



RFP-2024-001 Okanogan County Electric Co-Operative
(OCEC) Professional and Construction Services
“Okanogan County Connect”

Request For Proposal

regarding

Design, Engineering, Permitting, and
Complete Outside Plant Construction of
a Fiber to the Premise Network

Request for Proposal Bid Schedule

RFP Posting date: April 25th, 2024, 8:00 Pacific

Mandatory in person pre-bid meeting: 2:00PM Pacific, May 9th, 2024, at 57b Horizons Flats Road Unit #3, Winthrop WA 98862

Questions Due Date: 4:00PM Pacific, May 16th, 2024. Question responses May 23rd, 2024.

All Bid Responses Due Date: 2:00PM Pacific, June 6th, 2024. Bids will be opened at 2:15 Pacific, June 6th, 2024, at the OCEC office located at 93 Chewuch Rd. Winthrop, WA 98862.

Please address questions and responses via electronically to: aglenn@ocec.coop

Public Announcement

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Okanogan County Electric Cooperative (OCEC), an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer, is seeking an experienced, qualified firm to contract for combined design, engineering, and construction of the "Okanogan County Connect" fiber to the home project funded by the Washington State Broadband Office. This project is (funded/partially funded), by federal award number CPFFN0145 (ARPA Capital) awarded to Washington State Broad Band Office by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Per the grant program, OCEC will use funds to construct an aerial & underground fiber optic system. OCEC requests firms who are licensed in the State of Washington to conduct business, to provide qualifications for design, engineering, permitting, outside plant construction prints, and complete construction services. Small, minority, and women owned firms are encouraged to submit bids. All work performed on this project will be subject to the higher of the prevailing state or federal wage rates (if applicable due to other federal funds that are in the project). Bids will be opened at 2:15 PST, June 6th, 2024, at 93 Chewuch Rd. Winthrop, WA 98862. The firms should supply qualifications for all services requested in the RFP and incomplete bids will be rejected. A five percent (5%) bid guarantee is required in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or surety bond as per RCW 35.23.352. The above outlined RFP may be obtained on the OCEC website [Okanogan County Electric Co-op \(ocec.coop\)](http://Okanogan County Electric Co-op (ocec.coop)) under bidding opportunities, or from Adam Glenn, email aglenn@ocec.coop or by phone at 509-996-2228.

Okanogan County Electric Co-operative Background Information

In 1939, closely following the 1936 enactment of the Rural Electrification Act into law by President Franklin Roosevelt, public utility districts and private member-owned not-for-profit electric cooperatives, such as OCEC, were allowed to secure government-backed loans to build infrastructure for rural areas neglected by other electric companies. The newly formed OCEC obtained a \$69,000 loan through the Rural Electrification Act and began servicing its first member-owners. Around the same time, the Okanogan Public Utility District (PUD) entered the Methow Valley. Originally formed to provide electric service to those living in the neighboring and more populous Okanogan Valley, the PUD extended its reach into the Methow by acquiring a generation station from Washington Water & Power (now Avista), a privately run company that had profitably sold electricity since 1928 to a concentrated, easily accessible segment of the Methow's population, centered around the town of Twisp.

Over eighty years later, OCEC and Okanogan PUD each provide electric service to about half of the 7,500 electric consumers in the Methow Valley and share a common transmission line into the area. Okanogan PUD provides power for the lower part of the valley, covering residents in the town of Twisp, while OCEC serves the needs of the upper Methow valley, including the Twisp and upper Methow river valleys.

In 2023, continuing with that spirit of service, OCEC acquired Methownet, a locally founded terrestrial and wireless internet service provider. Methownet brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and talent to the OCEC team and will continue to be an integral part of providing world class telecommunication services to the residents of the area they call home.

Project Description

The Okanogan County Electric Co-Operative (OCEC) has received grant funding to build a new fiber-to-the-home and middle-mile fiber optic distribution network. The system will be deployed with a mixture of both aerial and underground construction methods. Placement of loose tube fiber optic cables ranging from 2 count to 288 count will be deployed including splice and service drop locations. An engineering-ready design will be provided to the awarded bidder that will consist of the proposed routes of backbone cables, high level deployment methodology (aerial vs underground), splice cases, vaults, cabinet locations (splitter and active), and service distribution locations.

The project will take place in and around the OCEC service area and will include approximately 184 miles of new facilities and serve approximately 1366 homes and businesses. There may be areas where prior fiber optic cables have been placed by MethowNet that could be utilized and those details will be provided to the awardee.

For the purpose of planning and construction, the project may be segmented into the following three work areas as follows;

- **Winthrop:** This area will include a transport fiber that will tie the OCEC system into the Okanogan PUD backbone in Twisp, WA and will include serviceable premises in and around the town of Winthrop, WA.
- **Mazama:** This area is in the middle section of the project and includes serviceable premises in and around the town of Mazama, WA including the **Edelweiss HOA** community.
- **Lost River Airport Community:** This area is on the northwest end of the project and includes serviceable premises in and around the private airstrip.

There will be approximately 60 miles of new middle mile/distribution aerial fiber optic cables deployed using a strand and lash methodology. Applications for pole attachments will be submitted to OCEC by the awardee, with make ready work being coordinated by OCEC. Most of these locations will be following existing OCEC easements, or on WSDOT right of way. There may be areas that will require private easements or other real estate instruments for access which will be acquired by OCEC.

There will be approximately 56 miles of new middle mile/distribution underground fiber optic cables deployed using a combination of trench, plow and bore methodologies. Either (2)2-inch conduits or (2)1 ½ inch conduits will be placed for the fiber optic cable to be pulled through. A combination of large, medium, and small (service drop) vaults will be placed at appropriate splice, drop, and pull points to allow for access, future expansion, and customer requests.

In addition to the construction of middle mile and distribution fiber optic cables, individual fiber optic service drops will be constructed for consenting property owners. There will be approximately 42 miles of underground service drops and approximately 29 miles of aerial service drops.

General Project Schedule

The overall project is expected to commence immediately following the successful execution of the contract between OCEC and the awardee, which is expected to be complete by June 10th of 2024.

All fiber middle mile, distribution, turn up, testing, service drop installation and customer activation must be complete no later than October 31st, 2026. This will include all invoicing, documentation, and project close out information.

To expedite the project timeline, the order, schedule, and dates of completion of the three proposed construction zones may be adjusted as necessary with the advice, consent, and coordination of OCEC/Methownet.

Request for Proposal: Scope of Services (SOS)

The SOS requested by OCEC, as outlined below, are intended to provide design, engineering, permitting, and all outside fiber optic plant construction to include middle mile, distribution and service drop installation & activation.

Since this project is funded primarily by a grant from the Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO), bidders shall be expected to understand and comply with the guidance and requirements as outlined by WSBO, which will be provided. It is solely up to the bidder to understand and abide by these program requirements.

The services expected to be delivered as part of the proposal must include but are not limited to:

- Design, Engineering, and Permitting
- Complete fiber optic middle mile, distribution, and service drop construction.

Items Not required in this scope of work:

- Cultural or Environmental Services
- Private consents and easements

Scope OSP1: Design, Engineering and Permitting

The awardee will perform all necessary design, permitting and engineering in preparation of construction activities detailed in Scope OSP2. The engineering-ready design, provided by OCEC, will outline a proposed path (shapefiles and/or KMZ format) of backbone cables, high level deployment methodology (aerial vs underground), cabinet locations (splitter and active), service distribution points, and service drop locations.

The awardee will be required to field verify and revise the design as necessary with input and feedback from OCEC and Methownet regarding preferred drop point locations, vault placements, splice case locations, cabinet (active/passive) locations, construction methodology and other route considerations.

For attachments to OCEC utility poles the awardee will need to utilize a photogrammetrically based data capture system (Katapult, IKEgps, or similar) and provide all compiled data to OCEC in a GIS digestible format (shapefile or KMZ). The awardee must follow all OCEC pole attachment standards, guidelines, and National Electric Safety Codes.

The engineering-ready design may change depending on field conditions, make ready requirements, permitting, and other unforeseen circumstances. The awardee should be capable of utilizing their previous deployment experience of middle mile, distribution, and service drop construction to make recommended changes and suggestions to ensure that the constructed system meets the scope, schedule, and budget requirements. The awardee will be required to identify all locations that will need permits and obtain those permits on behalf of OCEC. The

final engineered designs will be provided to OCEC in a GIS consumable format (shapefile or kmz) with final as built drawings provided upon project completion.

Scope OSP2: • Complete Fiber Optic Middle Mile, Distribution, and Service Drop Construction

Awardee will be required to furnish all labor, materials (except those procured by OCEC), supplies, equipment, transportation, goods, services, consumables, and any other items necessary to construct, activate and commission the fiber to the home system as described in this document, in the attached exhibits, and as designed & engineered as part of Scope OSP1 above. Specifically refer to exhibit B for all associated costs, construction units, and other deliverables.

Contract

OCEC may negotiate a contract with the most qualified firm, but OCEC has no obligation to enter any such negotiations and, if it does so, OCEC reserves the right to terminate the negotiations without obligation and not execute a contract for the services.

Exhibits

NoaNet is providing the following exhibits with this bid:

- A—Vicinity Map
- B—Unit Bidding Sheet
- C—KMZ of Project Area
- D—Bid Unit Description Sheet
- E—Professional Services and Construction Contract
- F—OCEC Construction Standards (Reference Only and Subject to Change)

Response Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

Proposals must include information on the background, experience, credentials, and certifications required to successfully complete this project. OCEC will evaluate responses using the following criteria to determine the most qualified bidder. Incomplete submissions may not be considered. Responses received after the stated deadline will not be opened or accepted and will be returned to the sender.

Response Requirements:

1. Company Profile
2. Company Approach to the project
3. Proposed project team with
 - organization chart
 - resumes of key personnel
 - licensing and certification

4. Reference summary and narrative of similar projects including reference contacts.
5. Summary narrative describing firm's ability to provide Errors and Omissions commensurate with a project of this size and nature.
6. Proposed Project Schedule
 - o Estimated timeline for tasks.
7. Exhibit B – Unit Bidding Sheet
8. If applicable, your firm's certification of Small, Women Business and Minority Business enterprise

Following a thorough review of the criteria above, OCEC may decide to retain the services of the most qualified response and move forward with contract negotiations. OCEC reserves the right to reject any and all submittals.

The awardee will be required to sign Exhibit E, the included Professional Services Contract, and to work with OCEC to develop a mutually agreed upon Scope of Work, to include, Scopes outlined in this bid, project schedule, and Cost/Rate Schedule. It is understood that by furnishing a response the bidder can satisfactorily comply with all OSP SOS details.

Due to the prescriptions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), bidders may not assume their responses are confidential regardless of any statements included in the response. During the evaluation period, OCEC will make every effort allowable by law to maintain confidentiality. Upon award, during contract negotiations or if OCEC chooses to cancel or recast the RFP, confidentiality cannot be reasonably assured.

OCEC shall make every effort to negotiate a fair and equitable contract with the most qualified firm at a price and with terms that OCEC deems reasonable. OCEC will consider in its decision the estimated value of the services offered as well as the scope and complexity of the project.

If OCEC is unable to successfully negotiate a contract with the awardee, at what it deems to be a fair and reasonable price, then negotiations with the awardee shall be formally terminated and in accordance with RCW 39.80.040, OCEC may select another firm and repeat this process until an agreement is reached or until qualified candidates are exhausted.

Exhibit A
Map

Exhibit B
Unit Bid Sheet