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County of Orange
Department of Purchasing & Central Services
Pamela K. Jones, Director

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The County of Orange proposes to purchase the following:

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT - CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS
NETWORKS DESIGN SERVICES**

Pursuant to the General Statutes of North Carolina, Chapter 143 as amended, Orange County will receive sealed proposals until 5:00 P.M. January 31, 2001, in the office of the Director of Purchasing, 132 East King Street, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278.

Specifications are available at the above address Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. or, by phoning 245-2651.

The Orange County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and or all bids and to accept the lowest and best bid and to waive minor irregularities.

PAMELA K. JONES
DIRECTOR OF PURCHASING

RFP #5071 for Needs Assessment Consolidated Communications Networks Design Services

Dear Sirs:

Orange County requests your proposal for a Needs Assessment and Consolidated Public Safety Communication Networks Design for Orange County.

PURPOSE Consolidated Public Safety Communication Networks Design. Interested Firms or subcontractors must not be vendors for any Hardware, Software, or Equipment Suppliers or Providers. The work will include an analysis of the existing radio systems, equipment, facilities and computer technology. It will also include a needs assessment study, recommendation for radio, computer system upgrades and expansion, facilities improvement and staffing analysis. The recommendations will consider the required networking between the central communications center and the jurisdiction served including, Hillsborough, Chapel Hill, Carrboro and the University of North Carolina.

Orange County is soliciting proposals for Professional Engineering Consultants with experience in a county communication center and networking the jurisdictions served. Recommendations should include cost estimates, alternatives for upgrades and a methodology for implementation of changes.

BACKGROUND

Orange County is in the process of updating the Central Communication System for countywide Public Safety. This system serves Fire Services, Rescue Services, Law Enforcement Services, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management Services for the County, Hillsborough, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, The University Of North Carolina, and other support services. To better meet the increasing growth and demands, the County is interested in a Communications Plan that addresses the present need for improvements and a ten year (10) projected growth strategy with budget estimates. The county center operates several repeated radio systems in the high and very high frequencies that do not interface. The county has five (5) telephone exchanges and several cell sites.

SCOPE OF WORK

PHASE 1

- 1) Evaluate present Communication System, Facilities and Technology for growth, dependability, and adaptability in providing service without failure or overload in the future.
- 2) Interview selected Public Safety Agencies to determine their perception and future growth considerations. Below is a list of agencies that will be interviewed by the successful respondent. It is anticipated each of these eight "groups" would be interviewed together.
 - a) Orange County Sheriff
 - b) Orange County Emergency Management (communications, county fire, ems)
 - c) Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough, UNC campus, Hospital Police
 - d) Chapel Hill, Carrboro fire dept.
 - e) Orange County, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough., Public Works
 - f) OWASA
 - g) Orange County, Chapel Hill Schools
 - h) Orange County, Chapel Hill Information Systems
- 3) Evaluate the existing system including the Frequencies, Relays, Towers, Transmitters, Mobiles, Walkies, Pagers, Consoles, Computers and all other systems components upgrades for continued future use and alternative uses in other county services.
- 4) Evaluate the street addressing, mapping, GIS, and other support task for communications. A copy of the County's GIS and IT Plans are included and must be considered by the successful firm as they conduct the study. These files are posted at: <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/IT/>
- 5) Develop a set of short-term recommendations, if any, to make improvement to existing systems.

PHASE 2

1. Develop a recommendation for a state of art Communication System to meet the needs of the Public Safety and Support Agencies including a Cost Analysis. The recommendation will address the system design, including radio, computer, mobile data, video, avl, between the communication center and all mobiles and facilities as well as budget figures. And assist in the bidding process by providing competitive bid specifications and expertise in the evaluation process of bids received

DELIVERABLES

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PHASE 1

Successful respondent will supply to Orange County a comprehensive written report in triplicate that clearly addresses all the issues outlined in Phase 1 above. The successful respondent will also make presentations of their results to two (2) yet to be determined groups.

PHASE 2

Successful respondent will supply to Orange County a comprehensive written report in triplicate that clearly addresses all the issues outlined in Phase 2 above. The successful respondent will also make presentations of their results to two (2) yet to be determined groups. Also the successful respondent will supply detailed specifications.

SUBMITTAL

CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS

The Consulting Firm must have the expertise in-house or through third parties to provide the services required by the scope of work including engineering, design and technology. The Firm must have been in business for at least ten (10) years and must have completed at least one (1) similar project in North Carolina. The Firm(s) must not be affiliated with, or represent any manufacturer, supplier or vendor of any service or product required by this project. The Firm must have a project manager to serve as the point of contact, coordinator and the liaison between the County and the Firm and any subcontractors. The Firm must have an Office in North Carolina within a reasonable travel time.

RFP FORMAT:

Please submit three (3) copies of your proposal. The proposals submitted for services must adhere to the following format:

Section 1 similar projects completed by your firm within the last three (3) calendar years with a brief description of the work done with a current contact person and telephone number for each.

Section 2 names and qualifications of staff members who will work on the project as well as any and all subcontractors.

Section 3 Lump sum cost to perform work, by phase. (please provide breakdown of hours & hourly rates)

Section 4 projected start time based on current workload and timeline for completion by Phase

Section 5. payment schedule

Proposals shall be received no later than 5:00 p.m., January 31, 2001. Proposals received after that time cannot be considered. Please submit five copies of your proposal to the Orange County Purchasing Agent, 132 East King Street, PO Box 8181, Hillsborough, NC 27278.

Orange County reserves the right to employ a multi-jurisdictional team concept in the award of this RFP and reserves the right to interview any and all