

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Underground Fiber Optic Cable Installation in Wheeler County

Notice to Bidders

Glenwood Telephone Company (GTC) invites proposals for the installation of up to 152.13 miles of underground fiber optic cable in Wheeler County, Georgia. This project is a part of the Wheeler County Broadband Project funded by the Capital Project Funds from the State of Georgia Office of Planning and Budget.

About GTC

Founded in 1898, Glenwood Telephone Company (GTC) is a century-old, third-generation telecom provider, blending Georgia's rich history with modern, community-focused broadband services. Its sole owner, Jim O'Brien, will be coordinating this project.

Project Overview

This project includes the design, excavation, and installation of underground fiber optic cables over a distance of 152.13 miles. GTC will be providing all materials shown in Appendix A.

RFP Schedule

Event	Date
Issuance	January 15, 2024
Last Questions	January 21, 2024 at 11:59pm EST
Proposal Due Date	January 31, 2024 at 5pm EST
Anticipated Award Date	February 5, 2024
Anticipated Start Date	February 19, 2024
Completion of All Construction (Estimated)	May 2025

Obtaining Supporting Documents

Prior to submitting a proposal, Bidders are encouraged to review all requirements and guidelines thoroughly to ensure compliance with the RFP specifications. The Plans, Specifications, and Construction Drawings together with all necessary forms and other documentation may be obtained by submitting the following information to rfp@gtcfiber.com :

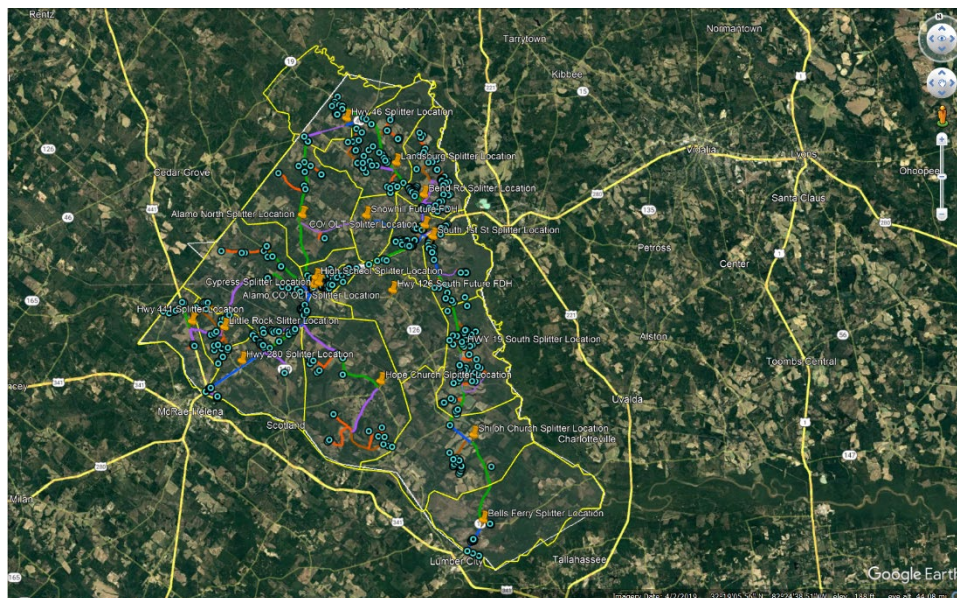
- Company Name:
- Point of Contact:
- Years of experience constructing similar projects

The packet provided by GTC will include the following information:

- ## Scope of Services

Segments & Units

Routes



Instructions to Bidders

1. Bidder Qualifications and Requirements

- Bidders must not be debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded in the System for Award Management (SAM).
- Compliance with the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.) and the Federal Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.) is required.
- Adherence to 31 U.S.C. § 1352 concerning lobbying activities.
- Disclosure of any non-federal lobbying activities in connection with federal awards.
- Compliance with E-Verify requirements (O.C.G.A. § 13-10-90 et seq.).
- Adherence to the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. § 276a to 276a-7).

2. Compliance with U.S. Treasury Rules

- All project activities must comply with U.S. Treasury 2 CFR Part 200 Rules.

3. Project Specifications

- GTC will supply all materials for the project.
- Proposals must include a price sheet based on USDA/RUS Form 515 construction units.
- The project requires 4 plow crews and 2 directional boring crews.

Proposals are required to be submitted electronically by the deadline specified in the Schedule section of this document. Proposals received after this deadline will not be accepted. All costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals are the responsibility of the bidder. Proposals should be submitted exclusively in PDF format; submissions in other formats, such as zip files, will not be accepted.

Submit proposals electronically in a .pdf format to: rfp@gtcfiber.com

Please use the subject line: CFP RFP – FIBER NETWORK CONSTRUCTION

A printed version also must be delivered in print in a sealed envelope to:

22 West Fourth Ave

Glenwood, GA 30428

ATTENTION: Wheeler County CPF Broadband Network

The printed copy shall have the Proposer's Name, Address and Telephone Number clearly written on the outside of the sealed envelope.

Proposals should be concise and must include:

Cover Page

Provide a cover page clearly identifying the RFP, Bidders Name and Primary Point of Contact.

Executive Summary

Include a brief overview of the company, a similar project of scope and scale the company has completed, qualifications of the bidder, and a proposed start date. Also include an estimated cost of the project.

Company Overview

Provide the following information about your company:

- Official registered name, address, website, and relevant contact numbers.
- Name, phone number, and e-mail addresses of any key contacts
- Brief history of your company, including year established and number of years performing related work.

Qualifications

Include a description of qualifications and capabilities. Provide an overview of key people who will be involved in this project, including relevant qualifications and experience.

Relevant Work Experience and References

Provide three to five examples of projects similar in scope and scale completed by the Bidder, especially related to similar work for electric cooperatives. Provide a brief description including completion date, type and scope of project, and contact person with telephone number for reference.

Work Plan

Provide a description of the approach proposed to accomplish the objectives outlined in the Scope of Services. Include a summary of the steps to be completed. Please remember GTC will be providing all necessary construction materials (Appendix A) including fiber warning tape. GTC will also be providing all necessary permits.

Provide responses to the following:

- 1) Provide per unit pricing and other associated costs with the Wheeler County Broadband Project to GTC. (See Appendix B – Per Unit Pricing)
- 2) Provide an estimated cost to complete the project and a “not-to-exceed” cost. Indicate total cost by PON area. (See Appendix A – Unit List)
- 3) Provide a detailed schedule indicating estimated timelines for build-out.

OSP Construction Underground Path Creation

Conduit Placement – Horizontal Directional Drilling (min 36" cover)

Pricing shall include all costs incurred for potholes and restoration per the requirements listed in the Georgia DoT Utility Accommodation Policy and Standards. Mule tape shall be installed in each new conduit for future fiber installations. Can blow or pull through.

Trenching (min 36" cover)

Respondents should assume the use of standard trenching practices for a portion of the project. Pricing shall include all costs incurred for potholes and restoration per the requirements listed in the Georgia DoT Utility Accommodation Policy and Standards. Fiber caution tape to be placed at 2' above the conduit when trenching.

Plowing (min 36" cover)

Respondents should assume the use of standard plowing practices for a portion of the project. Pricing shall include all costs incurred for potholes and restoration per the requirements listed in the Georgia DoT Utility Accommodation Policy and Standards. Fiber caution tape to be placed at 2' above the conduit when trenching.

Grounding

GTC will require grounding at each splice point, as well as start and end points. 8' ground rods w/ 2 AWG with acorn nuts.

Splicing

GTC will be providing splicing services including OTDR testing, strand testing, power meter testing and port testing.

Drops & Installation

GTC will be handling drops and installation.

Questions

Submit all questions via email to Jim O'Brien at jobrien@gtcfiber.com. Questions sent to any other email address regarding this RFP will not be answered.

Evaluation of Proposals

The assessment of proposals will focus on their responsiveness and thoroughness. GTC reserves the right to disqualify proposals that (a) fail to adhere to the specified norms, (b) do not meet the established minimum criteria, (c) are not financially competitive compared to other submissions, or (d) are from bidders lacking suitable qualifications. It is crucial to ensure that your proposal includes all necessary information, as GTC is not obliged to point out any missing elements, request clarifications, or

solicit additional details. Omitting the information as specified in this document may lead to the proposal being excluded from consideration.

Evaluation Criteria

GTC will evaluate proposals based on the merit of the criteria listed below. GTC reserves the right to make an award for reasons other than the lowest price offered.

1. ****Cost Proposal (30 Points)****

- Evaluation of the affordability and cost-effectiveness of the bid.
- Assessment of the value for money relative to the project budget.

2. ****Experience and Past Performance (25 Points)****

- Analysis of the bidder's experience in similar projects.
- Review of the quality and success of past projects based on references.
- Evaluation of expertise in handling projects of similar scale and complexity.

3. ****Project Approach and Methodology (20 Points)****

- Assessment of the clarity, feasibility, and effectiveness of the proposed plan.
- Evaluation of the innovativeness and effectiveness of the approach.
- Understanding of project scope and requirements.

4. ****Completeness of Proposal (15 Points)****

- Examination of how thoroughly the proposal addresses all aspects of the RFP.
- Assessment of the inclusion of all required documentation and detailed information on compliance.
- Evaluation of the clarity and detail in the description of services, timelines, and deliverables.

5. ****Local Business Engagement (5 Points)****

- Preference for bidders who are based locally or engage local subcontractors.
- Consideration of the proposal's contribution to the local economy and employment.

6. ****Prior Relationship with GTC (5 Points)****

- Historical context of any successful partnerships or projects with GTC.
- Assessment of demonstrated reliability and mutual understanding from past collaborations.

****Total: 100 Points****

Additional Information

GTC reserves the right to request additional information from a Bidder to obtain clarification concerning the submitted proposal.

Ownership

All materials submitted in response to this Request for Proposal (RFP) will be considered the property of Glenwood Telephone Company (GTC), irrespective of whether the proposal is selected or rejected. GTC reserves all rights to retain the copyright of any materials produced under a contract or any subcontract resulting from this RFP. Furthermore, all documents, data, and other forms of information generated through this contract will be owned by GTC and must be submitted to GTC as directed by a designated GTC representative. The disclosure of any information related to the contract to third parties by the bidder, during the contract period, is prohibited unless explicitly allowed under the terms of the contract or authorized in writing by the GTC representative.

Proposal Selection

GTC retains the authority to decline any or all proposals, or specific parts thereof. GTC may also issue updates to this RFP at any time. There is no commitment from GTC to procure a minimum or maximum quantity of products/services; and GTC reserves the right to grant contracts based on its internal business requirements and policies, rather than solely on the basis of the lowest bid. GTC may decide to finalize an award without further discussion of the proposals received, and a procedure for submitting a best and final offer may not be conducted. GTC may engage in interviews and negotiations with one or several bidders. Each initial proposal should present the bidder's most favorable terms in terms of cost, price, service, timing, and technical capabilities.

GTC has the discretion to consult references to assess a bidder's past performance, financial capabilities, reputation, efficiency, and other relevant factors. By submitting a proposal, bidders agree to GTC's inquiries and authorize third parties to provide necessary information in response.

GTC may choose to enter into contract negotiations with one or more bidders. This includes negotiating over costs/prices, terms, conditions, and modifications to RFP requirements. The decision to engage in such negotiations is solely GTC's prerogative. Bidders hold no entitlements against GTC arising from these negotiations.

The selection of a bidder for providing products and/or services to GTC does not imply an endorsement or assertion that the bidder's offerings are superior or exclusive. The selected bidder is prohibited from using GTC's name in promotional materials, literature, brochures, sales presentations, or similar content without GTC's explicit written consent.

This RFP is not an obligation for GTC to award any contract.

Minor Irregularities

GTC holds the discretion to overlook minor irregularities or errors in any proposal if it is determined that these were made unintentionally. Should GTC choose to waive such irregularities or errors, they must be rectified in the respective proposal before GTC can formally accept it.

Compliance with Federal, State and Local Laws

In submitting a proposal and in fulfilling any awarded contract from this proposal, the bidder guarantees adherence to all relevant federal, state, and local laws, as well as compliance with any legal ordinances, orders, rules, and regulations associated with the proposal and its execution.

Limitation of Liability

GTC does not assert that the information provided herein is accurate, complete, or current, nor does it guarantee that this information accurately reflects the conditions that may be encountered in undertaking the work or at the project sites, either presently or in the future. The provision of such information by GTC is not intended to, and shall not be construed to, create any obligation or liability on its part. Each bidder, by submitting a proposal, acknowledges that it has not relied on the aforementioned information and agrees not to hold GTC accountable for any related issues. Therefore, no content in this document or any representations, statements, or promises made by GTC's directors, officers, agents, representatives, or employees, whether verbal or written, will negate or reduce the effect of the bidder's warranties as required by this RFP. Bidders agree not to hold GTC responsible in any capacity based on such information or representations.

Confidentiality

Sections of the proposal that contain sensitive or proprietary data must be distinctly labeled as "Proprietary and Confidential." GTC retains the authority to disclose such information to its agents or contractors as part of the proposal evaluation process. GTC will not bear responsibility for any harm arising from the revelation of any information deemed confidential by the bidder, either during or following the RFP procedure.

GTC Confidential Information

Confidential Information, as defined in this context, encompasses specifications, drawings, models, samples, tools, computer programs, trade secrets, confidential research, development or commercial data, intellectual property, patents, and other technical or business information. Such information shall not be deemed confidential if it (a) is already publicly available before the agreement's commencement, (b) becomes publicly known during the agreement's term without the bidder's fault, (c) was already in the bidder's possession prior to receiving the Confidential Information, as proven by contemporaneous records, or (d) is independently developed by the bidder without using the Confidential Information.

The bidder is obligated to (a) maintain the confidentiality of all received Confidential Information, (b) disclose the Confidential Information solely to its employees or fully owned subsidiaries who are aware of and agree to this agreement's confidentiality obligations, and who require the Confidential Information for submitting proposals to GTC for providing materials, software, documentation, or services; and (c) refrain from copying, reproducing, distributing, storing in electronic systems, or otherwise disseminating the Confidential Information. All Confidential Information, regardless of its format, provided to the bidder in connection with this agreement, remains GTC's property. Upon GTC's request, all tangible forms of such information must be either returned or permanently destroyed.

The bidder's responsibilities regarding the Confidential Information will outlast the termination of this agreement and persist for five years from the date of receipt of this agreement.

GTC Proprietary Information

This Request for Proposal (RFP), along with all associated information, is owned by GTC. It is provided exclusively to enable prospective bidders to develop and submit their proposals in response to it.

Due Diligence

Before submitting their proposal, it is imperative for bidders to thoroughly inspect the project locations, plans, specifications, construction drawings, and related contracts. Bidders are expected to meticulously evaluate the project route, soil types and terrain features, and the necessary facilities needed both prior to and throughout the construction phase.