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Deputy Secretary

**Q&A's #2 to  
Request for Proposals (RFP)  
INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER For  
networkMaryland™ PROJECT NO. 050B8800021  
May 2, 2008**

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The numerical sequencing begins at question #7 since questions up to #6 were answered in Q&A #1. Received the following questions by e-mail, which are answered for all Offerors to the referenced RFP, below:

**7. Question:** Would you please provide the floor and room numbers of State of Maryland facilities at carrier hotels. Any additional information such as rack and bay would also be helpful.

**Answer:** See answers to #8 below for hand-off location requirements.

**8. Question:** Would you please provide the specific location including suite and floor number where the handoff must be provided?

**Answer:** UMCP: 224 Farm Rd, Room 0305, College Park, MD

6 Saint Paul St, Suite 1208, Baltimore, MD

Level3, 1755-1757 Old Meadow Road, Suite S-109, McLean, VA

301 West Preston St, Telecommunications Room - Mezzanine (M) level, Baltimore, MD  
10 East Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD, Basement Level Telecommunications Closet  
1111 Market Street, Baltimore, MD, Main Floor Telecommunications Closet

**9. Question:** Regarding Attachment A – Contract, Item 9 Loss of Data, would the State please consider removing item 9 Loss of Data in its entirety? The RFP does not request or compensate contractors for data backup services or any related disaster recovery services. Therefore, we believe item 9 Loss of Data is not applicable in light of the service being requested.

**Answer:** This paragraph does not apply to data lost in transmission within or across the Contractor's network, except when such as loss of data in transmission is due to the negligence or intentional act of Contractor, its agents, servants, employees, or its subcontractors". The reason for the loss of data clause is to hold the Contractor accountable if they willfully or maliciously wish to cause the State harm or harm occurs through negligence.

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**10. Question:** Regarding Attachment A – Contract, Item 28.1 C Liability, would the State please consider amending the liability limit to one (1) times the total dollar amount of the Contract value, as has been done with other contracts?

**Answer:** No. Each contract has different considerations regarding risk and the State elected to choose three times the value for this particular contract.

**11. Question:** Can you please confirm the Level 3 address that you show as 1757 Old Meadow Rd in section 3.1.2 in the networkMaryland Internet RFP?

**Answer:** Refer to answer for question #8.

**12. Question:** Regarding Section 2, our national optical backbone meets the capacity requirement of OC-12 or greater. We achieve less than 65ms of average roundtrip latency within our backbone. Are we precluded from bidding if we have no direct terminations to MAE East? Our current IP Carriers currently meet this requirement.

**Answer:** The State has revised the minimum qualifications, see newly released Amendment #2 to the RFP for the revised minimum qualifications.

**13. Question:** On page 9, Section 2, Letter B... it appears to be a requirement that the offeror has a national optical backbone with at least 622 Mpbs of bandwidth. We do not have a national backbone but we do peer with multiple networks, and they do have such networks. Will this preclude us from being considered for an award?

**Answer:** The State has revised the minimum qualifications, see newly released Amendment #2 to the RFP for the revised minimum qualifications.

**14. Question:** The minimum qualifications to propose currently states that a provider have a national backbone with > OC-12 bandwidth between major MAE and NAP's. We currently provide ISP services to thousands of users and several federal state and local government agencies. We operate a backbone (East of the Mississippi only) of minimally multiple OC-48 and OC-192 backbone speeds.

Does the fact that our backbone does not extend to California (though we have many peering points in the East, MW and SE) and we choose to avoid public peering (NPA's and MAE's are 4 WAY congestion points) preclude us from being considered for an award?

**Answer:** The State has revised the minimum qualifications, see newly released Amendment #2 to the RFP for the revised minimum qualifications.

Date Issued: May 2, 2008

By <signed>.  
Mike Yeager  
Procurement Officer