

TALBOT COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

TITLE: REQUEST FOR INTEREST (RFI) – PARTNERSHIP FOR DEPLOYMENT OF HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND IN TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

BID NO.: 17- 13

Public Notice is hereby given that Talbot County, Maryland is soliciting responses from prospective partners, including incumbent service providers, competitive providers, nonprofit organizations, public cooperatives, and entities that are not traditional internet service providers (ISPs) but are interested in acting as a partner in offering service under innovative business models to make affordable and scalable Gigabit-class broadband available to County homes and businesses over privately constructed infrastructure.

The Scope of Work: The County seeks a creative partnership that will meet its current connectivity needs, and that will anticipate potential future needs. The Partner should plan for a long-term relationship with the County, and should base its response on the County’s vision and project goals. The County seeks a Partner to offer fast, affordable broadband internet and data services. The County considers both cost and availability of service to be important. We encourage responses that address both to maximize adoption of service and to deliver the intended economic and quality-of-life impacts.

As a first step, all interested respondents are asked to submit a letter of intent to respond via email by July 28, 2017 to mcohoon@talbotcountymd.gov.

Interested firms shall submit one (1) electronic copy of their reply, including all Appendices, to Mark Cohoon, GIS Manager, at (mcohoon@talbotcountymd.gov), and one (1) sealed copy of their replies, including all Appendices, addressed to: R. Andrew Hollis, County Manager, Office of the Talbot County Manager, South Wing, Talbot County Courthouse, 11 North Washington Street, Easton, Maryland, 21601, until **4:00 p.m., Friday, September 1, 2017.** Any proposals received after the stated time will be returned unopened. Responding to the RFI is not a guarantee of a contract award. Further, there is no guarantee an RFP will be developed as a result of this RFI.

The full RFI and Appendices may be obtained online at www.talbotcountymd.gov under the Public Notice section (http://www.talbotcountymd.gov/index.php?page=Public_Notice), or in print at the Talbot County Department of Public Works, 215 Bay Street, Suite 6, Easton, Maryland 21601.

The Talbot County Council reserves the right to withdraw the RFI or any subsequent RFP, to decline to award a contract, to reject any and all proposals, or to accept any proposal, or portion(s) thereof, when, in its reasoned judgment, the interests of the public shall be best served.

TALBOT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS