



**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION  
(RFI) REGARDING THE  
DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION,  
DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION  
& MAINTENANCE OF COUNTY  
WIDE FIBER OPTIC NETWORK**

**RFI Date of Release:**

**April 10, 2019**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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Oconee County is undertaking significant efforts to improve bandwidth for its residents and businesses by building a middle mile fiber network. This project will provide unique opportunities to embrace technology for the benefits of the County's citizens, anchor institutions, businesses, schools, and healthcare organizations. A broadband fiber network is a critical element of how Oconee County can remain one of the top places to live, work, play and learn in the state. The broadband network will be a foundational tool that will drive the community's competitiveness in Georgia and beyond, and act as a platform to enable economic development, support emerging technologies and empower local government innovation.

Broadband can enable communities otherwise at a disadvantage, to participate on more equal footing in the emerging global economy. The internet can allow many businesses to locate anywhere as long as there is enough bandwidth at affordable prices. High-tech firms and other companies that rely on high speed connections will go where they can flourish. Rental property owners understand that many of their potential customers require broadband for entertainment and to stay connected to their work. Broadband-enabled communities generally have higher property values, improved job creation and retention, and better quality of life.

Oconee County plans to build an 80 mile, county-wide fiber ring to serve County facilities, with the primary purpose to serve as the backbone for the delivery of services by prospective partners to all residents and local businesses.

The County has initiated this Request for Information (RFI) to identify one or more private partners ("the Partner") to build, maintain, and service high-capacity broadband services over fiber to end-users within the County limits. We are particularly interested in partners who will use the fiber to provide ultra-high-speed network access. We define ultra- models high-speed as being in the multiple- hundred megabit-per- second (Mbps) to gigabit-per-second (Gbps) range.

## **2 OBJECTIVES**

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We seek to make Oconee County a more desirable place for visitors, businesses, and residents by bringing them the quality-of-life benefits of broadband both directly through home connections and through enhanced services provided by the business community and municipal operations. Oconee County's objective for this RFI is to seek responses from interested vendors that can provide telecommunications services including but not limited to implementation, design, construction, management and growth of a County wide fiber network. We also seek partners who will, if necessary, consider a variety of models that share financial risk and rewards between the partners in innovative ways.

Responses to this RFI should state how the respondent's approach will further the County's goals of providing high speed network access to all of the County's facilities, businesses and residents as well as encouraging economic development.

### **3 OVERVIEW**

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The intention of this RFI is to evaluate proposals for a public-private partnership in which the County maintains ownership of the fiber infrastructure and the Partner assumes all risks and responsibilities in the maintenance, operations, and expansion of the fiber-optic network. Oconee County seeks to pass all of the risk to potential partners for use, maintenance, operations and expansion the County's fiber infrastructure. Any exceptions to this risk model or responsibilities should be explicitly stated in responses.

Though no contracts or formal relationships will be established through this RFI, it will provide valuable information about the capabilities of potential partners to service the broadband needs of Oconee County. All interested partners are strongly encouraged to respond.

### **4 PROJECT GOALS**

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There are 3 main goals for undertaking Oconee County's Fiber Infrastructure Middle Mile Project. Respondents to this RFI should indicate how their proposal serves these goals. These will be evaluated independently and awarded independently, although the County prefers single vendor.

- Goal 1. Fully maintain, operate, repair, and support the proposed County-owned underlying fiber infrastructure on a 24/7 basis;*
- Goal 2. Design, construction and implementation of the middle mile network*
- Goal 3. Expand fiber infrastructure and broadband services to residents, businesses, anchor institutions, and community stakeholders*

For the network to have the intended economic and quality of life impacts, we consider both cost and availability of service to be important. The County expects an IRU or profit-sharing agreement as a result of the partnership formed to achieve Goal 3. We encourage responses that address both to maximize adoption of service.

### **5 RFI RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS**

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Responses to this RFI shall be in the following format:

1. Submittal Cover - Include the RFI title, submittal due date, RFI number, and the company's legal name, address, and phone number. Include the website address, fax number, and the telephone number of the principal contact for this proposal.
2. Table of Contents – Include a complete and clear listing of headings and pages to allow easy reference to key information. (this page does not count towards total number of pages)
3. General Section – Include the following information—in as much detail as is practicable— from respondents.
  - a. Affirm that you are interested in this partnership and address the core policy goals and requirements listed above. If you cannot meet any of those requirements, indicate the requirements to which you take exception and provide an explanation of

- the exceptions.
- b. Provide timeline, resources, and other supporting details for the implementation of each stated goal.
  - c. Provide a statement of experience in the following areas:
    - i. Fiber Network Construction, Operations, and Maintenance as stated in goals 1 and 2 above
    - ii. Provisioning fiber and wireless broadband services to businesses, anchor institutions and residents
    - ii. Network operations and market growth including current and previous service areas
  - d. What value propositions do you bring to the table to meet the County's goals in each area? Identify other networks your firm has designed, built, and maintained.
  - e. Briefly describe vendor's organization and describe examples of vendor's organization working with a governmental agency to provide Telecommunications solutions and services and how that experience applies to the Objectives in Section 2.
4. Summarize the technological and operational approach you would use for this project.
- a. How would you use your expertise to meet the County's goals?
  - b. What approach would you use to interconnect with the internet and other public networks?
  - c. How would you prioritize fiber to the home and businesses roll out? What group would you target first? How many customers would you project in Years 1-5.
  - d. How would you perform network management?
  - e. At what sort of facility (or facilities) would you place network electronics?
5. Summarize the business approach you would use for the project. How would your business plan help meet the County's goals? What are the key assumptions? What are your main areas of risk, and how can the County help reduce the risks? What is your proposed methodology for shared risks and rewards? Do you have any exceptions to the risks proposed by this RFI?
6. Outline your approach to fiber network maintenance; describe your ability to perform maintenance on an ongoing and as-needed basis. Provide estimates of the operating cost of maintaining the fiber optic outside plant for a County's fiber network and include your main assumptions.
7. Provide a paragraph, in 150 words or less, as to why your organization is a good fit for the vision, culture and citizens of Oconee County, GA.
8. Provide three (3) references, including contact information, from previous contracts or partnerships for projects similar to this scope of work.
9. The response should be no longer than fifteen (15) pages in length.
10. The respondent must have the experience, capabilities and financial wherewithal to execute all tasks in which they are being considered. Financial statements could be requested.

**This RFI does not constitute a solicitation of proposals, a commitment to conduct procurement, or an offer to contract or prospective contract. Oconee County will not award a contract as a result of this RFI. Oconee County will not be liable for any costs incurred by respondents in the preparation and submission of information in response to this RFI.**

## **6 RESPONSE SUBMISSION, DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION**

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Oconee County welcomes written comments and questions related to this RFI by May 1, 2019 at 2:00p.m. (EST). Responses must be submitted to Oconee County's designated point of contact, as identified in Section 7 no later than May 15, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Responses can be submitted by email to the email address below. Faxed responses or verbal inquiries will not be accepted. It is not the intent of Oconee County to respond to the comments or questions, but if additional information is issued relating to the RFI, it will be made available on the Oconee County web site.

## **7 DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT**

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Oconee County's official single point of contact for this RFI and the delivery point for all responses and correspondence is:

Teton Telecom  
Attn: Mark Metcalf  
[markmetcalf@tetontelecom.com](mailto:markmetcalf@tetontelecom.com)  
(706) 224-0691

County's employees will not answer questions or concerns via telephone, email, neither in person and any oral answers will not be binding. Any addendum issued shall be considered a part of this RFI. Please direct all inquiries to the Designated Point of Contact.

## **8 GEORGIA PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT**

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A response to the RFI is subject to public disclosure under the Georgia Public Information Act, Georgia Government Code, Chapter 552 (the Act), unless the response, or any part of the response, can be shown to fall within one or more of the Act's exceptions to required public disclosure. If a respondent believes that parts of the response are exempt from the required public disclosure the respondent must specify those parts and the exception(s) that it believes apply, with specific detailed reasons. Oconee County will process any public information request for all or part of a response in accordance with the Act's procedures. However, the final decision regarding a request for information to which a Respondent asserts any exception to disclosure will be made by the Georgia Attorney General's Office, not by Oconee County. Respondents should consult the Georgia Attorney General's web site at [www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us) for information concerning the application of the Act's provisions to responses and potentially proprietary information.

## **9 DISCLAIMERS**

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Oconee County may issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking an experienced and qualified vendor(s) for a Telecommunications Expense Management solution. This RFI is issued for the purpose of obtaining planning information regarding potential procurement approaches and specifications and costs for consideration by Oconee County in preparing the possibility of a planned RFP sometime in the future.

Responding to this RFI is not a condition for eligibility to respond to any subsequent solicitation. Responses to this RFI will not have any bearing, positive or negative, on the evaluation and respondent selection resulting from any proposals what may be received in response to any subsequent solicitation.

All information received by Oconee County becomes Oconee County property and will not be returned to the sender. There will be no acknowledgement by Oconee County for receipt of the information. Acceptance of responses to this RFI places no obligations of any kind upon Oconee County Any information received from respondents to the RFI in any form may be used by Oconee County without restriction for any purpose determined by Oconee County.

**10 SITE LIST**

Site	Type		Address		Zip
Water Tower	General	103	CONCORD	DR	30677
Board of Election	General	10	COURT	ST	30677
Calls Creek Treatment Facility	General	1100	DURHAM'S MILL	WAY	30677
Health Department	General	1060	EXPERIMENT STATION	RD	30677
Post Office / Library	General	1080	EXPERIMENT STATION	RD	30677
Norris Building	General	1110	EXPERIMENT STATION	RD	30677
911 / EOC Building	General	1120	EXPERIMENT STATION	RD	30677
Watkinsville Water Works	General	1251	EXPERIMENT STATION	RD	30677
Sherrif Department / Jail	General	1140	EXPERIMENT STATION	RD	30677
J. Phil Campbell	General	1420	EXPERIMENT STATION	RD	30677
Public Works	General	1291	GREENSBORO	HWY	30677
Future Eastville Fire Dept.	Fire	1250	HODGES MILL	RD	30622
Civic Center	General	2661	HOG MOUNTAIN	RD	30677
Dark Corner Fire Department	Fire	7620	HOG MOUNTAIN	RD	30666
Oconee Veterans Park	Parks	3500	HOG MOUNTAIN	RD	30677
Road Department	General	1150	INDUSTRIAL	DR	30677
Watkinsville Fire Department	Fire	7580	MACON	HWY	30677
Water Tower	General	2023	MARS HILL	RD	30677
North Oconee Fire Dept. Station 7	Fire	1931	MCNUTT CREEK	RD	30622
Courthouse	General	23	N MAIN	ST	30677
Eagle Tavern	General	26	NORTH MAIN	ST	30677
Collection Site	General	1030	RANKIN	RD	30677
Fleet Maintenance	General	2121	RAYS CHURCH	RD	30621
LAS Site	General	1381	ROCKY BRANCH	RD	30622
Daisy Wise Property/Bogart Library	Parks	200	SOUTH BURSON	AVE	30622
Facilities Building	General	3	THIRD	ST	30677
Ball Fields	Parks	130	THOMPSON	ST	30622
Barber Creek Fire Dept Station 8	Fire	1600	VIRGIL LANGFORD	RD	30677
Future Barnett Shoals Fire Dept	Fire	0	BARNETT SHOALS	RD	30677
Animal Control	General	1171	BRANCH	RD	30677
Herman C. Michael Park	Parks	1051	ELDER	RD	30621
East Oconee Fire Dept Station 5	Fire	4931	GREENSBORO	HWY	30677
Collection Site	General	2001	GREENSBORO	HWY	30677
North High Shoals Fire Dept Station 6	Fire	200	HILLSBORO	RD	30621
Landfill	General	2721	MACON	HWY	30677
Heritage Park	Parks	2541	MACON	HWY	30677
Farmington Fire Dept Station 2	Fire	2590	OLD FARMINGTON	RD	30677
Future Site MOWRF	General	0	ROCKINWOOD	DR	30606
Watkinsville City Hall	General	191	VFW	DR	30677
City Street Dept	General	1030	EXPERIMENT STATION	RD	30677
North High Shoals City Hall	General	108	JEFFERSON	RD	30645
Bogart City Hall	General	125	MAIN	ST	30622
Bishop City Hall	General	5000	MACON	HWY	30621
Colham Ferry Elementary School	BOE	190	COLHAM FERRY	RD	30677
High Shoals Elementary School	BOE	401	HOPPING	RD	30621
Malcom Bridge Elementary School	BOE	2600	MALCOM BRIDGE	RD	30622
Oconee County Primary School	BOE	2290	HOG MOUNTAIN	RD	30677
Rocky Branch Elementary School	BOE	5250	HOG MOUNTAIN	RD	30622
Malcom Bridge Middle School	BOE	2500	MALCOM BRIDGE	RD	30622
Oconee County Middle School	BOE	1101	MARS HILL	RD	30677
North Oconee High School	BOE	1081	ROCKY BRANCH	RD	30622
Oconee County High School	BOE	2721	HOG MOUNTAIN	RD	30677



# 11 MAP

