

## CVFiber Construction RFP Questions and Answers

CVFiber received the following questions about the CVFiber Construction RFP. Proposals are due by 5:00 PM ET on 30 June 2022 to [construction-rfp@cvfiber.net](mailto:construction-rfp@cvfiber.net)

### **RFP Questions and Answers:**

Q1

Project Background states... “This construction scope of work includes simple One Touch Make Ready in the communication space. It includes tree trimming and related terrain Make Ready as needed to complete the construction scope of work, as well as removal of all debris. Question: Can you provide a pricing unit and estimate of “tree Trimming”?

A1

The scope of this work is to be determined subject to results of ride-outs. If a general bid can be provided, please provide it. Otherwise, a scope of work can be negotiated in good faith as needed during the construction phase.

Q2

Project Background states... “This construction scope of work includes simple One Touch Make Ready in the communication space. It includes tree trimming and related terrain Make Ready as needed to complete the construction scope of work, as well as removal of all debris. Question: Can you provide a definition and quantity of “terrain Make Ready”?

A2

The scope of this work is to be determined subject to results of ride-outs; it may be limited to tree trimming but we did not want to restrict to this scope. If a general bid can be provided, please provide it. Otherwise, a scope of work can be negotiated in good faith as needed during the construction phase.

Q3

RFP states... “Carry out the business plan developed by CVFiber and its partners including NRTC, which is approximately 400 miles in 12-15 months (September 2022-December 2023) of fiber backbone buildout in Central Vermont, utilizing fiber and distribution area equipment that was ordered pursuant to the Materials and Warehousing RFP previously issued. Question: What is the location of these materials?

A3

The location of these materials is to be determined based on the award and details following CVFiber's Materials, Warehousing and Supply Chain RFP. It is anticipated that the materials will be located in central Vermont.

Q4

RFP states... “Carry out the business plan developed by CVFiber and its partners including NRTC, which is approximately 400 miles in 12-15 months (September 2022-December 2023) of fiber backbone buildout in Central Vermont, utilizing fiber and distribution area equipment that was ordered pursuant to the

Materials and Warehousing RFP previously issued. Question: Will they be drop shipped to our facility or will we need to pick them up as needed?

A4

It is anticipated that contractors will pick up the materials from a CVFiber warehouse and storage yard, which may be in different locations.

Q5

RFP states... "Complete simple One Touch Make-Ready in the communication space: tree trimming and related terrain make-ready as needed, including removal of all debris and adherence to all easement requirements. To determine the cost and lead times for various OSP hardware and service components." Questions: There is not a pricing unit for the One Touch Make-Ready? Will one be provided?

A5

A pricing unit for the One Touch Make-Ready will not be provided; please provide a general bid for One Touch Make-Ready.

Q6

RFP states... "Complete simple One Touch Make-Ready in the communication space: tree trimming and related terrain make-ready as needed, including removal of all debris and adherence to all easement requirements. To determine the cost and lead times for various OSP hardware and service components." Question: Is there a list of easement requirements available? Can you clarify this statement?

A6

This is to be determined and will depend on the existing and to-be-negotiated easements.

Q7

RFP states... "Complete simple One Touch Make-Ready in the communication space: tree trimming and related terrain make-ready as needed, including removal of all debris and adherence to all easement requirements. To determine the cost and lead times for various OSP hardware and service components." Question: Can you clarify "*To determine the cost and lead times for various OSP hardware and service components required for construction of the network.*"? This statement seems out of place.

A7

This would only apply if the bidder has a stockpile of materials, which is not a requirement to bid; given the current shortage in materials, if the bidder has materials, it could be a helpful benefit in the event of any difficulty that CVFiber may face in procuring materials.

Q8

RFP states... "Install, terminate, and test all CVFiber furnished fiber strands at each location according to the Product and Services Specifications." Question: There are no quantities for fusion splices HO1 or HO4. Can you provide estimates?

A8

Design has not progressed far enough to provide a quantity. The amount will be numerous and will be tied to the mileage in the RFP.

Q9

RFP states... "Test 100% of all cables, splices, terminations, and hardware for defects in installation and to verify plant performance under installed conditions.

A9

Tests shall be conducted according to FOA and CVFiber standards and specifications (including the use of a minimum 300m launch reel). Fiber will be tested by contractor before it leaves the warehouse. System will be tested and approved by CVFiber before approval of any invoices.

Q10

Will a pricing unit for testing be provided?

A10

A pricing unit for the testing will not be provided; please provide a general bid for testing. As more information becomes available during the design phase, a scope of work can be negotiated in good faith as needed

Q11

RFP states... "When crops are planted only small ATVs and small trailers are permitted in the fields for construction purposes, trucks are prohibited. Prior approval to enter shall be required. Question: This can create an enormous cost differential. Can you provide a separate pricing unit for when this is applicable? And estimates of footage anticipated.

A11

The scope of this work is to be determined subject to results of ride-outs. If a general bid can be provided, please provide it. Otherwise, a scope of work can be negotiated in good faith as needed during the construction phase.

Q12

Who will be responsible for crop damages that would still be expected with ATVs?

A12

Note standard contract terms will be negotiated with the contractor including hold harmless provisions; generally reasonable impacts are anticipated, however construction standards of care shall be adhered to.

Q13

Rights Reserved states... Multiple awards may be awarded as a result of this RFP. Question: In order to give the best possible pricing, we utilize the quantities provided. If awarded less than what is in this RFP, will we have the ability to refuse the project?

A13

A bidder would not be obligated to accept a bid award, but we would work toward coming up with a scope or scopes of work of sufficient value that would result in a successful partnership.

Q14

Retainage states... 10% of each invoice total value will be withheld as a retainer until the work is successfully completed and accepted by CVFiber and NRTC Broadband Solutions. This retainer will be paid after the fiber has been installed, inspected, tested, and approved by NRTC Broadband Solutions and CVFiber on a work packet by work packet basis. Can you provide the typical work packet size / miles?

A14

The average work packet is 45 miles.

Q15

RFP states ... will be paid after the fiber has been installed, inspected, tested, and approved by NRTC Broadband Solutions and CVFiber on a work packet by work packet basis. Question: Can you provide the typical work packet size / miles?

A15

The average work packet is 45 miles.

Q16

The quantities on the RUS excel have multiple decimal places. Can you please provide whole numbers for estimated quantities?

A16

Round up for the whole number

Q17

What are the depths required for buried duct?

A17

36" is the depth required for buried duct.

Q18

There is not a rock adder on the bid units. We highly suggest adding one to prevent the normal bore unit from being overpriced.

A18

Please indicate a rock adder on your bid and indicate same to identify the additional expected charge in the event of rock.

Q19

If rock is encountered, will we be allowed to shallow up to save CVFiber the cost of rock construction where possible?

A19

Yes, you will be allowed to "shallow up" to save the cost of rock construction subject to construction, easement, utility and regulatory standards, as well as practical buildability.

Q20  
CONDUIT 2 INCH      Install 2" Conduit w/Innerduct      449,624 (Please confirm if this is  
placing (1) 2" HDPE duct) any method

A20  
This is for placing (1) 2" HDPE and method of placement should be indicated on the map and staking sheet.

Q21  
CONDUIT 1.25 INCH      Install 1.25" Conduit w/Innerduct      59,000 (Please confirm if this is placing  
(1) 1.25" HDPE duct) any method

A21  
This is for placing (1) 1.25" HDPE and the method of placement should be indicated on the map and staking sheet.

Q22  
COUPLING 2 INCH      Install Coupling for 2" Conduit      919  
COUPLING 1.25 INCH      Install Coupling for 1.25" Conduit      121  
We anticipate the need to bore the "CONDUIT" units - We recommend placing (2) ducts instead of one, especially on road crossings.

A22  
Include 2 ducts for road crossings.

Q23  
The couplings are usually incidental to the placement but can price these if needed.

A23  
Agreed, there should be no need to have a unit for the coupling.

Q24  
There are a multitude of ADSS units [with zero quantities] on the RUS price sheet, are respondents expected to submit pricing for all RUS units or only the units with quantities?

A24  
Please provide pricing for all listed RUS units, including where a zero quantity is listed.

Q25  
If ADSS construction is expected, will it still be within the communication space?

A25  
There is no plan to use ADSS in this build.

Q26  
If ADSS construction is utilized, how will MST's be addressed/installed?

A26

There is no plan to use ADSS in this build.

Q27

If ADDS is utilized, will splice cases be attached to poles or on the ADSS?

A27

There is no plan to use ADSS in this build.

Q28

Will traffic control be paid directly by CVFiber, reimbursed to contractor by CV Fiber or is contractor expected to pay for all traffic control.

A28

Contractors will be reimbursed for traffic control.

Q29

If contractor is expected to pay for traffic control, can CV fiber provide an estimate of % of the build mileage that will require traffic control?

A29

Contractors will be reimbursed for traffic control.

Q30

If contractor is expected to pay for traffic control, can it be entered as a separate line item?

A30

Contractors will be reimbursed for traffic control.

Q31

Is the fiber cable armored or unarmored? If armored, what will be required for grounding/bonding on cable sheath and at splice cases?

A31

The fiber is armored. The sheath will need to be bonded strand and the strand will be bonded to the MGN.

Q32

Will CVFiber ship materials to the contractor's warehouse, or will contractor pick materials up at the CV Fiber warehouse?

A32

It is anticipated that contractors will pick up the materials from a CVFiber warehouse and storage yard, which may be in different locations.

Q33

If contractor is picking materials up from CVFiber warehouse, are there any restrictions on days/times/frequencies?

A33

Warehouse operating hours and procedures have not been established at this time. CVFiber will make every effort to facilitate the work of the contractors.

Q34

RFP indicates that one-touch make-ready will be performed by the contractor for communications – will a separate pricing sheet be issued? There does not appear to be any make-ready items listed on the excel sheet.

A34

Make-ready items are not listed separately; please provide a price bid for performing one-touch make-ready and describing how the price is determined, e.g., per mile/pole/attachments.

Q35

If make-ready units are added [or separate sheet is provided] will there be separate units for heavier copper M/R vs fiber/coax M/R?

A35

No, they will all be considered the same.

Q36

Are we correct to assume that the HAPO (xxx) splitter units are for installing the splitter only and that the actual splicing will be compensated under the HO units?

A36

The HAPO is for installing and prepping the case. It is also for bringing the cables into the case and installing the trays. The HO's will be utilized for all fusion splices associated inside the case.

Q37

Can you please explain how/when the CO "STUB" units will be used?

A37

This is used at the tie in locations for placing a stub between two splices.

Q38

Can you confirm that all CO footage will be based on cable 'sheath' footage?

A38

It will be based on cable footage.

Q39

Which manufacturer is being used for splicing cases?

A39

CommScope 450B's and 450D's.

Q40

The excel unit sheet does not include a “unit of measure” column, should we assume that MST units are “each” rather than “feet”?

A40

The requested pricing is for the MST unit as a whole and NOT by the foot. The pricing should be based on overlashing only. In an instance where it is an MST only on strand you will bill COAO for the strand placement and then the MST unit to place it.

Q41

UM6-9 units; should we assume schedule 40 pipe to the strand attachment height? Can you specify pipe size?

A41

Yes and 2” pipe.

Q42

Who was the awarded entity for the warehousing RFP?

A42

As of the date of publication of these Answers, this is to be determined; upon issuance of the award or awards to CVFiber's Materials, Warehousing & Supply Chain RFP, certain relevant information will become publicly available.

Q43

We note (101) 7/16” downguys, this seems extremely high for a build of this nature, what is the criteria for requiring a 7/16” downguy?

A43

We are using 10m strand for the downguys.

Q44

What is the minimum depth required for:

- CONDUIT 4”
- CONDUIT 2”
- CONDUIT 1.25”

A44

- CONDUIT 4” 36 inches
- CONDUIT 2” 36 inches
- CONDUIT 1.25” 36 inches unless used for drop

Q45

With regard to the insurance requirement, please confirm that you are looking for 10M per occurrence, 15M aggregate.



A45

The insurance table in the RFP should be referred to; General liability insurance is requested in an annual aggregate of \$10M.

Q46

Do Line Items 201, 203 and 204 include the associated splicing or just a prep closure fee?

A46

These units are for prepping the closure only and dressing the coil.

Q47

Do Line Items 219, 221 and 222 include the associated splicing?

A47

These units are for prepping the closure only and dressing the coil.

Q48

Do Line Items 277-281 include splicing?

A48

It is for placing the splitter and dressing the tail in the case. It is not for the splicing. Splicing is covered under the HO1 unit.

Q49

What type of coupling is required for line Item's 289 and 290? (Threaded, Hydraulic, Compression Etc.)

A49

Threaded. Type of coupler can vary depending on product availability.

Q50

Why is the HO1 Unit zero? Is the splicing included in the prep closure Items?

A50

Design has not progressed far enough to provide an estimated number of HO1's. Expect a numerous amount of HO1 units due to the miles shown in the RFP. Splicing is covered by the HO1 unit.

Q51

What are Items 5,7,9,11 and 13 used for? Is the pole framing separate or included in the strand price in line Item 351?

A51

Framing units will be invoiced separately from the fiber. The COAO code on line 351 is associated with strand that is placed that has no fiber but possibly an MST that would be over lashed. If the strand has a main line cable on it then strand and fiber will be invoiced together on a CO code lines 343, 345 and 346.

Q52

What are the OTDR testing specs?

A52

We expect an OTDR shot out from the OLT cabinet to the terminal and a power reading taken at every terminal on the first and last port of the MST.

Q53

What will be the required turn-over package on the testing specs?

A53

We want a PDF form of each associated reading above along with a light reading form to fill out. Contractors will be required to provide pictures of the cases hung in the air and all the trays associated with the splice for each splice case completed.