

**Questions & Answers #8 to
Request for Proposals (RFP)
Statewide Public Safety Wireless Communications System
RFP #060B9800036
July 8, 2009**

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The Department of Information Technology received the following question by e-mail for the above referenced RFP, and it is answered below for all Offerors:

Question 148: It is our understanding that four strands of “dark” fiber are being made available for the radio project at each location listed Appendix 21, provided in Addendum #5, “State Fiber Sites on MD Map – NDA.” Currently each site on the network is terminated.

Can the State provide the following information about the existing dark fiber?

- a. A specification sheet for the fiber optic cable used or a manufacturer and model number. This information is needed to select the proper electronics and interfaces and optimize the design of the optical network.

ANSWER: The Maryland SHA has reserved four fiber optic strands on a statewide basis. The reserved strands are “dark”. The fiber is terminated into each of the locations identified in the RFP Appendix 21 and colored as green. All other locations shown on the fiber optic map are either in construction or engineering. The fiber infrastructure is single mode and termination panels are equipped as SC connection. Any alteration or splice case reconfiguration of the four dark strands would be the responsibility of the Maryland SHA.

- b. Cable performance information if the cable has been tested and terminated. If not, then the length of each span is needed. What type of termination is used or required? This information is also needed to design the network or more specifically determine the attenuation and performance characteristics of the fiber.

ANSWER: Other strands of the fiber network have been tested and documented using OTDR. These other strands are within the same cable sheath as the four dark strands reserved for this project. The Contractor for this procurement is required to perform OTDR testing of the four strands as necessary for the proposed design. See answer above for question 1 a. Fiber terminations are SC.

- c. Documentation on the end point locations and routing of each individual strand. The physical location and routing of the fiber strands will have a bearing on the design of the network. This will determine traffic routing; and the type, quantity, and placement of the equipment used to multiplex data onto the fiber.

ANSWER: See answers above for questions 1a and 1b. Whichever fiber terminated sites that the Contractor requires in the system design will be made available for inspection and survey to assist the Contractor with detailed engineering.

Question 149: It is our understanding that vendors are to design, equip and activate the four strands of dark fiber as needed to implement their particular solutions.

ANSWER: See Addendum 12

Question 150: It is our understanding that four (4) DS-1s from the existing microwave network are reserved and available for the proposed radio system on each individual existing microwave hop. Vendors must design their new microwave channel plan and multiplex equipment to fit within that constraint.

ANSWER: See Addendum 12 – Available microwave resources are described there.

Question 151: Concerning the existing microwave, will Section 3.2.13.9 of the RFP, which states that “adequate capacity and performance should be assumed,” be amended to reflect the fact that 4 DS-1s are being provided by the State?

ANSWER: See Addendum 12 – Available microwave resources are described there.