

Invitation To Bid (“ITB”)

Project Description:	Rural Health Care Support
Project Number:	CPH20190415
ITB Posting Date	Date Posted by USAC via E-mail, note website
ITB Posting Deadline:	28 Days after Date posted by USAC
Health Care Provider Name:	Central Peninsula Hospital
HCP Number:	11902
ITB Contact Name:	Dan Kettwich
Upload Bid Submission:	http://www.adsadsi.com/itb_year_22.shtml
Requested File Format:	Please upload in Portable Document Format (PDF)

Note: All Service providers must comply with applicable Federal, State and Local Rules and Regulations.

PROPOSALS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE FOLLOWING LOCATION:

Central Peninsula Hospital - 250 Hospital Place, Soldotna, AK 99669

CONTRACT PROVISIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Please provide options to include terms that deliver service on July 1, 2019. All proposals/contracts may include language that allows for the termination of any resulting contract if funding from a previous application is approved. Similarly, contingencies may be proposed within new contracts to address existing contract(s) that may not be funded. Contracts may allow for the termination or disconnection of service without penalty. Short term options are preferred, specifically thru 6/30/2020 - optional extensions are OK. Month to Month Service terms are OK. Longer term contracts should not have a commitment of more than 3 years, unless year 4 and 5 are optional. One-year contracts may be proposed with up to 4 optional 1-year extensions. It would be beneficial if the next contract ended on 6/30/20XX.

Contract Requirements:

- Both parties must be clearly identified (please include physical addresses of the locations that services may be delivered),
- Both parties must sign and date the contract (if possible, please submit a signed and dated MSA with proposal as this will expedite the review process and allow the applicant to focus on service orders),
- Contract must specify type and term of service (duration),
- If a multiyear proposal is presented, please include options for growth, and
- Contract must have specific pricing of the services to be provided.

Note: Applicants with evergreen contracts are permitted to add new locations, exercise voluntary contract extensions, and upgrade services without additional competitive bidding, as long as those options were contemplated in the original competitive bidding process, and the contract explicitly provided for them. Please include these options, as an applicant must initiate a new competitive bidding process for any contract modification falling outside the scope of its evergreen contract.

BANDWIDTH / SERVICE OPTIONS:

Please provide options from 100MB to 5GB of service for the connections listed below.

Internet Service:

Two minimum of 100MB symmetric connections of Internet Access with transport.

Current Circuit Connections, new service may consist of up to 5GB:

-minimum of 300MB Private Ethernet connection or similar/equivalent service.

-minimum of 200MB MPLS connection or similar/equivalent service.

Z location address of Providence for 300MB Service: 3841 Piper Street, Anchorage, AK 99508

Z location of the 200MB service is the Medical Cloud.

Services should be resilient, highly available and hardened. Diverse transport solutions are preferred. Meaning a 300MB service may actually provide 600MB of service as two separate and diverse paths could be provisioned.

Please include proof of the rural and urban rates in your response.

Contracts may exist for the requested service – options are sought to assure business continuity and mitigate risk. Please include options for growth in all new contracts.

Make sure ineligible costs are cost allocated - please identify ineligible costs.

A single year contract should be proposed and options to extend are acceptable.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS:

The applicant prefers that proposal be uploaded to the appropriate opportunity located at:

http://adsadsi.com/itb_year_22.shtml. **On site presentations are not necessary.**

Request File Format: Please upload in Portable Document Format (PDF). If you have questions or problems submitting your response please email CPH@adsadsi.com and reference the applicant's HCP and Project Number. **If possible, please submit your proposal a day or two before the deadline.**

If you have questions or problems submitting your response please email CPH@adsadsi.com.

RED LIGHT RULE:

Any service provider, or the sub-contractor of any service provider, who is currently under, or has reason to believe that they may have a red light status under, the "Red Light Rule" by the FCC must disclose that information in this proposal. If any service provider, or the sub-contractor of any service provider, is found to have a red light status under the FCC "Red Light Rule" during the term of this contract, this contract may be immediately terminated.

LOWEST CORRESPONDING PRICE (LCP):

Service provider warrants they have reviewed all FCC, USAC and SLD information on Lowest Corresponding Price. Service provider warrants they are offering, and will continue to offer for the term of this contract, the Lowest Corresponding Price on all goods and services included.

BILLING:

With respect to service, the Applicant prefers to pay their share and it is requested that the service provider “carry the reimbursed share” until the FRN is funded. The Applicant agrees to promptly pay its share and to do its part in working to assure funding, to include responding to all USAC inquiries.

If allowable by program rules, please indicate if your company is willing to waive any or all prorated fees that may be assessed due to Rural Health Care Funding Cap limitations.

QUESTIONS:

All questions shall be posted to [http://adsadsi.com/itb_year 22.shtml](http://adsadsi.com/itb_year_22.shtml). Please visit the website and click on the Q/A link associated with the Applicant’s Form to submit a question. In addition, please click on the Q/A link associated with this application to review all questions asked and answered. Please remember that questions submitted within 3 business days of bid due date may not be answered.

If you do not have a question, but would like to stay current with questions asked and answered, please visit the website and click on the Q/A link associated with the Applicant’s Application and submit a request, in the form of a question, to be added to the question and answer distribution list. If you submit a question you are automatically added to the distribution list for updates.

Questions asked in any other method than the acceptable method as described above may not be answered. To reiterate, questions submitted via text, E-mail, or asked via a telephone, or left on a voicemail may not be answered.

If you have questions or problems submitting your questions please email CPH@adsadsi.com.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The applicant shall choose the most cost-effective service provider, which is defined by the FCC as, “the method that costs the least after consideration of the features, quality of transmission, reliability, and other factors relevant to choosing a method of providing the required services.”

Criteria	Percentage
Cost	30%
Quality of Transmission	25%
Management Capability	20%
Leverage Existing Resources	25%

Please include specific information in your response addressing each of the criteria listed.

Interpretation of your response shall be utilized in completing the evaluation rubric. Please consider these criteria a request for sufficient information to grade your response. The descriptions below are intended to provide and understanding of evaluation, if you need clarification, please ask.

Criteria	Description
Cost	Example: Price/MB is calculated. Lowest cost per solution divided by bid being evaluated yields a percentage of most cost effective.
Quality of Transmission	Describe proposed service, is solution resilient, hardened and/or fault tolerant. Dual physical path solution is preferred.
Management Capability	Ability to address the request made within this solicitation to include term, technology and other factors such as the considerations of existing contracts. Ability to provide service for the entire funding year - starting July 1. Contract Language
Leverage Existing Resources	Solution should utilize the applicant's investments in technology and compliments staff expertise. Soft costs shall be considered. Solution must work with minimal applicant resources. Experiences with the applicant, including past performance are important.

DISQUALIFICATION OF SPAM RESPONSES

It is the intent to disqualify SPAM based responses. If your response is classified as one or more of the following it shall be disqualified.

- 1) If the response is general in nature, meaning specific data concerning the request is arbitrary or not well defined within the response. The applicant is not seeking a laundry list or price list of services. Quantities should be listed and calculated, along with taxes, fees and surcharges. If taxes, fees, and surcharges are not presented, the applicant may estimate for the purpose of cost comparison.
- 2) If multiple options exist, or may be provided (but are not requested), and the applicant is left trying to discern between the various options. For instance, if POTS lines are requested, do not respond with a SIP solution. If you have questions, please ask them as outlined within the ITB.
- 3) The proposal sent must be binding and include signatures for acceptance by all parties.
- 4) Proposals may not include endless loop terminology. In other words, proposals offering to beat the lowest current or final proposed presented shall not be accepted. Firm fixed pricing must be presented.

INVOICING USAC

All service providers must file FCC Form 498 to obtain a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)/498 ID and acknowledge participation in the HCF Program on the FCC Form 498.

Please follow all invoicing guidelines as mandated by program rules. If appropriate, this includes instructions concerning the FCC Form 463 and the associated invoicing process outlined within <https://www.usac.org/rhc>. This ensures service providers understand the responsibility to sign, certify, and submit proper invoices and documentation (included submitting bills for services with a breakdown of eligible and ineligible services) to be reimbursed.

THE ADS ADVANCED DATA SERVICES, INC. ROLE

ADS works to help manage and memorialize an open and fair application process for support under the Rural Health Care Program. The ADS work effort is designed to provide a fully documented audit ready work product. ADS helps assure all potential service providers have access to the same information concerning service needs.

Project Coordinator: Dan Kettwich, ADS Advanced Data Services, Inc.
Mailing address: Post Office Box 117, Saltillo, TX 75478
Email address: CPH@adsadsi.com

ADS Advanced Data Services, Inc. does not evaluate Service Provider Service Offerings – The Applicant is responsible for selecting all Service Providers (see evaluation criteria). ADS shall not recommend Service Providers.

If you have a proposal, or optional packages, please provide details and the eligible Applicant shall evaluate all options to select a winner. Pricing specific to the Applicant's requirements must be included for an evaluation to be completed. Please make sure any and all required Contracts or Statements of Work are authorized AND included in your response. If the Applicant has a question on your service offering, terms, and/or pricing, clarification may be sought.