

## 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

1. Due to the complexity of this proposal would it be possible to get an extension to the 27th or 28th of June?

**The Deadline for Proposals is hereby changed to June 28, 2024.**

2. On the upper Kalskag to the Yukon underground section, in the areas that will require clearing, do the trees have to be mulched or can it be a cleared and grubbed ROW and the large trees cut and stacked on the edge or the ROW to be complaint with permitting?

Owl Ridge will permit to the extent practical grubbing and clearing techniques proposed by the contractor. However, contingency for felled trees management practices that reduce fire hazard and potential mulching requirements in wetland areas instead of pushing timber to the side should be anticipated.

3. We have been asked to bid on surveying by a general contractor who is planning on submitting to the Alaska Fiberoptic Project Lower Kuskokwim RFP.

I did not see any reference in the RFP to any Alaska State DNR survey requirements or an ADL # for acquiring survey instructions.

My question, is this a requirement for the contractor to adhere to or a non-issue?

The contractor will have to adhere to DNRs requirements for survey. A surveyor should be familiar with those requirements. Once an ADL # is assigned coordination with the DNR to identify their as built requirement should be completed. This is typically part of the 2-phase authorization from DNR where early entry authorization is obtained with a follow up for actual survey upon completion of construction. Additionally, the FCC requirement may have a very specific as built survey and accuracy requirements, fiber contractors should have knowledge of this. ACS/Calista or other may require a level of survey/tracking protocols as well, for finding the cable in the event of a disruption. The contractor is best to adhere to the most stringent of the required surveys. These are not part of ORNRC Permitting.

4. In reference to question #28 of the Q&A additional clarification is needed. The answer referenced both Buy America and Buy American. The Build America Buy America provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of November 2021 further expands the requirements for some federally funded projects. Because the requirements differ by project and by funding type, can ACS please clarify the exact requirements we are to follow.



This project is funded under the NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program pursuant to a grant award made to Calista Corp. on September 8, 2022. Bidders should refer to Department of Commerce guidance applicable to the TBCP program, including the limited waiver of Buy America preference issued on August 5, 2022.

The waiver itself is available here:

<https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/NTIA%20Final%20BABA%20Waiver.pdf>

5. Are joint pole agreements with the pole owners in place?

Joint pole agreements are not in place; however, Calista is communicating with each of the utilities in preparation for this project.

6. Is ACS allowing progress billing on this project?

Yes. We pay on a Net45 basis. Payment terms will be negotiated upon award of this RFP and incorporated into the Statement of Work (SOW).

7. Would ACS consider a point-to-point fiber design to future-proof the network for the long term or what multiplier, if any, does ACS want for futureproofing? The standard tends to be 1.5X (see Pre-bid Q & A, Question 18).

Point-to-point fiber is required for Community Anchor Institutions and Commercial locations. Spare fiber should be considered in the GPON design. Specific amount should reflect community size, but no more than 1.5 per Service location.

8. Tuluksak has homes on the north side of the Tuluksak River, do these homes need to be serviced as well?

No.

9. Are we to assume the DOT buildings at the airports require fiber in the FTTH villages?

Napakiak, Akiak, and Kalskag DOT buildings will be included.

10. Without having pole calculations, it is difficult to provide ACS with an accurate cost for pole make-ready work. Will ACS accept a per-pole price for make-ready work followed by submission of a change order from the Contractor once pole calculations are completed for the total poles needing make-ready work using the per-pole price provided in the bid response?

Per pole estimate price is acceptable.

11. How many ducts does ACS prefer for underground work?

Where contractors design build calls for underground plant, preference would be to have one spare duct.

12. What is the requirement for an over build percentage? Is it the same 1.5 hairs per service location as used in the existing ACS Plant?



Spare fiber should be considered in the design. Specific amount should reflect community size, but no more than 1.5 per Service location.

13. Is the GPON Intended to be 100% Build out?

With fibers assigned at the FDH to each service location at design and original construction stages?

Yes.

14. Is ACS Going to require any special as-building services such as FMOASIS ?

No.

15. If required are ACS's in-house resources responsible for building circuits?

Yes.

16. Is progress billing expected and at what intervals are they expected? Is it monthly, substantial completion, etc.?

If substantial, who will be verifying units and substantial completion milestones?

Payments to be made incrementally based upon milestones achieved. Final payment details will be negotiated with the winning proposer upon award.

17. Will ACS be handling the inspections using in-house resources or will a third party be brought in for inspections?

We will handle inspections internally as well as via third party.