

**Q&A #15 to
Request for Proposals (RFP)
Statewide Public Safety Wireless Communications System
RFP #060B9800036
November 3, 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:

Question186: Re: Addendum 17 (Item #'s 14, 15 and 16). The State's change of the coverage requirements from 95% area reliability to 95% Bounded Area Percent Coverage (BAPC) with 97% tile reliability has a dramatic impact on all vendors' radio system coverage design and significantly increases the price of the system. The previous coverage requirement for 95% area reliability provided the State with a coverage level that was in excess of any other statewide radio system. The change to 95% BAPC forces vendors to add additional fade margin to a design that already included 12 & 24 dB to support in-building coverage.

The result of the State's change is a system that has a low probability of being implemented because of the extensive number of additional "Greenfield" tower sites that must be acquired and developed. These new tower sites will also need to be supported by new microwave/fiber links and will also need to be allocated 700/800 MHz channels. Given the shortage of spectrum available to the State, the practicality of the system design comes into question.

Designing the system to 95% BAPC with 97% tile reliability (CPC), would equate to a coverage design in excess of 99% service area reliability. While a vendor may claim compliance to the 97% tile parameter, it is doubtful that such compliance could ever be proven. As pointed out by TSB-88-C, there is no practical way to demonstrate Bounded Area Percent Coverage (BAPC).

The timing of this coverage change causes vendors to redesign their original solutions and revise the design information provided during Vendor Discussions in June 2009. Since coverage requirements are at the core of the radio system's design, almost all subsystems have to be reassessed to incorporate the changes driven by this increased coverage requirement. This change potentially impacts the State's goal of making a vendor award in March 2010.

We request that the State consider removing the 95% BAPC requirement and revert back to the 95% area reliability requirement for coverage. Reverting back to the original requirement ensures that the State does its evaluations based on realistic vendor designs rather than theoretical solutions that have a low probability of being implemented.

Answer: See Addendum #19