

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

RFQ-17-05

WIRELESS DATA COMMUNICATION ASSESSMENT AND DESIGN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed written statements of qualifications are invited for a consultant to conduct and assess the existing regional data communication infrastructure and produce a project design that will enhance overall homeland security and the capacity of Snohomish County public service agencies to prevent, respond to and recover from potential terrorism incidents.

The attached package includes background information, responsibilities of the consultant selected, and specific information required in the submittals.

Statements of Qualifications must be received at the Snohomish County Purchasing Division, not later than 4:00 pm, Thursday, October 27, 2005. **Late submittals will not be accepted.** Envelopes containing submittals shall be sealed and marked with the name of the individual/firm, the submittal deadline, and "RFQ-17-05 Statements of Qualifications for Wireless Data Communication Assessment and Design".

Sealed Statements of Qualifications may be mailed to 3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS 507, Everett, Washington 98201 or delivered to the 3rd Floor of the Administration East Building, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett, Washington 98201.

Three copies of each submittal are requested.

Snohomish County reserves the right to reject any or all responses and to waive all informalities.

Dated this 30th day of September 2005.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY PURCHASING DIVISION
SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON

By _____
David Gibson, Purchasing Manager

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

RFQ-17-05

Wireless Data Communication Assessment and Design

A. INTRODUCTION

Snohomish County is located in northwest Washington State, between the waters of Puget Sound and the peaks of the Cascade Mountains. The south border of the County is just 15 miles north of Seattle and the north border is 100 miles south of Vancouver, BC.

Snohomish County is bordered by Skagit County to the north and King County (and Seattle) to the south. Covering 2,090 square miles, it is the 13th largest county in the state of Washington. Snohomish County's varied topography ranges from saltwater beaches, rolling hills and rich river bottom farmlands in the west to dense forest and alpine wilderness in the mountainous to the east. Glacier Peak, at 10,541 feet, is one of the highest mountains in the country. Sixty-eight percent of the county is forest land, 19% is rural, 8% is urban/city and 5% is agricultural (1993 figures).

Snohomish is the third most populous county in the state, and one of the fastest growing. The county's population as of April, 2001 was 618,600. Between 1990 and 2000, Snohomish County's population grew by about 30%. The unincorporated (outside cities) population is 294,088 and the incorporated (inside cities) population is 324,512.

According to the Puget Sound Regional Council (1995), the population forecast for Snohomish County for year 2010 is 706,959, and for 2020 is 833,661. Job forecast for 2010 is 265,061, and for 2020 is 303,405. The population forecast used for Growth Management planning is 714,244 in the year 2012.

Everett, population at 97,500 (2005), is the largest city and has served as the county seat since 1897.

Other cities include:

Arlington, Bothell, Brier, Darrington, Edmonds, Everett, Gold Bar, Granite Falls, Index, Lake Stevens, Lynnwood, Marysville, Mill Creek, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, Smokey Point, Snohomish, Stanwood, Sultan, Woodway and the Tulalip Indian Reservation.

The City of Everett is currently implementing a mobile wireless broadband network. Everett's project is being funded by the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office, 2004 Interoperable Communications Technology Program Grant.

In September of 2004 the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office hosted a wireless informational seminar using the success of Everett's trial as a center piece for the presentation. Representatives from Snohomish County Cities in attendance realized that several entities also had an interest in deploying similar networks and were in various project stages. Based on the success of the county-wide 800 MHz radio system and the interoperability created by that project, the importance of wireless interoperability came to the forefront. Representatives from the Sheriff's Office, Everett, and Lynnwood took the initiative to approach the police and fire chiefs groups to propose a possible county-wide wireless solution.

B. PROJECT PURPOSE

VISION STATEMENT:

- *All public safety incidents are managed without data communications constraints.*

MISSION STATEMENT:

- *Create interoperable data communications to facilitate command and control across the operational spectrum.*

The purpose of this project is to enhance overall Homeland Security, and in particular, the capacity of Snohomish County public safety agencies (police, fire, EMS, hospitals) and/or other public safety support providers (transportation, public utility, public works) to prevent, respond to, and recover from a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) terrorism incident involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) devices and cyber attacks.

Communications interoperability (the ability of public safety agencies to talk across disciplines and jurisdictions via radio communication systems; exchanging voice and/or data with one another on demand and in real time) is a top Homeland Security priority in our region. The Snohomish County wireless data project gives public safety agencies the interoperability needed to effectively deter and respond to potential terrorist attacks. It will ensure we are in a position to relieve victim suffering as quickly as possible in the event of such an incident.

The Snohomish County wireless data project will also aid in the utilization of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), to ensure integration of effective practices in emergency preparedness. NIMS, through enhanced interoperability, will enable first responders at all levels, across all disciplines, to work together in a cohesive and efficient manner to effectively manage domestic incidents no matter the cause, size or complexity.

Along with our 800 MHz emergency radio system, a wireless data communications system will provide a highly reliable and redundant network not found within commercial system applications, such as cell phones or traditional landlines. Experience has shown that these systems are often the most unreliable during critical incidents because public demand overloads and shuts down the system.

A communications system that increases interoperability is essential for public safety to function promptly, effectively, and cost efficiently. If public safety agencies are impeded in their ability to communicate or are disjointed in a coordinated response to defend against a terrorist attack, lives and property are at risk. The tragic events of 9/11 clarified the critical importance of having just such a system.

C. ASSESSMENT/DESIGN DELIVERABLES

- Inventory all participants within the region. Create a matrix that shows current IT assets, network infrastructure and applications relevant to the County-wide Wireless Data Communications Project.
- Identify and document the data communications interoperability needs and priorities of participants within the region.
- Provide periodic design plan review/feedback opportunities to sub committees as appropriate to ensure design requirements and priorities are being met.

D. KEY DELIVERABLES

The successful firm will ultimately produce a project design that will be detailed to such a degree that solution vendors will have enough information to accurately bid for system implementation. Further, it is anticipated that the design consultant will remain involved throughout system implementation.

- Create an operational concept design for a countywide data communications system that accounts for the functional communications requirements of participants.
- Develop a budget plan that illustrates the overall projected estimated costs for the Wireless Data Communication system. Itemize necessary costs for software and hardware products, implementation services, training services, maintenance and support and any other recurring or non-recurring costs associated with the system design.
- The assessment should identify estimated labor hours for each participating agency necessary to implement their wireless data communication design solution.

E. PROJECT SCOPE

It is anticipated that the successful consultant for this engagement will first create and document a comprehensive assessment of where the County and participating agencies are currently with their respective IT infrastructures with respect to wireless data communication, and second, develop a comprehensive system design that will identify phases of implementation adding coverage and agencies over the phases. Coverage expectations will be developed during the design phase. The design should include the following elements:

- Existing infrastructure will be added to “as needed” to meet coverage expectations.
- Equipment for vehicles specific to wireless capabilities such as routers, wireless cards etc will be included. (Items such as mobile data computers will not be included.)
- Video will be included as it is critical for the protection of critical infrastructure, surveillance of critical locations, facility security, sharing of information in critical incidents etc.
- Hardware and software will be included that will allow partner agencies to share information and use each others systems for access while out of their own jurisdictions.
- Connectivity to individual agency databases will be at the discretion and cost of the user agencies.
- The greatest available bandwidth that is the most cost effective will be sought out.
- Bandwidth will be available to other departments in the governments of participating agencies.
- Must be able to incorporate multiple solutions/technologies to achieve the greatest access.
- Will be highly secure and encrypted and designed with partitions between disciplines for maximum security.

F. SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

Sealed Statements of Qualifications may be mailed to Snohomish County Purchasing, 3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS 507, Everett, Washington 98201- 4046 or delivered to the 3rd. Floor of the County Administration Building East.

Statements of Qualifications must be received at the Snohomish County Purchasing Division, not later than 4:00 pm, Thursday, October 27, 2005. **Late submittals will not be accepted.** Envelopes containing submittals shall be sealed and marked with the name of the individual/firm, the submittal deadline, and "RFQ-17-05" Statements of Qualifications for Wireless Data Communications Project Assessment and Design.

Submittals shall include, at a minimum, 3 copies of the following:

- General information on the firm (answer all questions found in evaluation and selection section below)
- Resumes of principals and key individuals who will be assigned to this project
- Past work experience related to expected tasks to be performed under the contract
- References of previous projects of similar size and complexity

G. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Statements of qualifications will be evaluated based on the information supplied in response to the topics outlined in this section under Evaluation Criteria. The Evaluation Team will "short list" the highest ranked firm(s). The short listed firms (Finalists) only will be required to respond to a Request for Proposal (RFP). The Finalist earning the highest cumulative score (RFQ+RFP) will be the intended awardee subject to successful contract negotiations.

To avoid "conflict of interest", the successful consultant firm selected pursuant to this RFQ will not be able to submit a response to the future RFP issued for the actual purchase of the Wireless Data Communication System solution.

Once a firm has been tentatively selected, contract negotiations will begin. If the Negotiation Team is unable to successfully negotiate a contract with the highest ranked firm, the next highest ranked firm will be contacted following the same process described above. This method of selection will be used until a contract is successfully negotiated or all statements of qualifications are rejected. The County intends to enter into a "Fixed Price Deliverable" contract with the selected firm. Snohomish County's Professional Services Contract will be the Master Contract for this engagement.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Firm's qualifications:

- Provide a company overview and background that uniquely qualifies your firm for this wireless application. (10%)
- Overview of your firm's approach to perform the assessment and design, including staffing and other resources (30%)
- Include Resumes of the consultants that will be utilized for this engagement. (20%)

Firm's experience:

- List 10 Flagship wireless projects accomplished in the last five (5) years and their associated value. (10%)
- List three references for projects of similar scope, size, and complexity as described in this RFQ document. Indicate the outcomes of each project. (30%)

H. ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE

The timeline for this project will commence subsequent to contract approval and execution. Within ten (10) days from contract execution a "Notice to Proceed" will be issued to the successful consultant by the County. The successful consultant will then begin the assessment phase and continue for approximately three months until completion. Subsequent to the assessment phase, the successful consultant will initiate the design phase and continue for three months until solution design completion. Therefore, the overall timeframe for completion of this assessment and design for wireless data communication is within six (6) months from the "Notice to Proceed".

Any supplier planning to submit a response must obtain a complete, original copy of the Request for Qualification (RFQ) directly from the County (rather than a second party). An RFQ can be downloaded at our web site below under "New View all current Bids":

<http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Facilities/Divisions/Purchasing/default.htm>

You may also obtain a Request for Qualification that is not downloadable by contacting the Purchasing Division at 425-388-3344. By doing this you will automatically be included on our "Plan Holders List". If you are not on our Plan Holders List, we are unable to send amendments directly to you or communicate other important related information prior to the RFQ submittal deadline. The County is not responsible for any consequences resulting from a vendor's failure to register directly with the County for a specific Request for Qualification.