

Request for Information



State of Alaska
Department of Administration
Division of Administrative Services

Date Issued: October 31, 2023

STATEWIDE PUBLIC COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Introduction:

The Department of Administration (DOA), Division of Administrative Services (DAS), is seeking information from qualified firms who can provide statewide public communication services. Services in support of DOA's and Alaska Public Broadcasting, Inc's mission of providing state owned and operated rural television service, delivery of non-commercial broadcasting, distance education, and emergency communication services.

This request for information (RFI) does not guarantee future work. The information gathered will aid DAS in conducting market research to ascertain the availability of resources including identifying companies that specialize in satellite public communication services for government entities and the services they provide.

Background Information:

DAS is seeking information regarding options to provide continuity of service and improved services for the Alaska Rural Communication System delivery system currently provided by a satellite service at 139 degrees.

Since the late 1970's the state has owned and operated a network of low power television transmitters located in rural and bush Alaskan communities. This system is now called the Alaska Rural Communications System (ARCS). ARCS sites provide free, over-the-air television and radio programming, including the Emergency Alert System, across much of rural Alaska. The sites currently receive programming via satellite through large dishes, and broadcast over the air television signals to the local community by way of low power transmitters.

The system was constructed by the State during the 1970s and 80s and consisted of over 200 sites. Programming is assembled in Anchorage and sent to an uplink site at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, which transmits programming to a satellite the state currently contracts for the use of. The current Fairbanks uplink is in the process of being moved to Anchorage. This is known as the Satellite Interconnection Project or SIP. Additional information related to ARCS can be found on the state's DOA Alaska Public Broadcast Commission page located at <https://doa.alaska.gov/apbc/arcs.html>.

The current system utilizes orbital position at 139 W, C-Band, DVB-s, MPEG2, SD, Audio.

DAS is seeking information from qualified vendors who can take advantage of current technology for a spectral efficiency of bandwidth such as DVB-S2/S2X, MPEG4, HD/SD, Audio, or other efficient delivery protocols; as well as new technology which could utilize multiple delivery options, including existing satellite services as well as upcoming Low Earth Orbit (LEO) options and terrestrial options as available.

Response Information:

Responses must include the following:

1. Organization name, contact name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail of designated point of contact.
2. Existing capableness and competence related to the services identified above.
3. Description of the services offered by your company and how they can help achieve the state's goal of providing access to high-quality, affordable public communication services across Alaska.
4. Please provide a general fee arrangement and benchmark cost for your program.
5. Responses shall be submitted in PDF format, including any supplemental attachments.

This RFI does not extend any rights to prospective vendors or obligate the state to conduct a solicitation or purchase any goods or services. DOA does not intend to award a contract from this RFI, nor will DOA be financially responsible for the preparation, or administration cost incurred to respond to this RFI. All costs associated with responding will be solely at the interested party's expense.

Procurement Officer contact information:

Interested parties must submit a written response by **November 29, 2023, at 2:00 PM AKST**. Responses must be sent via email to: doa.oppm.procurement@alaska.gov

All questions must be in writing and emailed to: doa.oppm.procurement@alaska.gov

Attention: Christine Mash

Department of Administration, Division of Administrative Services

Office of Procurement and Property Management