

CVFiber Construction RFP
Questions and Answers

CVFiber received the following Questions for its Construction RFP.

Proposals are due by 5:00 PM on July 10, 2023, to construction-rfp@cvfiber.net

CVFiber Note: Questions received that are substantially similar and which therefore have the same answer have been categorized under the same Question number below, but the precise question language has been identified separately within that Question alphanumerically as (a) (b), etc.

QUESTION 1

- (a) Can you provide a sample of the design drawing we will be working from?
- (b) Can you provide a sample build map for review?
- (c) Can you provide a sample fiber splice design for review?

ANSWER 1

- (a) Please see Exhibit 1, attached. Design drawings, build maps, and fiber splice designs are proprietary, but a basic image is provided here for reference. Further design detail will be provided to the successful bidder(s).
- (b) Please see Exhibit 1, attached. Design drawings, build maps, and fiber splice designs are proprietary, but a basic image is provided here for reference. Further design detail will be provided to the successful bidder(s).
- (c) Please see Exhibit 1, attached. Design drawings, build maps, and fiber splice designs are proprietary, but a basic image is provided here for reference. Further design detail will be provided to the successful bidder(s).

QUESTION 2

Will you be providing an “Issued for Construction” (IFC stamped) drawing to the successful contractor?

ANSWER 2

Not anticipated. The successful contractor(s) will have access to the online build plans which are updated in real-time.

QUESTION 3

How will the contractor be compensated for tree trimming?

ANSWER 3

Tree trimming is done in advance by the utility company as part of the make-ready process. If additional tree trimming is needed, an estimate for those services should be submitted to CVFiber for approval in advance and a bill for those services should be submitted following completion of the work.

QUESTION 4

Will licensed arborists be required?

ANSWER 4

Although arborist licensure is not required, it is expected that any professional workers of the successful bidder, including tree trimmers, will be experienced, qualified, and insured.

QUESTION 5

Under what items will the contractor be compensated for fiber testing? Please provide testing specifications for terminal ports and feeder/spare fibers.

ANSWER 5

This is according to CVFiber's construction management standards and is therefore subject to further detail, with the current understanding that power meter testing will likely remain the standard. The cost of testing is included into the unit cost of the HO1 code. The description of the code is fusion splice and test.

QUESTION 6

HAPO item descriptions indicate a "Pressurized" enclosure. Are these pressurized, and will the contractor be required to pressure test after installation?

ANSWER 6

No. They are not pressurized. Enclosures are gel-sealed as the normal industry standard, and normal industry testing standards will apply.

QUESTION 7

Please provide specifications and data sheets on the enclosures, splicer cartridges, and terminals.

ANSWER 7

This information will be provided to the successful bidder(s) as needed and will come from manufacturers of the materials.

QUESTION 8

Is CVFiber supplying all materials?

ANSWER 8

Yes. If there is ever a shortage of materials, the successful bidders' access to supply chains, if any, could be called upon, but this is not immediately anticipated.

QUESTION 9

Please provide more details on BFOV inner duct installation items. Are these to be laid in a trench or placed in an existing conduit? Are the handholes listed in BHF items to be installed in conjunction with BFOV items?

ANSWER 9

BFOV refers to a new conduit or conduits placed, either trenched or plowed. Vaults and hand holes listed in BHF will be installed in conjunction with BFOV.

QUESTION 10

How will nonvehicle-accessible areas be invoiced?

ANSWER 10

Nonvehicle-accessible areas (defined as more than 50 feet outside the road center) will be invoiced in the same manner as roadside accessible areas.

QUESTION 11

There has been a substantial amount of tough easement work in the initial mileage built, can CVFiber state the percentage of easement in the areas covered by this RFP?

ANSWER 11

The percentage of easement work, or nonvehicle-accessible areas (defined as more than 50 feet outside the road center) in the first three cumulative distribution areas covered by the RUS BOMs attached to this RFP is 36%; however, the percentage of nonvehicle-accessible work for other DAs may differ.

QUESTION 12

- (a) How will traffic control and police details be invoiced?
- (b) The RFP doesn't list any line items for Traffic Control. How is this to be managed and invoiced?
- (c) Will traffic control be a pass-through or does it need to be factored into the unit pricing?

ANSWER 12

- (a) CVFiber and its construction management and right of way experts will arrange for and take on the expense of traffic control and police details in advance as needed; in the event it is determined that additional resources are required, CVFiber will work with the successful bidder to ensure compliant and fair resolution and processes for invoicing.
- (b) CVFiber and its construction management and right of way experts will arrange for and take on the expense of traffic control and police details in advance as needed; in the event it is determined that additional resources are required, CVFiber will work with the successful bidder to ensure compliant and fair resolution and processes for invoicing.
- (c) CVFiber and its construction management and right of way experts will arrange for and take on the expense of traffic control and police details in advance as needed; in the event it is determined that additional resources are required, CVFiber will work with the successful bidder to ensure compliant and fair resolution and processes for invoicing.

QUESTION 13

Please provide the definition of a "Fiber Cable Test Station", Item BM55.

ANSWER 13

Item BM55 refers to a 6' fiber marker post with tracer wire running through the trench in a 1.25" conduit.

QUESTION 14

The quantities provided in the MA-Sub-Totals-1 Excel pricing sheet are significantly less than the 350 miles identified in the RFP. Please explain.

ANSWER 14

As part of this RFP, CVFiber has requested RUS BOM numbers in three limited distribution areas for the purpose of comparison pricing in the distribution areas anticipated to be issued next in time. RUS bids for distribution areas in addition to the three provided here, may be requested as RUS BOMs become available and as licenses become available to start construction.

QUESTION 15

There are no One Touch Make Ready (OTMR) billing items. Please provide OTMR items or indicate for bidder to provide their own format.

ANSWER 15

CVFiber respectfully requests that OTMR bids should be provided in the bidder's own format.

QUESTION 16

Please describe the process that CVFiber will use to issue materials.

ANSWER 16

CVFiber will kit pallets of materials at the warehouse using a JOT form to be managed by its warehouse management.

QUESTION 17

Will the contractor be required to pick up materials at your warehouse?

ANSWER 17

Yes, the contractor will be required to pick up materials at the CVFiber warehouse and fiber yard.

QUESTION 18

What is the location of your warehouse?

ANSWER 18

CVFiber has a secured and managed warehouse just outside of downtown Montpelier. CVFiber also has a secured and managed fiber yard just outside of downtown Montpelier. Additional warehouse or yard spaces in the district may be procured if the needs arise.

QUESTION 19

Will the awarded contractor have to have the ability to complete all OTMR for all communications attachees?

ANSWER 19

Yes, the awarded contractor must have the ability to complete all OTMR for all communications attachees.

QUESTION 20

Will contractors who aren't currently authorized to perform make-ready by some/all of the other attachees still be considered for this project? If so, how will CV Fiber manage and coordinate the OTMR?

ANSWER 20

The successful bidder must be currently authorized to perform make-ready or have a designated and named contractor who is currently authorized to perform make-ready.

QUESTION 21

RFP says that CVFiber may award multiple contractors, is there a minimum amount of work that CVFiber will commit to each awarded contractor?

ANSWER 21

CVFiber intends to only issue a distribution area to a single bidder, which is by default a built-in minimum amount of work, because we do not want multiple contractors working in the same distribution area. The smallest DA in our build is around 20 miles, and some DAs are closer to 50 miles.

QUESTION 22

How many miles are currently licensed and available for the awarded contractor(s) to start work on?

ANSWER 22

CVFiber has 111.5 licensed miles in the next three distribution areas as outlined on the attached RUS BOM, as of the date of these answers. Additional miles are being added as utility make-ready is completed in these distribution areas, and all applications have been submitted for these distribution areas. There are additional licensed miles in other distribution areas.

QUESTION 23

If there are currently no areas immediately ready to start, when does CVFiber anticipate starting the work [and how many miles are initially anticipated]?

ANSWER 23

There are areas ready to start and construction for the proposed areas are anticipated to start in late 2023. The immediate distribution areas reflect approximately 150 miles. There are additional anticipated build areas for which construction start time is to be determined.

QUESTION 24

What town does CVFiber plan to start the awarded contractor(s) in?

ANSWER 24

Subject to change but most possibly Marshfield or immediate areas surrounding Marshfield.

QUESTION 25

Will CVFiber continue to utilize 10M strand for this project?

ANSWER 25

Yes.

QUESTION 26

Will CVFiber continue to require 10K screw anchors?

ANSWER 26

Yes.

QUESTION 27

To date, the project has utilized web-based electronic design, in a non-printable format, that requires all crews to utilize ipads. This has been problematic with limited cell coverage. Will this project continue with the non-printable electronic design or where a printable option be available?

ANSWER 27

CVFiber is open to this and is working on solutions to make construction more efficient, especially understanding that ipads may have limited capacity in very cold weather during the anticipated winter construction season.

QUESTION 28

If electronic-only, non-printable design is continued, will “versions” be utilized to understand when/where changes are made or will all design continue to remain fluid and require real-time updates?

ANSWER 28

CVFiber is open to alternative solutions, such as utilizing “versions.” However, design changes are possible and where design is changed, real-time updates may still be needed.

QUESTION 29

Can the awarded contractor utilize the CV warehouse for an operations base and park trucks and material there?

ANSWER 29

At this time CVFiber does not have additional space to park trucks and materials and would be looking to a contractor to supply a laydown yard if additional parking space or operations base is needed. CVFiber will work with contractor to come up with solutions as needed.

QUESTION 30

If there are lulls in construction, due to permitting or materials issues, will CV Fiber compensate the contractor for warehouse expenses?

ANSWER 30

Yes, if necessary. However, it is anticipated that CVFiber would warehouse materials during any lull or pause.

QUESTION 31

Will CVFiber door tag homes in easement areas to make landowners aware that contractors will be working in the easements?

ANSWER 31

CVFiber will consider this approach specifically for easement areas, recognizing the unique nature of easement areas. At this time, CVFiber plans to send postcards to the area residents to inform them of construction and will provide crews with handouts.

QUESTION 32

The RFP doesn't list any provisions for any required permits? Are these to be provided?

ANSWER 32

CVFiber has obtained or is obtaining all permits; if additional permitting scopes are required, this can be discussed as a scope with successful bidders, but is unlikely, as CVFiber uses its own permitting teams.

QUESTION 33

Is there a breakdown of Specialty crossing? Highway, railroad, and or river crossings.

ANSWER 33

Yes, the build plan details all specialty crossings.

Exhibit 1

