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Questions and Answers #5 to Request for Proposals (RFP) High Capacity Circuit Services (HCCS) Project No. 050R3800141

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The State has received the following questions by e-mail, which are answered for all offerors to the referenced RFP. The numerical sequencing begins at question #44 since questions up to #43 were answered in Q&A #4.

44. **Question.** What type of inter-LATA NNI does the State require? In other words, would the State require the winning Contractor for circuit services to connect to State-owned facilities or carrier-owned facilities in areas not served by net.work.Maryland's backbone?

Answer. The State would order a clear channel DDS circuit for an inter-LATA NNI. In those cases where the net.work.Maryland backbone does not provide the means for an interface, the winning Contractor would connect to other State-owned or carrier-owned facilities via a DDS NNI.

45. **Question.** Will the State supply all vendors with the specific information/detail of all sites in order to effectively provide a competitive analysis/bid?

Answer. We are not sure what sites you are referring to. The State does not intend to list any additional facilities, sites or locations in the RFP. Please refer to Answer 8 from Q&A #2, which said in part, "Remember the price the State will pay for service anywhere in the State is dependent upon formulas and mileage criteria from Section 3.4.2.12 and unit price information from Section 3.5.1.10 submitted by the winning Offeror. The formulas and unit rates you propose should appropriately consider your costs." Additionally, refer to the Pre-Proposal Conference Summary, Answer 3 and the RFP for how your prices will be evaluated. To summarize, your competitive analysis should consider unit pricing and how those prices will be evaluated.

Date Issued: June 20, 2003

By _____ <signed> _____
Norman H. Grinnell
Procurement Officer