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Excelsior Broadband Network (EBN) Fiber Construction Services & Network Maintenance – Segment: Syracuse to Buffalo
Invitation to Bidders (ITB)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Release Date: April 29, 2026

The following is a list of responses to questions submitted by prospective respondents to the Excelsior Broadband Network (EBN) Fiber Construction Services & Network Maintenance – Segment: Syracuse to Buffalo. A copy of the RFP is available at: https://esd.ny.gov/doing-business-ny/requests-proposals/excelsior-broadband-network-ebn-fiber-construction-services

No.	Question	Answer
1	Regarding Phase 1 – Inspection Services & Conduit Proofing (pages 5-7 of ITB) Regeneration Building Inspections Entity understands the awarded vendor will work with NYSTA to coordinate access to each facility. Does NYSTA own the facilities? If NYSTA does not own all facilities, who does own them?	Yes, the facilities are owned by NYSTA.

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No.	Question	Answer
2	Regarding Phase 1 – Inspection Services & Conduit Proofing (pages 5-7 of ITB) Regeneration Building Inspections What type of facilities are they (traditional telecom communications shelter, space within a commercial building, etc…)?	The facilities are traditional telecommunications huts that are subdivided into colocation areas.
3	Is the intent only to perform current State Inspection?	The inspection of Regens will verify and record information about the Regeneration Buildings indicated in Table 1 and document whether they are compliant with the specifications defined in Phase 1: Inspection Services and Conduit Proofing of this ITB. The inspection of conduit will verify that the conduit segments indicated in this ITB meet the specifications defined in Phase 1: Inspection Services and Conduit Proofing of this ITB.
4	Is Adesta the only approved vendor permitted to perform work at the facilities?	Adesta is currently the maintenance contractor for NYSTA and performs all work on NYSTA facilities. The approved vendor selected through this ITB is permitted to perform work in ConnectAll's space.
5	Conduit Proofing Will "as built" drawings be provided of the conduit system?	No. A schematic will be provided.

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No.	Question	Answer
6	Conduit Proofing What is the quantity of conduit and the size of each to be proofed?	One 1.25” conduit is required to be proofed.
7	Conduit Proofing Are any of the conduits currently populated? If so, with what?	The selected bidder will proof and install fiber in a clear, contiguous duct. All the other conduits are occupied with various sizes of fiber optic cable.
8	As the current condition of the conduit is unknown, is there a limit to the cost of remediation?	Remediation of the conduit will not be the responsibility of the vendor chosen through this solicitation.
9	Is all conduit contained in the NYSTA right of way?	Yes, all of the conduit is contained in the NYSTA right of way.
10	Who is the owner of the conduit? If not EBN, what is the agreement between the owner and EBN? Can a copy of that agreement be shared?	ESD has an IRU agreement with NYSTA for the use of one (1) 1.25” conduit . No, a copy of that agreement will not be shared.

No.	Question	Answer
11	Regarding Phase 2 – Fiber Construction Services (pages 8-11 of ITB) Fiber Installation Requirements Entity understands that a separate RFP has been released to select a vendor to supply fiber, associated equipment, and comprehensive storage. Should responses to this ITB assume that entity understands that a separate RFP has been released to select a vendor to supply fiber, associated equipment, and comprehensive storag? Should responses to this ITB assume that ESD/EBN will supply all necessary materials for installation (fiber cable, hand holes, splice cases, etc..)? If the installation vendor determines that additional or different materials that were not contemplated in that RFP are required, who would be responsible for providing such materials? ESD/EBN will supply all necessary materials for installation (fiber cable, hand holes, splice cases, etc..)? If the installation vendor determines that additional or different materials that were not contemplated in that RFP are required, who would be responsible for providing such materials?	Yes, a separate RFP has been released to select a vendor to supply fiber, associated equipment and warehousing until delivery to the installation vendor. The contractor selected through this ITB will be responsible for all items that are not mentioned in Attachment 6 – Fiber Procurement RFP.

No.	Question	Answer
12	Regarding Phase 2 – Fiber Construction Services (pages 8-11 of ITB) Regeration Equipment Has all necessary regeneration equipment contemplated for this route been included in the RFP to supply fiber and associated equipment? If so, should the responding vendors assume that all such equipment will be provided by ESD/EBN?	The regeneration equipment has been contemplated. The contractor selected through this ITB will be responsible for all consumables, as described in the ITB, that are not mentioned in Attachment 6 – Fiber Procurement RFP.
13	Regarding Phase 2 – Fiber Construction Services (pages 8-11 of ITB) Regeration Equipment Is the commissioning of equipment (programming and configuration, etc.) required to be provided by the awarded installation vendor in addition to physical installation of the equipment (mounting and powering)?	Yes, the only equipment anticipated to be programmed is the ADTRAN ALM and the out of band monitoring system.
14	Regarding Phase 3 – Network Maintenance (page 12 of ITB) Responsibilities Does all maintenance work need to be performed by Adesta?	The Contractor is responsible for the maintenance activities defined in Phase 3: Network Maintenance section of this ITB. All other maintenance will be the responsibility of Adesta.

No.	Question	Answer
15	Regarding Phase 3 – Network Maintenance (page 12 of ITB) Responsibilities Please provide further explanation on what your expectations are for "Fiber inventory management?"	The vendor selected through this ITB will be expected to provide updates to ConnectALL on any changes to the endpoint records, splice closures, handhole locations etc.
16	Would the vendor be responsible for housing and managing the RMA process of all spare electronic equipment?	The vendor selected through this ITB will work in conjunction with ConnectALL to manage RMA, as necessary.
17	Will storage facilities be provided for spare materials?	No, storage facilities will not be provided for spare materials.
18	Does prevailing wage apply to this request?	Any construction activity in the bid is subject to prevailing wage. Please use the prevailing wage in budget estimates on Appendix B Bid Form Cost Sheet.
19	Does BOBA apply to this request?	No.

No.	Question	Answer
20	Do either ESB or EBN plan to commercialize any of the fiber assets once installed? If so, who would be the commercialization entity?	This is beyond the scope of this ITB.
21	Would ESB or EBN provide the awardee with fiber strands on the system for their use? If so, how many?	There is nothing in this ITB that assumes this.
22	Would ESB or EBN allow innerduct or micro conduit to be installed in the conduit? If yes, would the awardee be able to place their own fiber optic cable in the innerduct or micro conduit for their use?	There is nothing in this ITB that assumes this.
23	**Reference: ITB, Phase 3 – Network Maintenance Requirements (Page 12)** Please clarify operational responsibilities between Adesta and the awarded contractor during the maintenance term. Which party will be responsible for conduit/pathway-related outage restoration activities? Will Adesta continue maintaining portions of the conduit infrastructure independently?	Adesta is the responsible for the conduit infrastructure. Adesta is currently the maintenance contractor for the NYSTA system.

No.	Question	Answer
24	**Reference: ITB, Labor Compliance Requirements / Contract Terms** Please confirm labor requirements applicable to this project. Will all construction and maintenance activities be subject to NY prevailing wage requirements? Is union labor required for any portion of the work?	Any construction activity in the bid is subject to prevailing wage. Please use the prevailing wage in budget estimates on Appendix B Bid Form Cost Sheet. No union labor is required for any portion of this work.
25	**Reference: ITB, Section IV – Scope of Work, Phase 1: Inspection Services and Conduit Proofing (Pages 2–10)** Given the age of the NYSTA conduit system and the requirement for contractor-led proofing and inspection activities, please clarify: Has any portion of the Syracuse-to-Buffalo conduit route been recently validated or assessed by NYSTA, ConnectALL or Adesta, including identification of known collapsed, obstructed or high-risk segments?	Not to ESD's knowledge.
26	**Reference: State Finance Law §§139-j and 139-k forms** These forms request a Contract Procurement Number. Please provide the Contract Procurement Number for this bid.	Please submit without a Contract Procurement Number, it is yet to be determined.

No.	Question	Answer
27	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section Technical Response - Performance Bond, Page 15** Is this section required for the RFP or intended for reference after award?	The performance bond is required upon contract signing with the winning bidder.
28	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section State Financial Law 130-m Forms, Page 19** The link for the form is dead. Can you please provide an updated link for reference or a copy of the form?	Compliance with State Finance Law §§139-m forms are linked here: https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/GBVandtheWorkplacePolicyAttestationTemplate-103125.pdf
29	**Reference Appendix D - ESD Information Security Brief Document** Is this section required for the RFP or intended for reference after award?	The Information Security Brief is intended for reference after award but is provided now for potential bidders to be aware of it.
30	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section IV. Scope of Work - Estimated Timeline, Page 6** What is the estimated timeframe for conduit repairs performed by others? If the obligation of the Contractor is to be completed with proofing within 90 days of the contract execution, how much time will be anticipated to be ready to install cable in those repair areas? Will this extend the deadline of Phase 2 for the repairs to be completed by others?	The Contractor selected through this ITB will be expected to complete proofing within 90 days of contract execution. This Contractor will then be expected to complete fiber construction within 120 days of contract execution, should no repairs to the conduit be necessary. If repairs are needed, Adesta shall endeavor to repair the conduit in a timely manner. The contractor will resume work and will work with ConnectALL to discuss an updated installation schedule.

No.	Question	Answer
31	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section IV. Scope of Work - Estimated Timeline, Page 6** How many crews are allowed to be in each Segment at one time for proofing or installation phases of the work?	This will have to be determined with NYSTA during the permitting stage for the segment.
32	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section IV. Scope of Work - Conduit Repairs, Page 6** What is considered a "minor repair"?	Anything that does not require the replacement of large sections of conduit are considered “minor repairs.” This might include, but is not limited to, couplers, mule tape, and other small items that may require attention.
33	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section Conduit Inspection and Proofing, Page 5** If a major repair is performed by others? Will the section be proofed by others or will the awarded Contractor be required to return to proof this section?	The contractor is required to proof all sections of the duct system and identify any issues. Repairs needed to resolve those issues in the conduit will be performed by Adesta. Once those repairs are completed, the contractor selected through this ITB should not have to proof the conduit again.
34	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section Products and Materials, Page 39** What is the approximate square footage of materials that will be provided to the awarded Contractor?	The associated square footage of the materials defined in Attachment 6 – Fiber Procurement RFP Specifications is based on the linear distance of fiber to be placed and handholes/manholes that may be needed along with the equipment to be installed as identified in Phase 1 and Phase 2. All other consumables, as described in the ITB, are the contractor’s responsibility. Specifications for these materials are provided in this ITB.

No.	Question	Answer
35	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section Phase 2: Fiber Optic Cable Installation, Page 10** If redlines are submitted after completion of Phase 1 noting all necessary repairs by NYSTA, what is the anticipated Notice to Proceed for the Fiber Installation? The RFP states that a set of construction plans for cable installation, splicing and testing will be provided. What is the anticipated timeframe for those plans to be completed and provided after the substantial completion of Phase 1?	A timeframe to provide construction plans has not been defined. The Contractor selected through this ITB will be expected to complete proofing within 90 days of contract execution. This Contractor will then be expected to complete fiber construction within 120 days of contract execution, should no repairs to the conduit be necessary. If repairs are needed, Adesta shall endeavor to repair the conduit in a timely manner. Following repairs, the contractor will resume work and will work with ConnectALL to discuss an updated installation schedule. While it is difficult to anticipate the timeline for the repairs that may be required, every effort will be made to streamline the process.
36	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section Fiber optic Installation, Page 10** Is the time period for development of the construction plans considered in the deadlines (Contract Execution + 120 Days)?	A timeframe to provide construction plans has not been defined. The Contractor selected through this ITB will be expected to complete proofing within 90 days of contract execution. This Contractor will then be expected to complete fiber construction within 120 days of contract execution, should no repairs to the conduit be necessary. If repairs are needed, Adesta shall endeavor to repair the conduit in a timely manner. Following repairs, the contractor will resume work and will work with ConnectALL to discuss an updated installation schedule. While it is difficult to anticipate the timeline for the repairs that may be required, every effort will be made to streamline the process.

No.	Question	Answer
37	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section Fiber Optic Cable Splicing, Page 10** Who will be developing the Construction Plans for Phase 2?	ConnectALL intends to provide the required general fiber and regen plans as necessary for Phase 2.
38	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section Phase III Network Maintenance, Page 12** What is the proposed time to respond to an emergency? 2 hours?	Emergency maintenance is subject to a two (2) hour minimum time to respond.
39	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section Emergency Maintenance iii. B & C., Page 1** Who will be required to provide emergency response replacement items (i.e. DWDM equipment). Will these need to be on hand in the awarded Contractor's inventory?	The vendor selected through this ITB will work in conjunction with ConnectALL to manage RMA, as necessary.
40	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section Emergency Maintenance iii. D., Page 15** What is the expectation of the Contractor to "maintain battery plant" if the plant is provided by NYSTA?	The battery plant in the regeneration huts is maintained by Adesta.

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No.	Question	Answer
41	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section V. Schedule of Dates, Page 16 - RFP Extension** Is it possible to have a 2-week extension? Based off the Estimated Timeline for each Phase listed on page 3 of RFI.	Extensions will be evaluated by ConnectALL on a case by case basis as necessary.
42	**Reference EBN-Fiber-Installation-Syracuse-Buffalo FINAL, Section VII. SUBMISSION OF BIDS Bid Bond, Page 18** Could you provide the address for the bid bond?	655 Third Avenue New York, NY 10017 Attention: Jodi Donovan
43	**Reference Appendix-B-Bid-Form Cost Sheet-EBN-ITB Phase 3: Network Maintenance** Is the contractor awarded to be paid for only "ad hoc" hours worked under the estimated quantity or will there be a reoccurring monthly/quarterly payment for the services provided in each quarter?	Contractor shall be paid for actual hours worked.
44	**Reference Appendix-B-Bid-Form Cost Sheet-EBN-ITB Phase 3: Network Maintenance** Are the estimated quantity of hours in the Bid Sheet per year?	The estimated quantity of hours in the Bid Sheet are used only as an example to define price. The quantity of hours per year will be dependent on the actual hours worked by the contractor.

No.	Question	Answer
45	With the anticipated timeline of 90 days for proofing the duct. What is the anticipated duration for repairs conducted by NYSTA's designated contractor, Adesta, in accordance with the terms and conditions of NYSTA's system warranty obligations?	The Contractor selected through this ITB will be expected to complete proofing within 90 days of contract execution. This Contractor will be expected to complete fiber construction within 120 days of contract execution, should no repairs to the conduit be necessary. If repairs are needed, Adesta shall endeavor to repair the conduit in a timely manner. The contractor will resume work and will work with ConnectALL to discuss an updated installation schedule. While it is difficult to anticipate the timeline for the repairs that may be required, every effort will be made to streamline the process.
46	Will the awarded contractor need to reverify the duct after repairs have been corrected or will these repairs require confirmation of the duct integrity by the designated repair contractor?	The contractor is required to proof all sections of the duct system and identify any issues. Repairs needed to resolve those issues in the conduit will be performed by Adesta. Once those repairs are completed, the contractor selected through this ITB should not have to proof the conduit again.

No.	Question	Answer
47	With the anticipated timeline of 120 days for construction. What is the approach taken if the cable encounters an unpassable section. Will the awarded contractor be required to perform a dig up and repair or will the NYSTA's designated contractor need to make this repair. If so what is the intended duration for this repair?	The Contractor selected through this ITB will be expected to complete proofing within 90 days of contract execution. This Contractor will be expected to complete fiber construction within 120 days of contract execution, should no repairs to the conduit be necessary. If repairs are needed, Adesta shall endeavor to repair the conduit in a timely manner. The contractor will resume work and will work with ConnectALL to discuss an updated installation schedule. While it is difficult to anticipate the timeline for the repairs that may be required, every effort will be made to streamline the process.
48	The unit price reference table doesn't list excavation cost for dig up repairs or assist points. If the installation contractor would need these tasks performed, are they required to cover this cost or will this be covered by the NYSTA's maintenance contractor?	The contractor is not expected to perform any repairs necessary following proofing. All unit costs that need to be contemplated for this bid are included in the Bid Form Cost Sheet.
49	Please clarify. Prime contractors ("Contractor") may only be part of one bid. That this is only referring to this specific RFP and that this will not limit the remaining RFP's or phases of this project.	Prime contractors can only be a part of one bid in response to this ITB. Prime contractors are welcome to apply to all other solicitations published on the ESD website, on this or other projects.

No.	Question	Answer
50	What is the anticipated distance for receiving the materials supplied, will the awarded contractor be required to remove all stored material at one time or will they be allowed to remove as needed?	ConnectALL anticipates the materials will be available as needed from a warehouse.
51	When will the Public Bid Announcement be?	The Public Announcement will be held, via virtual meeting, at 3:30pm ET on May 22, 2026.
52	Is the Empire State Development Authority open to receiving bids for specific tasking within the scope of work? example would be obtaining appropriate permits and Rights-of-way.	No, ESD will only receive bids from contractors or contractor teams that will complete the entire scope of work.
53	Will the Development authority be willing to share prime contractors' interest in bidding so that sub-contractors have an opportunity to work with them?	Sub-contractors will have to create relationships with prime contractors independently.
54	Is this a broadband wage with benefits or is this a telecommunications rate project?	As this project is being solicited after July 1, 2025, the Broadband wage rate would apply, not the lineman tele-data rate.

No.	Question	Answer
55	Where stated in the scope of work, you are looking for the contractor to install 100' coils in handholes for slack, you are not going to be able to store 100' coils of 864ct or 1728ct in any of these handholes?	The maximum storage will be 100'. ESD is aware that there may be some handholes that do not have sufficient space, some that will need to be replaced, and additional handholes that may need to be placed. Analysis of these needs is part of the deliverables of Phase 1.
56	Is the contractor going to determine the best handhole locations to place a splice point? (Based on inspections)	This is part of the deliverables of Phase 1 and will be determined by ConnectALL and the Thruway Authority based on the Contractor's findings.
57	When was the last installation performed in reference to the asbuilts that you will provide?	No as-builts will be provided. A schematic will be provided. ESD cannot provide background on the last installation performed at this time.
58	Will inspectors from the State or ConnectAll be on site with the contractor as the work is performed?	ConnectALL may have an inspector present during work operations. Additional inspectors may be present but it cannot be confirmed at this time.
59	Will any time delay due to other contractors, unexpected field conditions, weather or permitting be taken into consideration?	Force majeure events that could not have been reasonably anticipated or prevented may be taken into consideration, by ConnectALL, in completing each scope of work outlined in this ITB.
60	Can we submit T&M for any dig-ups of existing handholes/manholes that require shoring?	Any items with extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by ConnectALL.
61	Will the 864 ct FOC be on 20,000' reels & the 1,728 ct FOC on 10,000' reels?	Yes, that is the maximum amount of fiber that will be on each reel.

No.	Question	Answer
62	How will the reels of fiber be shipped? To the contractor's yard? How many reels & quantities will be shipped for the project?	The reels will be shipped to a location specified by the Contractor selected through this ITB. The number of reels shipped may be subject to availability.
63	How many fibers on each reel must be tested once the fiber is received in the contractor's yard?	As per Phase 2: Fiber Construction Services of this ITB, all of the fibers are required to be tested.
64	Once conduit or handhole is repaired by Adesta, are we going to be compensated (T&M) for going back to the repaired locations to re-inspect & mandrel duct? (Ex. Manpower, equipment, permits, inspectors, police coverage etc.)	The contractor is required to proof all sections of the duct system and identify any issues. Repairs needed to resolve those issues in the conduit will be performed by Adesta. Once those repairs are completed, the contractor selected through this ITB should not have to proof the conduit again.
65	How do you handle additional costs for clearing brush, trees & natural obstructions? What if the cost of an arborist is required?	Line item pricing will be used for additional items if they are deemed necessary and approved by ConnectALL.
66	Can there be an adder to the bid form for assist points when installing the 864ct fiber?	No. If additional hand holes are required, line item pricing shall be used, if approved by ConnectALL.