



**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: March 3, 2025

Reference: MMG020425_OSP Construction Materials

Title: OSP Construction Materials RFP

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

Questions will be received through Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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

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

March 3, 2025, Response Post 03/03/2025

Q: Do all items need to be BABA compliant or just the Fiber as mentioned in the Grant Provisions?

A: Troy Cablevision, Inc. d/b/a C Spire has received confirmation from NTIA that as a for-profit entity it is not subject to the requirements of the Build America, Buy America Act, including the Buy America Domestic Content Procurement Preference.

Exhibit "I" Federal Grant Provisions to the draft Master Purchase Agreement will be revised accordingly and reposted.

February 28, 2025, Response Post 02/28/2025

Q: As a follow-up to the question below, section 3 of the Grant Provisions, B. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act mentions a Performance Bond. It is also mentioned in the timeline that a performance bond is due on 3/31/25. As a supplier, is the performance bond applicable for submission if we are only providing distribution services?

A: Performance Bond will be due by awarded Respondent at time of contract execution. Performance Bond will ensure awarded Respondent complies with contract terms. The Bid Bond will be due with the Respondent's bid based on the estimated amount of contract value (i.e., estimated units times price).

Q: Concerning the HDPE, do you need the pipe to be SCH 40 or can use SDR 13.5?

A: Either product can be quoted but clearly identify what specifics are for the quoted material.



February 25, 2025, Response Posted 02/27/2025

Q: Will there be any demand for flexible style ribbon cables? If yes, which fiber counts?

A: We don't see any need for flexible style ribbon cables at this time.

Q: AFL Apex splice cases are listed, will alternative splice cases be accepted?

A: Brand names are referenced simply for clarity and understanding. The use of specific brand names does not in any way constitute endorsement. The equivalent for any brand name will be accepted. For additional regulatory requirements, reference FAR 52.211-6, Brand Name or Equal (<https://www.acquisition.gov/far/52.211-6>). Additional space is provided at the bottom of the worksheet to include alternatives, you must reference line of alternative.

Q: For fiber cable, can we assume reel lengths will be approx.. 20k to 25k foot lengths?

A: 20,000' (foot) length

February 24, 2025, Response Posted 02/27/2025

Q: For items that are BABA Compliant, how would C Spire like these items to be marked in the pricing sheet to indicate compliance?

A: Indicate if the item is compliant in column X on tab 6 pricing sheet.

Q: Do all items need to be BABA compliant or just the Fiber as mentioned in the Grant Provisions?

A: Additional guidance will be provided in the FAQ release.

February 22, 2025, Response Posted 02/27/2025

Q: Can we get specs or drawing of the aerial markers (S. NO 34)

Is the Rhino Test Station a Triview or a dome ? (S. No 53)

What kind of insulation is needed for the #12AWG Green Copper? (S. No 38)

Do you have possible delivery dates and quantities for the deliveries?

A: TVF - 72", Orange with Black cap (TriView_Fact_Sheet.pdf, attached as sample)

TriView Marker

Installation for outdoors application for wet & dry conditions

This is an ongoing Grant project through December 2026

Q: "License #". What License # is it referring to?

A: State of Alabama business license

Q: We have an existing NDA that we think is applicable, but can you first confirm whether a relationship between Troy Cablevision and Cellular South exists. And if so, could you kindly provide the nature of their relationship?

A: Troy Cablevision, Inc. and Cellular South, Inc. are affiliated entities. Troy Cablevision, Inc. is the recipient of Federal Award ID Number 28-40-MM712. Each Recipient must execute the NDA included with this RFP in order to participate in this MMG020425_OSP Construction Materials RFP.

Q: Can you provide estimated quantities in Sheet 9 for OTEs (S.No 106, 107, 110, 111)?



A: The units referenced are alternatives to line 104 & 105 as well as line 109. Respondent should provide best pricing available.

February 21, 2025, Response Posted 02/20/2025

Q: Do we as a supplier need to be Sam certified to submit a bid for this RGQ?

A: Respondents do not have to be SAM certified to submit their bid response. If available, please provide your SAM.gov registration ID.

February 17, 2025, Response Posted 02/20/2025

Q: We currently have an NDA in place with Cellular South, dba C-Spire (attached). Is this adequate for the purpose of responding to your RFP, or do we need to issue a new NDA? If we need a new NDA, we would like to use our template if possible to expedite.

A: Complete the included NDA provided with the RFP release.

February 13, 2025, Response Posted 02/20/2025

Q: For section 12 of the NDA, I am wondering if C-Spire would be willing to change governing law and venue to either Minnesota or a neutral jurisdiction (Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, or Texas)?

A: No.

Q: Regarding the contents of the RFP, there is an emphasis on the construction of this project. For the purposes of this bid, we would only be providing material distribution services and therefore some sections do not apply. Is it appropriate to only respond to the sections that are applicable?

A: Please provide clarification or reference section to which your question pertains.

Q: For the items below, would you please provide more information in order to quote properly?

Line 126, Splicing, Panel Cleaner ("One Click")

Line 129, Splicing, Heat Shrink

Line 130, Splicing, Heat Shrink

A: Line 126, Panel Cleaner ("One Click") - Fiber Optic Cleaners

Line 129, Heat Shrink - 61mm Splice Protector Sleeves (9HDWCFSP1261)

Line 130, Heat Shrink - 45mm Splice Protector Sleeves (9HDWCFSP1245)

February 12, 2025, Response Posted 02/20/2025

Q: Do you have a preferred centralized location for warehousing that would be beneficial to you and if so, where?

A: The warehouse locations for the purpose of this grant are included in the RFP documentation.

Q: What does TW1 Part Number mean in column D of the price sheet?

A: TW1 is our internal control number.

Q: The RFP does not state that the quotes need to be BABA compliant, but the grant terms do. If some of the materials with the requested MFG are not BABA compliant, may we offer a compliant alternate instead of pricing the non-BABA part? Do we still quote the non-BABA compliant part? Do we quote both?

A: Provide pricing for BABA compliant parts. If parts are not BABA compliant and there is no other alternative, note non-compliance on quotation by line.



Q: The instructions also say to quote the requested MFG for PN provided, except for those where the PN is no longer available in which case we can quote an alternate. Can you please provide your preferred MFG for the parts provided? Several of the items are commodity and can be quoted by many manufacturers.

A: Brand names are referenced simply for clarity and understanding. The use of specific brand names does not in any way constitute endorsement. The equivalent for any brand name will be accepted. For additional regulatory requirements, reference FAR 52.211-6, Brand Name or Equal (<https://www.acquisition.gov/far/52.211-6>). Additional space is provided at the bottom of the worksheet to include alternatives, you must reference line of alternative.

Q: The instructions state that we are to quote all material listed. Does this include material with 0 quantity?

A: Yes. Please provide a quote for all items your company can provide.

Q: Since we are under an NDA, when we request pricing, may we disclose your name and the project to the MFG?

A: Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Mutual Nondisclosure Agreement to be entered into by and between C Spire and Respondent, C Spire will consent to the disclosure of its name only by the Respondent to a bona fide manufacturer for the exclusive purpose of determining whether or not any preferred rates may be offered to Respondent by said manufacturer.

February 11, 2025, Response Posted 02/20/2025

Q: Are there any concrete communication shelters required for this project?

A: An RFP for Cabinets will be released later.

February 10, 2025, Response Posted 02/20/2025

Q: Is this all equipment C-Spire will be reselling?

A: The provided RFP is for OSP Construction Materials. Equipment and other RFP's will be released later. No equipment will be resold.