

PRE-BID MEETING Q & A

RFP No.: 24-01
RFP Title: Alaska Fiberoptic Project
Lower Kuskokwim River Segment
Design and Build - Terrestrial Fiber and Fiber to the Home

Date: May 29, 2024
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Anchorage, Alaska via Microsoft Teams

1. In the RFP there was mention of different options between shallow buried cable and surface laid cable. Does ACS have a preference as to how that is presented?

We rely on the expertise of the engineers. Our preference is to bury but there is an option for an overland ground lay between Upper Kalskag and the Yukon River.

2. Are the FTTH builds in the villages expected be Underground or aerial?

We expect the bulk of the work will be aerial on existing pole lines with a few exceptions. For example, from the BMH to the first pole the fiber could be underground and from the last pole closest to the CO the fiber will be underground to tie into the CO.

3. Are the fiber huts design/construction and placement part of this SOW?

No, the shelters are not a part of this RFP 24-01.

We have a forthcoming RFP for the build, transport, and placement of the huts. We will work with our partners on the specific location and will develop the criteria for the elevation, ground grid, piling if necessary, site prep, etc. That RFP will likely be for the CO hut, backup generator, and a small Connex. The notion being that we can use the Connex to send the gen-set out in and any other various materials and then the Connex remains on site next to the CO.

4. Drops included?

Yes, drops are included.

5. Is Owl ridge handling all the permits for the project besides the SWPPP?

Yes. Owl Ridge is handling permitting for the project except for the SWPPP. Please see the attached Permit Matrix.

6. Clarify Owl ridge permitting. Will they do wetlands and SHPO? What is contactor responsibility?

Yes. Owl Ridge will do wetlands and SHPO. Please see attached Permit Matrix.

7. Is there a forthcoming RFP for the River Boring?

Yes. The notion is that the river cable, cable installation, and marine boring required to support submarine cable installation from BMH to deepest section of the river will be in one RFP.

8. Have any permits been submitted and approved?

Please see the attached Permit Matrix which lists all Federal and State permits that Owl Ridge will secure for the project. Any local construction permits will be the responsibility of the winning bidder.

9. Attachment 6 is referenced in the RFP but not on the web site, Is it available?

Attachment 6 is a photo which is included in the RFP document on Page 30.

10. Does ACS have any info on the number of homes in each village and commercial/government buildings will be hit in each village?

In addition to the residential drop counts below, we anticipate fewer than 10 commercial/business services in each community.

<u>Community</u>	<u>Households</u>
Napakiak	114
Kwethluk	231
Akiachak	183
Akiak	98
Tulusak	99
Lower Kalskag	82
Upper Kalskag	74

11. Are the beach man holes specs by ACS or the D/B team? Is the anchoring requirement for the marine fiber identified yet such as nipples for split armoring or just plate anchors attached to armor wire as this will drive size/weight/logistics per landing?

The BMH specs are provided in the RFP on Pages 18-19. We do not intend to utilize split armoring. The required anchoring will consist of plate anchors attached to armor wires.

12. Will Boring Be signatory companies?

Boring is not a requirement in the scope of Alaska Communications RFP 24-01.

13. Are any pole line as-builts available for each village?

We are working with Calista to identify pole owners and gather as-builts for each village. We will send out the information as soon as possible. We want to alleviate multiple calls from multiple sources to the owners.

14. Does ACS have a list of materials that they will be supplying? Versus what the contractor will be required to supply? If any are supplied by ACS will the contractor be required to cover the cost for shipping to the villages for the ACS supplied materials?

We are not providing material for this project. Contractor will supply and is responsible for all materials including shipping.

15. The RFP mentions Right of Way clearance in the forested areas, can you provide information on what is required?

We expect minimal ROW clearing in forested areas. We anticipate most of the construction will be on existing pole lines in previously cleared ROW.

16. What are the payment terms?

Alaska Communications pays on NT45 basis. We may consider any payment plan proposed by the winning bidder.

17. Verify the schedule please. The provided schedule indicated an engineering start date in January. Is the 30% due date in August even though the start date is June.

The Project Schedule attached to RFP 24-01 is behind. Please include a schedule with your proposal that meets the project completion date provided in the RFP of January 7, 2026. We will work with the winning bidder and Owl Ridge to update the schedule after the award of this RFP. Ideally, we would like to see the 30% due date in August.

There is a possibility of the completion date changing but it will be determined after award upon consultation with the winning proposer and Owl Ridge.

18. Is there a preferred architecture for the FTTH? Preferred equipment, MST vs OFDC? Are equipment recommendations the responsibility of the contractor?

Overall Engineering Recommendations:

- The head end equipment will be placed in the ACS Central Office building/shelter.
- All splitters will be placed in the CO. Splitters will not be placed in the field.
- There will be at least one fiber run to every serving location from the CO for FTTH, a minimum of two fibers to each commercial/government location from the CO.
- Contractor will make allowance for future growth, expansion, and maintenance in the total number of feeder and distribution fibers proposed.
- Clearfield is the preferred manufacturer, but alternatives can be requested for AC approval.

Per Village (number and size of cable dependent on number of subscribers):

- Overall Engineering Recommendations apply.
- High count fiber run from 1:32 splits at the FDH, homeruns from the FDH to the customers.
- Place 144 fiber from the CO and distribute fiber with splices between the customers.
- Armored fiber is recommended for aerial construction to protect the fiber from environmental issues.
- Bulk-head splice cases are recommended as splice points to use.

19. Is there going to be a delay in ACS's ability to pay an invoice to cover the purchase of material ASAP after NTA?

Alaska Communications pays via Net 45 terms.

20. Are there any staging areas for materials available in each village?

We are still investigating this question and will have more information soon.

21. Is the contractor providing inspectors?

Alaska Communications will provide inspectors throughout the construction process.

22. What is the main method of access to the villages?

Airplane and boat.

23. Have you identified the pole owners? Are pole calcs required on all poles?

We intend to provide more information on this as soon as possible.

24. Will you be distributing the questions asked here?

Yes.

25. What is the required depth of underground construction?

We encourage the contractor to leverage the design/build aspect of the contract to value engineer OSP routes. If buried construction is chosen, burial depth shall be 36" in areas with utilities and at risk of being dug up. All other areas shall be 24".

26. Will buried construction be direct bury or in duct?

Proposer should provide recommendations. There is not a lot of buried fiber involved, most will be distributed via pole line besides the shelter to the pole and between BMH and shelter. We would like the section on the land bridge between Upper Kalskag and the Yukon River to be buried to the extent possible.

27. When you send out the list of questions, can you also provide the list of villages that will NOT get the FTTH overbuild? Thanks.

No overbuild in: Oscarville, Napaskiak, and Bethel.

28. Is the funding BABA or Buy America?

Yes. Please see Appendix A for federal clauses made a part of RFP 24-01. There are certain Buy America requirements associated with this project. Please refer to current federal requirements applicable to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. For convenience here is a link to the updated list of countries whose procurement complies with the "Buy American" requirements:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-05-23/pdf/2024-11339.pdf>

29. Do all personnel of the build need to be signatory including engineering?

No, see Section 1.2 of the RFP, which states: "Alaska Communications will consider proposals from proposers under a current CBA, who have a letter of assent with the local IBEW 1547, or who agree that any IBEW 1547 work will be performed only by represented employees." Alaska Communications' existing CBA requires that subcontractors for communications maintenance, new construction or electrical work normally performed by employees represented by the IBEW have a current collective bargaining agreement or letter of asset with the IBEW Local Union 1547.

30. Is there a specified number of fibers required in the overland route?

A minimum of 48.

31. Can you clarify in the answers if it's Buy America or Buy American and any other federal criteria we need to follow?

Please see Question 28 above.

32. Any information regarding housing and logistics within the villages that you can provide will help keep everyone from inundating the villages with calls.

Proposers may utilize the attached Contact List.

33. If power make-ready work/pole replacements are required for pole attachments, is that work excluded from this RFP?

The make-ready work is included in the RFP.

34. Can you include information about any scheduled boat transport to the villages?

Please see the attached Contact List.

35. When will you know the location of every POP, so we know where to build to?

We will provide this information as soon as possible.

36. Who's responsible for leases or property procurement if the contractor is responsible for picking location?

Alaska Communications' responsibility. Contractor is not responsible for picking the location.

37. Can you describe again how to get to Napaskiak and what is required there? Is a bore in-scope for this RFP?

Airplane and boat. There is no bore required in this RFP 24-01. Napaskiak requires a BMH and a fiber cable from the BMH to the POP.

38. Are there any known schedule limitations, i.e. local festivals or times of year that construction would be limited in the different villages?

We are not aware of any schedule limitations.

39. What are the milestone dates for the river work so we can schedule around that?

We don't foresee any conflicts between RFP 24-01 and the upcoming RFP for the river work.

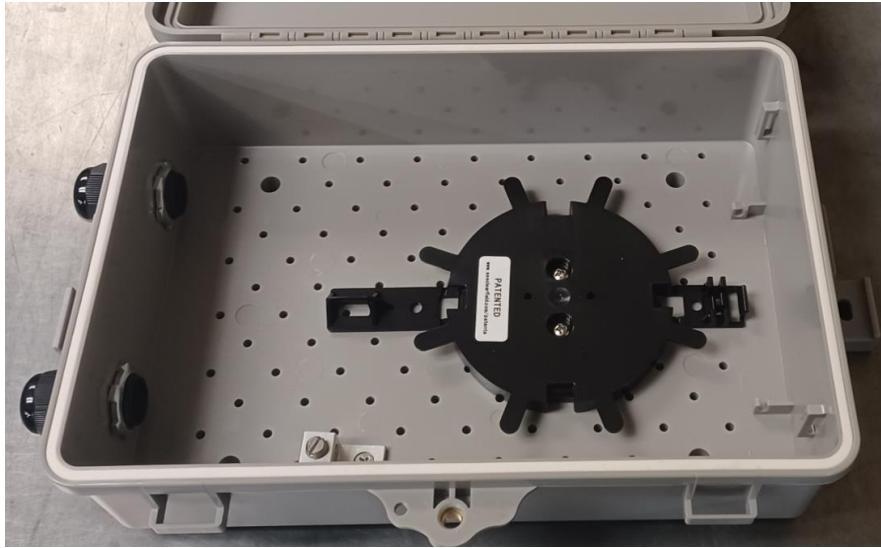
40. What type of warranty is ACS looking at?

The warranty period shall be 12 months after the date of acceptance of the work by Alaska Communications (in accordance with the MGCA, Section 35.1).

41. It was requested of Owl Ridge to provide a shapefile on the Web Mapper Application.
Owl Ridge has updated the Web Mapper to add the shapefiles.

42. What kind of NID/TAP are you using?
This is a design-build. We recommend using the Clearfield HDK-DFCC-CDF6-CCFW1 as an example (photos below). We need it to be plug and play for the installer.





PERMIT MATRIX

Provided by Owl Ridge, dated 5/31/24

ACS Lower Kuskokwim Fiber Plan of Work - Regulatory Matrix

Regulatory Agency Category	Agency with Regulatory Primacy	Agency Division	Authorization, Permit, or Consultation Needed
Federal	National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)	Regulatory and Environmental	Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with NEPA
	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Consultation
			Marine Mammal Protection Act
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Regulatory Program and Permits	Clean Water Act, Section 404 Permit Anticipated to be completed with nationwide permit (NWP) 57 and a detailed Pre-construction Notification
		Regulatory Program and Permits	Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10 Permit
	US BLM	BLM	SF299 Right-of-Way
	US Fish and Wildlife	National Wildlife Refuge	National wildlife refuge system consultation - no permit needed but USFWS will have the opportunity to comment during the NEPA process and may have concerns or objections
		Habitat Section	Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	Licensing	Request authority to construct, land, and operate a fiber optic system connecting points within Alaska	
	Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	Building Permits/Authorizations	Placement of communications infrastructure on airport property.
State	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)	Water	Clean Water Act, Section 401 consultation/certification
		Water	Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) authorization and permit
		Water	APDES - Water discharge permit
		Solid Waste	Drilling waste monofil

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[continued on the following page]

ACS Lower Kuskokwim Fiber Plan of Work - Regulatory Matrix

Regulatory Agency Category	Agency with Regulatory Primacy	Agency Division	Authorization, Permit, or Consultation Needed
	Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)	Habitat Section	Title 16 Fish habitat permits with Mud Management Plan
		Wildlife Conservation	Public safety permit
State (contd.)	Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR)	Mining, Land and Water	Early entry authorization to easements
		Mining Land and Water	Temporary water use authorization (TWUA)
		Mining Land and Water	Public easement
		Office of History and Archaeology	Section 106 consultation
	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF)	Statewide Design & Engineering Services	Easement utility permit
		Statewide Design & Engineering Services	Letter of non-objection
Local	Local community or borough	City or Borough	Lease or easements, or other land use agreement
Private	Private landowner	NA	Easements or other land use agreement
	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Native Lands	Regional Corporation (e.g., Doyon, Calista)	Easements or other land use agreement
		Village Corporation	
	Native Lands - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Administered	Native Allotments	Easements or other land use agreement

USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ADOT&PF	AK Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
ADNR	AK Department of Natural Resources
ADEC	AK Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	AK Department of Fish and Game
ROW	Right-of way

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CONTACT LIST

ACS - Calista Broadband Village, Tribe, School and City Contacts

Potential Property Staging

Village Corporations (surface owners)	Corporation Name	Contact	Position	Phone	Email Address	Note
Upper Kalskag	The Kuskokwim Corporation	Megan Leary		907-243-2944	megan.leary@kuskokwim.com	
Lower Kalskag	The Kuskokwim Corporation	Megan Leary		907-243-2944	megan.leary@kuskokwim.com	
Tuluksak	Tulkisarmute Incorporated	Joseph Demantle	Manager	907.695.6458	tulkisarmuteinc@yahoo.com	
Akiak	Kokarmiut Corporation	Amelia Nicolai	Manager	907.765.7919	kokarmiutcorporation@yahoo.com	
Akiachak	Akiachak Limited	Jason George	Manager	907.825.4328	akiachakltd@hotmail.com	
Kwethluk	Kwethluk Incorporated	Paul "George" Guy	President	907.757.6613	g.guy.kwtinc@yahoo.com ; kwtcorp@yahoo.com	
Napakiak	Napakiak Corporation	Lloyd Black	President	907.589.2227	lloyd_b@gci.net ; tinablack77@outlook.com	
Oscarville	Oscarville Native Corporation	Nicholai Steven	President	907.737.7099	n/a	
Napaskiak	Napaskiak Incorporated	Mike Kaganak	Manager	907.737.7413	pkaasstman@gmail.com	

Municipalities - Alaska Municipal League (akml.org)

City Contacts	Name (if any)	Contact	Position	Phone	Email Address	Notes
Upper Kalskag		Loreen Steeves	Mayor	907-471-2220	cityofkalskag@yahoo.com	
Lower Kalskag		George Sam	Mayor	907-471-2228	cclerk56@yahoo.com	
Tuluksak	No city government					
Akiak		David Gillis, Sr.	Mayor	907-765-7411	coa.ivan@yahoo.com	
Akiachak	No city government					
Kwethluk		Eunice Shaefer	Vice Mayor	907-757-6022	cityclerk@cityofkwethluk.com	
Napakiak		Joann Slats	Mayor	907-589-2610	cityofnapakiak@hotmail.com	
Oscarville	No city government					
Napaskiak		Alexie Williams	Mayor	907-737-7626	napaskiak@cityofpka.org	

Cultural questions, logistics support, etc.

Tribes	TC Name	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email Address	
Upper Kalskag	Village of Kalskag	Bonnie Persson	(907) 471-2207	(907) 471-2399	kalskagtribal@yahoo.com	
Lower Kalskag	Village of Lower Kalskag	Phyllis Evan	(907) 471-2300	(907) 471-2378	villageoflowertribal@gmail.com	
Tuluksak	Native Village of Tuluksak	Angela Alexie	(907) 695-6420	(907) 695-6932	tuluksak99679@gmail.com	
Akiak	Akiak Native Community	Dora Kozevnikoff	(907) 765-7112 - 7911	(907) 765-7512	Qasapikoz@yahoo.com	
Akiachak	Akiachak Native Community	Edward George	(907) 825-4626	(907) 825-4029	anc.tribalcouncils@gmail.com ; tribaladmin@akiachak.org	
Kwethluk	Organized Village of Kwethluk	Chariton Epchook	(907) 757-6714	(907) 757-6328	ta.kujigluk@gmail.com ; assistantovk@gmail.com ; blepchook@outlook.com	
Napakiak	Native Village of Napakiak	David Andrew	(907) 589-2135	(907) 589-2136	nativevillageof_napakiak@yahoo.com	
Oscarville	Oscarville Traditional Village	Michael Stevens	(907) 737-7099	(907) 737-7428	Oscarvilletc@gmail.com	
Napaskiak	Napaskiak Tribal Council	Eric Samuelson	(907) 737-7643	(907) 737-7039	pka_ntc@yahoo.com ; napaskiak2023@gmail.com ; napaskiak2023@gmail.com	

SCHOOLS (potential housing)	School Name	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email Address	Notes
Upper Kalskag	George Morgan Sr. H.S.	Madeline Aguiard	(907) 471-2288		maguiard@kuspuk.org	Please use Madeline Aguiard for both Upper and Lower Kalskag.
Lower Kalskag	Zackar Levi Elementary	Madeline Aguiard	(907) 471-2288		maguiard@kuspuk.org	
Tuluksak	Tuluksak School	Scott Ballard	(907) 825-3603		sballard@yupitit.org	Yupitit School District
Akiak	Akiak School	Scott Ballard	(907) 825-3603		sballard@yupitit.org	
Akiachak	Akiachak School	Scott Ballard	(907) 825-3603		sballard@yupitit.org	
Kwethluk	Ket'acik & Aapalluk Memorial School	Bill Morris	(907) 757-6014		Bill_morris@lksd.org	Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD)
Napakiak	William Miller Memorial School	Nicholas Mills	(907) 589-2420		Nicholas_mills@lksd.org	
Oscarville	Qugcuun Memorial School	Thaddeus Ochs	(907) 737-7214		thaddeus_ochs@lksd.org	
Napaskiak	Z J Williams Memorial School	Stacie Trepagnier	(907) 737-7212		Stacie_trepagnier@lksd.org	

POWER/UTILITIES	PROVIDER	Phone
Upper Kalskag	AVEC	907-471-2228
Lower Kalskag	AVEC	907-471-2228
Tuluksak	Tuluksak Traditional	907-695-6828 (IRA)
Akiak	Akiak City Council	907-765-7411
Akiachak	Akiachak Native Community	907-825-4626
Kwethluk	Kwethluk Incorporated	907-757-6613
Napakiak	Napakiak Incinraq	907-589-2227
Oscarville	AVEC	907-471-2228
Napaskiak	Napaskia Electric Utility	907-737-7432

GRAVEL SOURCES						
Village	Pit Name	Material Type	Surface owner (refer to contacts list)	Reserve - cy	Notes	Current Cost/cy:
Kalskag - Upper	Kalskag-JV	Volcanic	The Kuskokwim Corporation	290,000	Stockpiled with the City; Likely to reach out to the city for rates and or availability	\$4.50
Kalskag - Lower	No active pit					
Akiak	Akiak-A	Silt	Tribe	46,000		\$3.00
Tuluksak	Tuluksak-A	Silt	Tulkisarmuit, Inc.	86,000	Tuluksak has mentioned they're in need of good gravel	\$3.00
	Tuluksak-B	Silt	Tulkisarmuit, Inc.	36,000		\$3.00
Akiachak	Akiachak - A	Sand	Akiachak Limited	39,000		\$3.00
Kwethluk	Kwethluk- B	Sand	Kwethluk Inc.	40,000		\$3.00
Napakiak	Napakiak-A	Silt	Napakiak Corporation	700,000		\$3.00
	Napakiak-B	Silt	Napakiak Corporation	55,000		\$3.00
Oscarville	No active pit					
Napaskiak	Napaskiak-A	Sand	Napaskiak Corporation	27,000		\$3.00
Platinum	Platinum - D	Sand/Gravel/Borrow	Arviq, Inc.	1,043,000		\$3.30
	Platinum - E	Bedrock	Calista surface and subsurface	5,044,000	Competent and used around region for other projects	\$3.30