



**Troy Cablevision, Inc., d/b/a C Spire  
NTIA Middle Mile Grant Program  
Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program  
Connect Alabama**

**Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQ’s”)**

**Response Date:** December 23, 2024

**Reference:** MMG120224\_Construction Services

**Title:** Construction Services RFP

**Issued By:** Troy Cablevision, Inc., d/b/a C Spire

**Questions will be received through December 19, 2024**

**All correspondence or questions concerning Proposal submission requirements, terms and conditions or other administrative concerns should be directed to: [tc-grantsupport@cspire.com](mailto:tc-grantsupport@cspire.com).**

**In compliance with this Request for Proposal, C Spire provides responses to FAQ’s presented by prospective Constructions Services Respondents who intend to bid on the NTIA Middle Mile Connect Alabama Project.**

***December 18, 2024***

**Q:** Can we use a letter of credit or a bank guarantee for the bid bond, performance bond, and payment bond?

**A:** It can be a bid bond executed by a corporate surety licensed under the laws of Alabama to execute such bond; a certified check; or another form of payment.

**Q:** Do we have a status of permits?

**A:** Permits to begin work will be in hand 2/25

**Q:** Do we have an engineering schedule to allow us to match with the construction schedule and align resources for execution?

**A:** Engineering for all 2025 work will be complete 1/25

**Q:** Can a breakdown of the percentage of installation methods be provided to include Plowing, Boring, Excavating, and Existing Conduit?

**A:** Please refer to the MMG120224\_Construction Units Estimates\_12.18.24 worksheet provided in the FAQ release on 12/18/2024.

**Q:** #41 calls out greater than 1,000ft, will this unit be used to cross all water ways and/or railroads regardless of length? Will this unit apply to waterways not specifically called out under Construction Standards - Water Bodies?



- Please further define what all is included in Unit 41 and what is not included to ensure we price this unit correctly. (ex. All rivers, creeks, railroads, etc.)
- A:** No, this unit is for river or waterway bores with excessive depth or distance requiring the use of wireline or other alternative methods.
- Q:** At what point does the transfer of ownership take place after fiber is installed? Is there a periodic handoff planned as segments are complete?
- A:** C Spire will accept segments of projects once splicing and testing is complete.
- Q:** What is the process for fiber reel testing and cable integrity validation? How many fibers per reel, etc.?
- A:** See Page 40 Section 4.0 of the MMG120224\_SAMPLE-Construction Services Agreement\_11.27.24.
- Q:** How many termination points are expected and what are the distances between them?
- A:** Please refer to the unit worksheet provided in the FAQ release on 12/17/2024.
- Q:** Will access to fiber panels be available for fiber testing to prevent the installation of temporary pigtailed for testing?
- A:** Where possible
- Q:** Is tracer wire and mule tape installation required in each conduit placed? Are these materials being provided by C Spire?
- A:** Tracer wire is encompassed in the duct. Any mule tape requirements will be called out on the construction drawings. It is up to the contractor to determine the installation method as long as it meets the factory specs for the fiber. Contractor should include all consumables in their unit price regardless of method.
- Q:** For the Workforce & Subcontractor Reporting, can we submit this information once awarded?
- As it states: \*This report must be completed and emailed to [tc-grantsupport@cspire.com](mailto:tc-grantsupport@cspire.com) in its entirety by the 5th calendar day of each month.\*
  - Staffing and assignment of crews will vary depending on location, schedule requirements, etc., and we want to ensure that the information is accurate based on the areas for construction.
- A:** Yes. This report must be completed and emailed to [tc-grantsupport@cspire.com](mailto:tc-grantsupport@cspire.com) in its entirety by the 5th calendar day of each month after contracted.
- Q:** What are the as-built closeout requirements?
- A:** Redlined drawings, sequential, construction notes, etc. delivered per required method.
- Q:** What pole classes and height does C-Spire anticipate having set for this work.
- A:** Typical 35/5 installation unless otherwise noted on the construction drawings.
- Q:** Can you explain the composite price for 'Fiber Splicing and Testing' in more detail? Does this include closures, terminals, and mid-sheath entry?



**A:** This would be a total cost for all splicing units on the segment. It is not a requirement to bid on this section.

**Q:** Can you provide the duct size(s) we will be required to place?

**A:** Hybrid duct containing one 1.25" HDPE and two 18/14mm micro duct; Hybrid duct containing one 1.25" HDPE and three 18/14mm micro duct; 7-way future path containing seven 18/14mm micro duct; and quad-duct containing four 18/14mm micro duct. The project may call for some additional duct specifications not outlined above.

**Q:** What will be the most common Hand Hole size placed along the routes? Do you have a definition for what will be required with this unit?

**A:** UH-4, UH-3, UH-2.5 & UH-2

**Q:** What will constitute Urban vs Rural boring?

**A:** Field engineering, the units will be estimated in the issued cost summary for each job. The complexity of the bore, condition of the right of way, and several other factors are considered when determining.

**Q:** Do you have a definition for the 'Directional Bore Rock Adder'?

**A:** This is the unit added to the bore price when it has been determined that the contractor is drilling in rock.

**Q:** If a composite price is provided, will there be instances where we revert to unit-based pricing? If so, when will they be used?

**A:** Change orders only

**Q:** Being fiber is to be picked up at grant warehouse location, can you provide a list of locations in relation to the construction segments?

**A:** All materials should be picked up from our staging yards in Troy, AL or Enterprise, AL.

**Q:** #39 All-In Composite Price, excludes Specialty Bores as defined below. How would the rock adder be compensated under this unit?

**A:** Composite pricing per segment is an all in cost including rock adder. If rock is encountered on a unit-based specialty bore the rock adder will be applied.

**Q:** If rock is encountered on a specialty bore how will it be compensated?

**A:** If rock is encountered on a unit-based specialty bore the rock adder will be applied.

**Q:** Segment A, C & D- Start 2025 When?

**A:** The estimated start dates will be late Q1, early Q2 2025. This is subject to an approved environmental assessment from NTIA.

**Q:** What percentage of this project is pulling or blowing into existing conduit? Approx how many feet Aerial vs UG in the Segments (percentage wise)?

**A:** Please refer to the MMG120224\_Construction Units Estimates\_12.18.24 worksheet provided in the FAQ release on 12/18/2024.



**Q:** Do they have a Timeline (SLA) to start & finish each Segment so we know how many crews are needed.

**A:** Timelines will be discussed and agreed to by both parties during the contracting phase for approved bidders.

**Q:** Const. bid asks for a Pole Setting Price can we N/A it because PowerPoint states C Spire sets all poles.

**A:** Please place N/A to any units you cannot perform.

**Q:** How many Count Fiber Aerial and how many count for UG. Not in the Construction Standards Tab.

**A:** Multiple fiber counts will be used on this project ranging from 432ct to 12ct.

**Q:** What size Conduit UG - it states up to 2 duct but not the size?

**A:** Hybrid duct containing one 1.25" HDPE and two 18/14mm micro duct; Hybrid duct containing one 1.25" HDPE and three 18/14mm micro duct; 7-way future path containing seven 18/14mm micro duct; and quad-duct containing four 18/14mm micro duct. The project may call for some additional duct specifications not outlined above.

**Q:** ADSS Fiber what size is it and how much of the project is required for ADSS

**A:** This is included as an option for specialty crossings and, if used, will be in very small segments.

**Q:** Payment Schedule: 10% Retainage Held until final Inspection: How long does it take to get Final Inspection Completed and how long does it take to get the Retainage paid after Final Inspection. Net 30 day as well.

**A:** All inspections will be done in a timely manner and all invoices will be net 30 days.

**Q:** Inventory Handling: Is there training for their software management and do we have to use their Computers to use their Software or do we load it on our Computers. If we need more than 30 days to secure a warehouse, is it possible to wait for the materials to be delivered. Not sure of availability of warehouses in AL.

**A:** Training will be provided for all required software, C Spire will not provide any computers or other devices. We will work in good faith with the awarded contractor on any yard- related issues.

**Q:** Does Bacon-Davis apply to this project? If so will you provide the current wage scale or do we have to request the SF-308 form ourselves? Is certified payroll to be utilized on this project?

**A:** Yes, the Davis-Bacon Act applies to this Project and weekly certified payroll is required. Wage Determinations, including rates broken down by labor classifications, for each County involved in C Spire's Connect Alabama Project are published by the Secretary of Labor at the following location: Sam.gov ([https://sam.gov/search/?index=wd&page=1&pageSize=25&sort=-modifiedDate&sfm%5Bstatus%5D%5Bis\\_active%5D=true](https://sam.gov/search/?index=wd&page=1&pageSize=25&sort=-modifiedDate&sfm%5Bstatus%5D%5Bis_active%5D=true)). Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a necessary labor classification for your Proposal is not listed on the Wage Determination for a particular County, you may be required to seek a conformance in accordance with applicable law, including the Department of Labor's designated procedures.



**Q:** Pricing Sheet on the RFP form, is there a line that may be added to account for the cost of the Performance/Payment bond?

**A:** Bonding cost for contractor should be included in labor unit price.

**Q:** Regarding the plow vs bore estimates: "It will be the sole responsibility of the bidder to estimate plow/bore ratios for the composite price, and an estimated unit breakdown with "must bore" areas will be provided but is subject to change." In regards to estimating the amount of plow vs bore, knowing that the permits may control what installation method can be used, what is your recommendation to determine the percentage of plow vs bore?

**A:** Field review & experience, the composite bid section is optional.

**Q:** Is there any way to push the due date back due to the holidays?

**A:** Troy Cablevision, Inc., dba C Spire hereby adjusts the RFP Due Date to Monday, January 6, 2025 by 5pm (CST).

**Q:** How do we determine a total bid amount to bond this project without unit quantities? Our surety company requires a total bid amount for a bid bond, with no unit quantities, we can't inform them what that would be.

**A:** An estimated number of labor units were released in a prior Q&A to allow calculation of the bid bond.

**Q:** Can you confirm what documents you need back with the bid besides the RFP and proposal signature page?

**A:** Please refer to the Instructions tab of the MMG120224\_Construction Services RFP\_11.27.2024.

**Q:** On the water/river crossings, we only see a special bore unit in the composite section of the pricing. Are we able to price the special bore in composite section, but no other composite price?

**A:** Yes, but if your company cannot perform this task, it does not preclude you from being awarded segments.

**Q:** Are we able to strike through clauses in the contract? Specifically regarding the Moves Around clause?

**A:** No. "Moves Around" clause cannot be removed.

**Q:** Can you define a Pay Period?

**A:** Any work performed as it relates to Davis-Bacon wage determinations should be based on weekly payroll.

**Q:** Is Contractor responsible for any permits?

**A:** No

**Q:** Do you have a breakdown of aerial vs. buried and bore vs. plow?

**A:** Please refer to the MMG120224\_Construction Units Estimates\_12.18.24 worksheet provided in the FAQ release on 12/18/2024.



**Q:** Within the MSA, can you confirm who the Chief Inspector is referring to? Is that a Manager on the Contractors crew? Or is it something to do with the Engineer?

**A:** Please refer to definitions as outlined in Article III of the Sample Construction Services Agreement.

**Q:** When will we receive maps/prints for this project?

**A:** Sample maps are provided with this FAQ response.

**Q:** When would we be able to begin work? Is there any more details besides just a year?

**A:** The estimated start dates will be late Q1, early Q2 2025. This is subject to an approved environmental assessment from NTIA.

**Q:** How will the work segments be distributed? If awarded one project, will we be given access to construct all portions of the job at the start of the job?

**A:** C Spire reserves the right to award complete sections or partial sections. Timelines will be discussed and agreed to by both parties during the contracting phase for approved bidders.

**Q:** Just to confirm, we do not need to commit any % of in house crews for these projects?

**A:** No

**Q:** Is any of the work going to be in the power zone? If so, what percentage is in power and what percentage is in comm?

**A:** No

**Q:** What size casing will be utilized for specialty bores?

**A:** 4''

**Q:** Do the river crossings that are called out on the Construction Standards tab for Water Bodies, need to be priced in the Specialty Bores section of the RFP, regardless of them being less than 1,000'?

**A:** No

**Q:** Clarification concerning the Alabama License requirement. Included in the Intend to Bid Respond it asks for license number, at this point we are in the process of applying for the license. Will that exclude us from the process? Are we able to win the bid as long as the license is completed prior to construction?

**A:** No. The company must be registered and licensed to perform work in the State in which it is being performed prior to the contract being issued.

**Q:** Is the evaluation and subsequent award weighted toward local contractors?

**A:** Refer to the RFP Evaluation Criteria.

**Q:** Regarding the bonding, will we be reimbursed for the full amount when the project is completed or do we need to figure this in our proposal?

**A:** Bonding cost for contractor should be included in labor unit price.

**Q:** Also do we need to use the most recent bid sheet sent out - 12-18-24?



**A:** This sheet has estimated unit quantities associated with the segments as a reference, the sheet in the RFP document should be used for your response.

***December 17, 2024***

**Q:** For right now forms 8 and 9 do not need to be filled out, correct? This only accounts for when the project is awarded?

**A:** The following forms should be completed by the Respondent with any additional information you feel should be evaluated in consideration of award: 2. Questionnaire; 3. Construction Standards; 4. Pricing Sheet; 5. Vendor Registration; 6. Grant Provisions; 7. Subcontractor Reporting; and 10. Signature Page. Additionally, tabs 8 & 9 will be completed by the awarded Contractor by the 5<sup>th</sup> calendar day monthly after award.

***December 16, 2024***

**Q:** We are unable to open the second document you sent labeled Troy kmz.

**A:** Open the kmz file utilizing Google Earth or another ArcGIS program.

**Q:** Are digital photos required to be submitted as part of the construction quality process? If so, can we receive a copy of the requirements and process?

**A:** Yes, C Spire uses Fulcrum DIS Software and will be switching to SiteTracker during 2025. All photos can be uploaded into the application.

**Q:** Are there any working day restrictions from C Spire or affiliate? Ex. 1/2 Day on Friday, No Weekend, etc.

**A:** There will be no blanket work restrictions imposed by C Spire but there will be jurisdictional restrictions. From time to time there could be temporary restrictions imposed by C Spire.

**Q:** If C Spire or Troy has existing facilities in the proposed work area, will C Spire or Troy perform the locating of existing plant or will it be the responsibility of the winning bidder?

**A:** C Spire will locate any 811 ticket it receives for existing network

**Q:** If tree trimming is required, should that be included in the placing rate or will a change order be allowed?

**A:** For underground applications, include any required trimming in your placing rate.

**Q:** In order to determine a composite price, what construction method will be utilized?

**A:** It will be the sole responsibility of the bidder to estimate plow/bore ratios for the composite price. An estimated unit breakdown with "must bore" areas will be provided but is subject to change.

**Q:** What is the C Spire required Field Inspector to Job ratio?

**A:** Inspection services will be awarded through a separate RFP process; however, C Spire will expect proper Project management coverage and reserves the right to require additional staff if necessary.

**Q:** Will C Spire be delivering all materials to Contractor's location? Including Fiber?

**A:** No. Contractor must pick up materials from designated grant warehouse.

**Q:** Will C Spire be providing onsite inspectors/managers for each region?





**A:** C Spire will have on staff project supervisors responsible for each project awarded.

**Q:** Will winning bidder be responsible for any and all locates on new fiber not yet turned over to C Spire?

**A:** The contractor will be responsible for the constructed portions of their projects until they have been accepted by C Spire.

#### ***December 13, 2024***

**Q:** Can you provide the wage determination rates by labor class?

**A:** Wage Determinations, including rates broken down by labor classifications, for each County involved in C Spire's Connect Alabama Project are published by the Secretary of Labor at the following location: Sam.gov ([https://sam.gov/search/?index=wd&page=1&pageSize=25&sort=-modifiedDate&sfm%5Bstatus%5D%5Bis\\_active%5D=true](https://sam.gov/search/?index=wd&page=1&pageSize=25&sort=-modifiedDate&sfm%5Bstatus%5D%5Bis_active%5D=true)). Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a necessary labor classification for your Proposal is not listed on the Wage Determination for a particular County, you may be required to seek a conformance in accordance with applicable law, including the Department of Labor's designated procedures.

**Q:** To confirm, this bid is for labor-only, correct? Troy/C-Spire will supply (non-consumable) materials (conduit, fiber, etc.)?

**A:** The Construction Services RFP is for labor units pricing only. Materials outlined in the Sample Construction Services Agreement, Exhibit C - Company Furnished Bill of Materials (Page 51).

#### ***December 11, 2024***

**Q:** Our company is registered with the state of Alabama, and in the process of getting our license. Does this keep us from bidding on the project?

**A:** No. The company must be registered and licensed to perform work in the State in which it is being performed prior to the contract being issued.

**Q:** Can you send Prints and BOM so we can look at routes and see number of units per job. This will help in figuring Bond amount? Can I get the total number of units for each project so I can give an accurate Bid and secure a Bid Bond and Performance Bond?

**A:** Yes. Upon receipt of the executed Intent to Bid and the Non-Disclosure Agreement. A kmz file & sample project construction drawing will be provided with the ***pre-engineered*** proposed routes and the estimated pre-engineered work unit-basis to be performed (*provided at a later date*). The information will be provided to the email address of record for your submission only to those whom have executed NDA and Intent to Bid. We are requesting a rate for Construction Services and not a "bid price".

#### ***December 10, 2024***

**Q:** The original email indicates that questions should be submitted in the shared Q&A template, but unless I've missed it, I can't seem to find that sheet and I'm hoping you can point me in the right direction.

**A:** Questions related to this RFP should be submitted to [tc-grantsupport@cspire.com](mailto:tc-grantsupport@cspire.com)

**Q:** We would like to bid on this opportunity by partnering with another Vendor, is that allowed?





**A:** Partnering with other Construction Service providers is encouraged. All key personnel for each company should be provided in your RFP response to include a listing of subcontractors. A “Prime” contractor must be identified with the respective point of contact. C Spire will contract with the Contractor.

**Q:** Can you provide an aerial vs buried percentage by route?

**A:** Yes. Upon receipt of the executed Intent to Bid and the Non-Disclosure Agreement. A kmz file will be provided with the ***pre-engineered*** proposed routes and the estimated pre-engineered work unit-basis to be performed (*provided at a later date*). The information will be provided to the email address of record for your submission only to those whom have executed NDA and Intent to Bid. C Spire estimates approximately 2% for the construction will be aerial.

***December 5, 2024***

**Q:** Will you provide a copy of the fully executed NDA document when signed.

**A:** Yes. The fully executed NDA document will be returned to the email address of record.

**Q:** Will you allow Respondents to bid only Fiber Splicing?

**A:** Yes. Respondents must indicate on the pricing sheet provided in the RFP documents any construction related activities that are not applicable to its company.

***December 4, 2024***

**Q:** Will you provide a kmz file with the proposed route maps?

**A:** Yes. Upon receipt of the executed Intent to Bid and the Non-Disclosure Agreement, a kmz file will be provided with the pre-engineered proposed routes to the email address of record.