DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SUPPLY MANAGEMENT
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JON J. P. FERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Education

CARMEN T. CHARFAUROS
Supply Management Administrator

AMENDMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

RFI 002-2020
Community Internet

AMENDMENT 2

July 8, 2020

Please review the attached document (All Notice/Amendments can be reviewed on our website). Please sign **this acknowledgement page and only return this page,** attention to **KATHRINA O. BAYSON** via fax (671) 472-5001 or via email to kobayson@gdoe.net.

I, _____, an authorized representative of the company named below, acknowledge receipt of **AMENDMENT 2**, for **RFI 002-2020 Community Internet**. Number of pages: **5** (including this coversheet).

Company Name (Print)

Print Name

Signature

Time and Date

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AMENDMENT 2

Prospective Respondents:

Please refer to our **Request for Information No. 002-2020 Community Internet**, a copy of which was obtained by your company for consideration.

Please see below responses to questions submitted by Prospective Respondents:

GTA

1. *2.3 Purpose – Determine estimated pricing to meet our distance learning goals for the products and services available. We would like to know estimated figures to determine financial feasibility of the solutions presented.* Will this be paid via educational entity or by the individual subscriber?

    GDOE Response: We have not determined the payment method. We are trying to explore the most effective and efficient way to get the service setup and paid. We want to explore ideas and suggestions that achieve transparency, accountability, timely registration and payments. We want to gain more information and learn from your suggestions presented.

    GCC Response: For the duration of the pandemic crisis and while no on-campus face-to-face instructions going on, the contract will be with the individual as an actively enrolled student, and GCC will either pay the service provider directly via lump sum payment, or reimburse the students using CARES funding. The contract can be either continued or cancelled by the student once CARES funding is no longer available. There is a possibility of $12.5 million dollars to be proportionately split between GDOE, GCC, and UOG depending on the number of enrolled students to be served and prioritization.

    UOG Response: There is a possibility for short-term federal funding through CARES Act 2. Long-term funding will be by the individual subscriber.

2. *2.4 Project Description – The three educational entities are looking for information to find solutions to address its current challenges of providing distance learning platforms from the home.* What platforms are being evaluated? Google Classroom, Zoom, etc.

    GDOE Response: GDOE is currently using Google Classroom, Zoom, Google Meet, Google Hangouts, and various other online platforms. This project aims to address the Internet connectivity in the home/community. We want to explore possible solutions.

    GCC Response: Currently using Moodle as the primary LMS with Remote-Learner and with plans to run a parallel site to further expand into another Moodle hosting provider (eThink), both in the cloud. We also use Google Suite (Classroom, Meet, Hangouts, YouTube, Sites, etc.), Microsoft Office 365 for Education (MS Teams, Office Apps, etc.), LUMINIS Course Studio, and Zoom as additional and optional online learning resources.

    UOG Response: Currently using Moodle (AWS hosted), Big Blue Button, Zoom, MS Teams, and Skype for Business

3. *Can you implement a proposed solution before school starts? How much time do you estimate to fully implement?* Will students be provided the tools for distance learning such as mobile phone, tablet or laptop?

   GDOE Response: YES. GDOE will be providing the necessary tools for distance learning. Vendors may provide suggestions and/or solutions separate from Internet Connectivity which may be helpful to GDOE.

   GCC Response: GCC is looking at providing loaner devices (laptops, tablets, etc.) to the student, but other than Internet connectivity, we are also considering what providers will be able to give students who opt to go on short or long term contracts (mobile phones, MiFi devices, SOHO router and access points, etc.).

   UOG Response: Efforts will be made to provide needed equipment to at-risk students and/or last year seniors.

4. *Connectivity – How willing is the ISP going to address underserved areas, or areas where Internet services or signal strength is either weak or absent?* Can you provide neighborhoods that may be potentially underserved areas where students reside?

   GDOE Response: GDOE is not knowledgeable about underserved areas for each service provider. We do know that there are certain physical limitations (distance, signal strength, etc.) that are found around several areas of the island. An example of this may be Merizo or pocket areas in the north such as AsTumbo or Machananao.

   GCC Response: This is probably best answered by having all ISP's provide, as part of the RFI, WiFi/wireless heatmaps of their services around the island, and/or where provider lines (aerial or buried) for wired services actually reach. Any or all areas with weak or absent wireless signals or without wired services will then be shown. Unfortunately, this will probably not highlight all signal barrier issues within buildings.

   UOG Response: We cannot confirm the student claims about living in a pocket area or the poor infrastructure. We do have students who live in multi-unit apartment buildings and report a decrease in internet connectivity during peak hours.

5. *Do you have the ability to group different users (GDOE, GCC, UOG, High School vs Middle School, etc.) into different networks? Would we have the ability to implement different policies for different sets of users?* Please clarify if intent of question is to provide different access policies for internet access via content filtering for CIPA vs accessing educational servers.

   GDOE Response: YES on both. We want to know if the capability exists for service providers to provide different Internet access for both content and speed. Examples: Can Netflix access be limited to certain quality or blocked for certain users? Or Educational sites, such as Khan Academy, have priority over shopping sites or gaming sites.

   GCC Response: YES on both. GCC caters to both minors in the high school and adults in Adult Ed or Post-secondary education. CIPA compliant connectivity is required for all students in GCC's High School Programs, but no content filtering for Adult Ed or Post-secondary students who are 18 years old and above.

   UOG Response: The majority of students are over 18. We would have to approach the exceptions (under 18) on a case-by-case basis.

6. *3.3 -TIME AND DATE FOR RECEIPT OF INFORMATION – Respondents may also submit an electronic copy via email to KATHRINA O. BAYSON, BUYER SUPERVISOR II at kobayson@gdoe.net. RFI 002-2020 COMMUNITY INTERNET must be clearly indicated on the subject and the body of the email. Two (2) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy (CD or USB flash drive of the requested information must still be submitted based on the instructions stated above.* Please clarify this statement. Will electronic submissions be accepted? Or are (2) hard copies and (1) electronic copy still required?

   GDOE Response: Yes, electronic submissions via email are accepted for RFIs only. However, Respondents must still submit hard copy and electronic copy (CD or flash drive) to the Procurement Office as stated in Section 3.2 of the RFI.

7. What is the timeline required for completion and implementation of services?

    GDOE Response: GDOE would like to offer the services to our students before school starts.

    GCC Response: As soon as feasibly possible and before Fall semester, August 2020.

    UOG Response: We would like to offer this for the Fall semester since all the classes will be offered online.

8. Will this project be installed in phases by priority? If so, would a priority listing be provided?

    GDOE Response: We have not determined a priority. However, all students without Internet access who have chosen 100% online method could be easily classified as a priority over a student who has selected 100% paper based distance learning. Also, Information from vendors regarding installation per student/household would help us understand the capacity and capabilities. At the time of this writing, we are not knowledgeable about any vendor ability and have not set any priorities. Please help us understand the question as it relates to the vendor response. Things we should know to help make reasonable decisions.

    GCC Response: At this time there is no set criteria for prioritization, but focus will most likely be on all actively enrolled students that are on financial aid assistance or are economically disadvantaged, and without any or without sufficient home Internet connections.

    UOG Response: We could ask students to determine their level of need. If they have alternate internet connections or are completely disconnected at home.

9. What platform is GDOE, UOG and GCC looking at implementing for distance learning initiatives?

    GDOE Response: GDOE is currently using Google Classroom, Google Meet/Hangouts, Zoom, and various educational sites that each individual teacher may be using in their classroom.

    GCC Response: Similar response to the earlier question, but we do use many other online resources to supplement or enhance the user's teaching and learning experience, such as our Student Information System ERP (Ellucian Student Self-Service Banner), Ellucian DegreeWorks, Ellucian Go Mobile App, Khan Academy, Kahoot!, GradeBook, IBM Power Systems Academic, CISCO Online Labs, Microsoft Academy Labs, Cengage e-Books and Instructional resources, MathXL, Nuventive Improve TracDat systems, Campus Labs, etc.

    UOG Response: We use Moodle, Big Blue Button, MS Teams, and Skype for Business. We also integrate with e-book publishers, online labs, and various online tools like VoiceThread and Turnitin.com

10. Are GDOE, UOG and GCC learning toward a wireless or wired solution, or mix?

    GDOE Response: GDOE is looking for a reliable and effective solution for its students. We would consider a mix or whichever is best suited for the particular student/household for the given location that meets our distance online learning goal.

    GCC Response: The least expensive and most suitable solution for sufficient bandwidth and/or connectivity per student, household, and/or location.

    UOG Response: We would prefer a wired home connection with an option for wireless.

Pacific Data Systems

1. PDS seeks clarification with regards to this RFI. In light of the Guam Education Board's decision for School year 2020-2021, please clarify if this RFI will be revised to reflect this decision as the RFI in its current request for information conflicts in some area.

    GDOE Response: The purpose of the RFI is as follows:
    - *We want to explore current services and platforms that would help us achieve our goals for distance learning for the upcoming school year*
    - *We want to explore any new technologies that provide effective Community Internet - 5G, WIFI in the Community/Public WIFI, WIFI Buses, WIFI parking lots, etc.*

    - *To gain a better understanding of the capacity of your company to support the goals of distance learning. Do you have enough support to provide the required services?*
    - *We want to further determine a better understanding of your company's service coverage throughout Guam and/or roaming services throughout the neighboring islands of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (Rota, Tinian, and Saipan)*
    - *Determine estimated pricing to meet our distance learning goals for the products and services available. We would like to know estimated figures to determine financial feasibility of the solutions presented*

    There are currently no plans to revise the request for information. The information collected would help GDOE with meeting the decisions in relation to the distance online platform as well as the "hybrid" platform.

    We are interested in solutions and possibilities to help our students during this pandemic that are reliable and cost effective.

All else remains the same.

Sincerely,

CARMEN T. CHARFAUROS
Supply Management Administrator