Changes in the industry related to regulation and/or pricing mechanisms may also result in modification of rates identified in the services offered by the Contractor. These reviews will commence at the request of the State.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

F. SCOPE OF WORK

The Contractor shall design, develop and implement a high-speed, IP-based, layer-2, Ethernet, wide area network to interconnect eligible entities as requested. The network interface to the customer's CPE must physically be Ethernet with the capability to provide multiple virtual Ethernet interfaces via 802.1Q VLAN tagging.

The eligible entities' network connections must be bid according to the bandwidth ranges and to the acceptable aggregation sites as stipulated in Appendix B and Appendix C.

For Appendix B and Appendix C, each connection that is bid must be connected from the site address identified to the aggregation site address. The core aggregation site connectivity MUST have the capacity to support all eligible entities connectivity to the core site transmitting at full capacity over a single 1 Gigabit Ethernet interface or over a single 10 Gigabit Ethernet interface; multiple interfaces are allowed only as a redundant path for the primary connectivity. The new connectivity capacity can be aggregated at an existing "core" site interface as long as overall capacity of the core interface is not exceeded due to the introduction of the additional remote site capacity. The State will not allow a separate cost for this "aggregation connection", that cost must be included as part of the individual site or sites being bid.

Appendix B and Appendix C includes site choices that are "grayed out". The State will only accept bids for the bandwidths cited between the locations and the core aggregation sites that are not "grayed out". The Bidder can choose to give a price to bring the eligible entity back to any one or more of the eligible core destination locations except locations that are "grayed out" within the Appendix. For locations where multiple speeds have been requested, the State will add all bandwidths bid to arrive at a total overall site cost that will be the basis for a lowest cost award.

All bids for a single service location to multiple aggregation points will be compared against each other. Each service location will only have one award and the State will award the lowest cost bid from that service location to one of the identified locations that meets the technical requirements as stated in the RFP.

The support of end-to-end customer VLANs (C-VLANs) is REQUIRED. Support can be provided either by using the IEEE 802.1ad provider bridging standard (also referred to as QinQ tunneling), or by directly bridging the customer VLANs from end-to-end, without C-VLAN modification and without provider interaction. For example; as a customer VLAN tagged packet travels from a customer to the service provider, a customer-specific 802.1Q tag is added by the provider to each packet. This additional tag is used to segregate traffic into service–provider–defined service VLANs (S-VLANs). The original customer 802.1Q tag of the packet remains and is transmitted transparently, passing through the service provider's network. The Service Provider VLAN (S-VLAN) tag is added on egress for incoming packets, optionally including untagged packets. As the packet leaves the S-VLAN in the downstream direction, the service provider 802.1Q tag is removed, leaving the original customer tag on the packet.

Eligible entities that select this service will purchase their own network equipment and video equipment. The Contractor will need to work closely with these eligible entities (school districts, educational service units; etc.) to ensure that the appropriate network equipment and video equipment delivery is coordinated and ready for installation at the time the network conversion takes place.

This connectivity will transmit Internet, distance learning, and data transport between the eligible entities of Network Nebraska.

Appendix B and Appendix C additionally identifies the potential Network Nebraska Locations where transport can be handed off for each location bid.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

G. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The bidder must provide a network design in which:

1. Layer 2 (802.1q/802.1p) VLAN and QoS tags must be allowed through the provided network connection and must remain unchanged by the provider.

2. Ethernet frames containing a 1500 byte payload (for a total minimum supported Ethernet frame size of 1542 bytes), must be allowed and flow as a single complete frame without any fragmentation by the provider's equipment. Reference: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethernet_frame

3. Layer 2 performance must be adequate to support jitter and latency sensitive applications (i.e. video over IP).

4. The network interface to the customer's CPE must be an Ethernet-based handover connection. The connection must support either 802.1q tagged frames or must support 802.1ad provider bridging. Network Nebraska WILL NOT coordinate customer VLAN tags with the provider; the provider must either tunnel the customer VLAN tags through the provider network or must leave the customer VLAN tags unchanged from end-to-end.

5. Allow participating institutions to manage their own IP address space and routing.

6. Performance metrics on contracted circuits must be provided to Network Nebraska staff within 24 hours of request.

7. Network Nebraska must be notified within 24 hours of performing QoS changes, network monitoring changes or any other network changes that may have a positive or negative effect on performance as outlined in the RFP.

8. The provided connection must be tested to prove performance before it will be considered complete and usable. Testing according to ITU-T Y.156sam or RFC-2544 for performance, frame-loss and latency is preferred but detailed performance, frame-loss, latency and QOS test disclosure is also acceptable. Testing must validate the minimum frame size specified is supported.

9. Every connection's receive AND transmit capacity must each meet or exceed the bandwidth amount that is bid. Testing must validate that capacity meets the amount purchased before the connection will be considered complete and usable.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

H. PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

The State of Nebraska acknowledges that project management and implementation procedures will require alignment and adjustment of work processes for the Contractor's organizations, the educational entities, and the State. The alignment will be part of the contract finalization, however the bidder will respond to this RFP assuming the following responsibilities.

1. STATE OF NEBRASKA AND EDUCATIONAL ENTITY MANAGEMENT STAFF

The State of Nebraska and educational entity management staff will:

a. Provide overall project direction and management.
b. Review and approve all project plans and deliverables.
c. Ensure that technical assistance and support are provided during the Contractor's implementation phases and ongoing upgrade design of this project.
d. Establish project management guidelines by meeting with the Contractor's project management team as needed.
e. Review and approve all project specific documentation standards and requirements for the various types of reports, technical/procedural documentation, and management materials that will be produced during the project.
f. Coordinate other resources as needed to support the implementation process.
g. Provide on-site assistance, as needed during the implementation phases of the project.
h. Assist the Contractor in identifying eligible participants in the network as well as establishing guidelines with the Contractor for ordering, moving, adding or changing services.

2. CONTRACTOR

The Contractor will:

a. Coordinate and administer the requirements of the network service(s) that are proposed.
b. Maintain toll free lines for voice and facsimile from the State to operational facilities for order entry and after hours help desk. Installation and maintenance may be subcontracted to one or more third parties to adequately cover the locations of the core transport backbone sites and to provide for rapid response in the event of a service disruption. The Contractor will provide information regarding intent to maintain its facilities after project implementation has been completed.
c. Maintain toll free voice lines for after-hours helpdesk support for the duration of the contract. This point of contact will serve as the single point of contact for all services and equipment provided by the contract, including services and equipment subcontracted to another vendor.
d. Provide upon request, technical information, graphs, charts, maps, photographs, block diagrams, operating manuals, and other information that will clearly show that the services offered are in full compliance with the minimum requirements of this RFP. In the event that the documentation furnished is at variance with the requirements of this RFP, the Contractor will explain in detail, with full engineering support data, the reasons why the proposed services meet the RFP requirements and should not be considered an exception.
e. Provide upon request, detailed network diagrams and drawings that clearly illustrate the network configuration and the functional relationships, as they are associated with the proposed services. These network diagrams will be available to the State electronically in a format agreed upon by the Contractor and the State to allow for import into various computer programs.
f. Provide upon request, basic technical specifications for each item of equipment included in the proposal. The information to be provided will be in the form of published specification sheets or other illustrative literature.

If the Contractor is working with other "last mile" telecommunication providers to create an end to end solution, the Contractor must provide Network Nebraska with technical contacts for the "last mile" provider.

If the bidder intends to Subcontract any part of its performance hereunder, the bidder must provide:

a. name, address, and telephone number of the Subcontractor(s);
b. specific tasks for each Subcontractor(s);
c. percentage of performance hours intended for each Subcontract; and
d. total percentage of Subcontractor(s) performance hours.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

I. SERVICE LEVEL GUARANTEES

This network must support production applications that require a high degree of reliability and must operate with little or no service disruptions for twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. Contractor(s) must provide solutions with the necessary redundancy, backup systems, and/or other disaster avoidance and recovery capabilities to support these needs. Contractor(s) must have the necessary staff for the installation and maintenance of their network responsibilities and necessary staff to assist the State in its installation and maintenance of critical network services. Upon request, the contractor will provide an explanation of any redundancy that is available as part of the site/service that will assure the required availability of the services. The following performance specifications are required service level guarantees. The Contractor will conform to these service level agreements, which are to include details concerning restoration procedures and goals, escalation procedures, and non-conformance penalties.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

J. SPECIFICATIONS

When planned network maintenance activities are conducted by the contractor which entails the risk of interrupting or diminishing service to Network Nebraska or its participants, the Network Nebraska Operation Center(s) must be notified at least three (3) business days in advance of the maintenance planned. Additionally, the contractor must agree to work with the Network Nebraska to find an alternate date and time of maintenance, if the proposed time would be particularly detrimental to Network Nebraska business needs. Mutually agreed upon maintenance activities are not considered a service violation and will not incur a service penalty.

The contractor must have in inventory the necessary spare equipment capable of restoring service in the event of contractor equipment failure. Maintenance contracts specifying next-day replacement or longer will not be considered an acceptable substitute for carrying inventory of appropriate replacement equipment.

The contractor must operate its own Network Operations Center(s) and provide a centralized trouble reporting and maintenance system that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The contractor shall provide sufficient staff for peak and critical hours. The contractor shall provide Network Nebraska with a local and toll-free number for trouble reporting.

The contractor must respond to trouble reports within one (1) hour of notification. The Contractor must also provide an escalation procedure and contact list to be used for unresolved issues, including names, titles and phone numbers of contact persons in the escalation chain. Major service-affecting problems that are not resolved within two (2) hours of time after the notification of trouble shall constitute a prolonged outage and must be escalated.

Access to performance service metrics is required, with a preference toward live metrics.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

K. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Bidder should submit with their proposal response, and must provide prior to award, an implementation plan for the deployment of the services, along with the bid prices that reflect the services to be included in the associated contract. The plan must clearly represent the constraints of time, scope and cost. At a minimum the implementation plan must include the project approach, scope of work, work breakdown structure (WBS), schedule, milestones, deliverables, risk assessment, mitigation strategies, resource planning and communication plans.

The Contractor will adhere to the implementation plan for deployment of services submitted as a requirement of this RFP.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

L. DEPLOYMENT STATUS REPORTS

The Contractor's designated project manager will provide weekly reports of the status of any deployment schedules to the State's designated project manager. Deployment status reports will provide weekly information related to the adherence to the deployment schedule identified in Section C. Project Requirements, including identification of issues affecting the deployment schedule, and recommended resolution(s) to any identified barriers to network deployment.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

M. BILLING

The State will provide detailed billing instructions for each order as placed. In some cases the billed entity will be a consolidated billing to the State in an electronic format. The State may request a copy or summary of billings to other entities. Billings for the Individual Sites High Speed WAN must comply with the following specific requirements:

1. Eligible participants must file contract orders for equipment or services under this section that specifies the number and location of sites.

2. The billing to all eligible participants in a region for services under this section must reflect a cost per Individual location.

3. The Contractor must present a consolidated bill to the University of Nebraska.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

N. CERTIFICATION

The State requires that the Bidder be certificated or permitted by, or registered with, the Public Service Commission (PSC) to provide the services outlined in this Section of this RFP (Neb.Rev.Stat. 81-1120.19). The Bidder must be willing to file Tariffs with the PSC specific to the network proposed in their bid. The Bidder must be willing to accept direct payment for USF and NUSF contributions to their proposed network. The bidder must include these contributions in their bid prices.

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

O. COST

Proposals will address the impact of normal growth, as well as planned and unplanned network expansion or service enhancement. All prices shall be proposed as an individual location/school cost on a recurring or non-recurring basis. **All bidder costs must be reflected in either the monthly recurring or non-recurring charges. All fees, taxes and pass-through charges such as NUSF must also be included in the cost. No additional charges will be accepted.** The State shall not be required to purchase any specific service or minimum quantities of network services. The quantities provided are for the sole purpose of assisting the Bidders in preparation of their proposals and for the State to consider the feasibility of the proposed network solutions. The State shall not be responsible for any cost that is not identified in the Bidder's cost proposal. The State will not consider bids that offer discounts based upon the number of network locations that join the network.

Please display costs in the format provided in the Appendix. The bid prices listed must include the cost of doing business as indicated below. Simply placing a cost number in the appropriate cell is all that is needed.

1. NETWORK EQUIPMENT AND HARDWARE COSTS

Network equipment and hardware (non-CPE) will be part of and included in the itemized circuit costs. Circuit costs will be bundled costs and must include all necessary components needed to utilize the circuit at the bandwidth bid.

2. INSTALLATION COSTS

If non-recurring installation/set-up charges are applicable, these rates shall be delineated in the cost portion of the proposal. This cost for the circuit installation shall include all one-time costs associated with termination to the demarcation point from the network side and/or fees associated with interconnection to local exchange carriers.

a. All fees that would be incurred for a fully functioning end-to-end connection, whether recurring or non-recurring, must be included in the cost. All cross-connect, and facilities related charges that would be incurred to physically connect the circuit to Network Nebraska equipment on both ends must be included in the cost.

3. SOFTWARE, WARRANTY, AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

The Bidder will include costs for software, warranty, and maintenance of the provided circuits in the service rates.

a. Software includes any initial or upgraded software required by each item of equipment proposed for the network to perform as a fully functional, integrated part of the Bidder's network and associated service rates. The software costs shall include all of the following applicable costs:

i. Initial purchase and installation costs.

ii. Use and licensing fees.

iii. Software maintenance costs, including upgrades.

iv. All other costs relative to the network such as acquiring and using the software for the life of the network.

v. Costs and procedures related to the transfer of the software from damaged or out of service equipment to new equipment and the reprogramming of the software to place equipment spares into service and to meet changing network needs.

4. QUANTITY

The State has the option of purchasing any quantity of services in any increment proposed. The State reserves the right to purchase any quantity of service. There will be no minimum or maximum quantities imposed as a result of any contract. All State agencies, the University of Nebraska, political subdivisions and other "eligible participants" will be allowed to purchase off of this contract.

5. PROPOSAL COST TABULATION

The proposal cost will be tabulated with an intent to award made based on the monthly recurring costs multiplied by the applicable length of service in months (48), not to include extensions, plus the one-time non-recurring costs.

SAMPLE—Bidder 'B' is awarded Site X based on lowest overall cost for 48 months.

Entity	Bandwidth	Bidder 'A' NRC	Bidder 'A' MRC	Bidder 'A' 48-month Cost	Bidder 'B' NRC	Bidder 'B' MRC	Bidder 'B' 48-month Cost
Site X	100Mbps	$0	$500	$24,000	$100	$450	$21,700
Site X	200Mbps	$0	$600	$28,800	$100	$550	$26,500
Site X	300Mbps	$0	$700	$33,600	$100	$650	$31,300
Site X	400Mbps	$0	$800	$38,400	$100	$750	$36,100
Total				$124,800			$115,600

Accept (Initial)	Reject (Initial)	Reject & Provide Alternative within RFP Response (Initial)	NOTES/COMMENTS:

DELIVERABLES

See Appendices A, B, and C.

Form A

Bidder Contact Sheet

Request for Proposal Number 5153Z1

The Bidder Contact Sheet should be completed and submitted with each response to this Request for Proposal. This is intended to provide the State with information on the bidder's name and address, and the specific person(s) who are responsible for preparation of the bidder's response. Each bidder shall also designate a specific contact person who will be responsible for responding to the State if any clarifications of the bidder's response should become necessary. This will also be the person who the State contacts to set up a presentation/demonstration, if required.

Preparation of Response Contact Information	
Bidder Name:	
Bidder Address:	
Contact Person & Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number (Office):	
Telephone Number (Cellular):	
Fax Number:	

Each bidder shall also designate a specific contact person who will be responsible for responding to the State if any clarifications of the bidder's response should become necessary. This will also be the person who the State contacts to set up a presentation/demonstration, if required.

Communication with the State Contact Information	
Bidder Name:	
Bidder Address:	
Contact Person & Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number (Office):	
Telephone Number (Cellular):	
Fax Number:	

Form B

Notification of Intent to Attend Pre-Proposal Conference

Request for Proposal Number 5153Z1

Bidder Name:	
Bidder Address:	
Contact Person:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Fax Number:	
Number of Attendees (in person):	
Number of Attendees (via video conferencing) Request for Videoconferencing must Indicate public site request. State of Nebraska will make the arrangements.	

The "Notification of Intent to Attend Pre-Proposal Conference" form should be submitted to the State Purchasing Bureau via e-mail (as.materielpurchasing@nebraska.gov), facsimile (402-471-2089), hand delivered or US Mail by the date shown in the Schedule of Events.