



Special Notice

Cyber Security

*Special Notice D15PS00295 – Nationwide Public
Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN)*

10/5/2015

1 Background

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Act) requires FirstNet to issue open, transparent, and competitive requests for proposals (RFPs) to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN). To implement this mandate, FirstNet has initiated an acquisition process designed to acquire services and/or equipment to provide Band 14 Long Term Evolution (LTE) services to public safety entities nationwide.

On April 27, 2015, FirstNet released a Special Notice seeking feedback on draft RFP documents. Among other things, the Special Notice included a draft Statement of Objectives (SOO), which lists high-level objectives for the acquisition, with minimum requirements, allowing contractors to define implementation details. Cyber security is prominent among the high-level objectives listed in the draft SOO, which indicates that cyber security solutions will be outlined in Appendix C-10, FirstNet Cyber Hardness Requirements, in a subsequent RFP. Appendix C-10 has been renamed NPSBN Cyber Security and will now be used to identify concepts on which FirstNet's ultimate NPSBN cyber security solution should be based. This Special Notice builds on the Special Notice and draft RFP documents that were released on April 27, 2015. Specifically, FirstNet seeks feedback that will help inform its drafting of the cyber security portions of the RFP.

This Special Notice is the latest in a long line of ongoing consultation efforts by FirstNet concerning the NPSBN. FirstNet has gathered an extensive amount of information through regional workshops, state single point of contact (SPOC)¹ calls and webinars, an in-person SPOC two-day meeting, onsite public safety interactions, Public Safety Advisory Committee² meetings, outreach events, Initial State Consultation meetings, Requests for Information, vendor engagements, special notices, notice and comment processes, and multiple Industry Day events.

2 Introduction

This Special Notice (herein after referred to as Notice) is being issued by the Department of the Interior, Interior Business Center, Acquisition Services Directorate on behalf of FirstNet as an additional market research tool.

FirstNet will not accept unsolicited proposals related to this Notice. This Notice is for information only and shall not be construed as an RFP or as an obligation on the part of FirstNet. FirstNet does not intend to make an award based on this Notice nor does FirstNet intend to pay for the preparation of any information submitted in response to this Notice.

Interested parties are instructed to contact only the Contracting Officer, as stated herein, for information about any aspect of this Notice and any subsequent information in this acquisition process for this project, to include any subsequent RFP. Interested parties and/or prospective offerors are cautioned against contacting any Government personnel, or any other personnel supporting this acquisition process, in regard to the FirstNet NPSBN acquisition, prior to any subsequent award(s) for this project. If such a contact occurs and is found to be prejudicial to competing offerors, the party

¹ 47 U.S.C. 1426(c)(2)(B).

² 47 U.S.C. 1425(a)(1).

making such a contact may be excluded from further consideration and/or subsequent award consideration. Accordingly, all communications prior to any subsequent award(s) must be directed to the point of contact identified herein. Where possible, inquiries must be submitted in writing and sent via email. Questions should be worded so as to avoid disclosing any proposed and/or considered strategies or proprietary information and/or solutions.

3 Purpose

FirstNet is requesting feedback from stakeholders, including states, tribes, territories, public safety stakeholders, and market participants, on Appendix C-10 NPSBN Cyber Security that will inform the development of the cyber security portions of the RFP. A paradigm shift in how cyber security is defined and delivered is required, and FirstNet seeks input to effect this paradigm shift so that the NPSBN can be appropriately defended.

4 Instructions

FirstNet requests feedback from interested parties, including states, tribes, territories, public safety stakeholders, and market participants, on the draft Appendix C-10, NPSBN Cyber Security. FirstNet will review the feedback as it works toward issuing a subsequent RFP. Please note that pricing submissions are not requested and will not be considered in response to this Notice.

4.1 General Instructions

4.1.1 Submission of Comments

FirstNet seeks comments on the draft Appendix C-10, NPSBN Cyber Security. Comments shall be submitted via email no later than 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, October 16, 2015, utilizing the attached form. Please include with your comments your full name, reference number D15PS00295 and title "COMMENTS on the Appendix C-10 NPSBN Cyber Security," your organization's name and complete address, and your phone number and email address. Comments marked confidential or proprietary will be protected by FirstNet accordingly. Any comments regarding this Notice shall be submitted via email to specialnoticecomments@firstnet.gov.