FCC Networx MTIPS Q&As

RFP Document (e.g. Section or Appendix)	Paragraph Reference	Page Number	Vendor Questions	FCC Answers
2.2.2	Service Requirements for FCC-DC	4	What is the aggregate MTIPS bandwidth the FCC is planning on for the DC and Gettysburg locations?	DC - 307 Mbps (2xOC-3+6xT1). Gettysburg - 86 Mbps (2xT3).
2.2.2	Service Requirements for FCC-DC	4	The RFQ calls for two full rate OC3c PoS circuits. Are the two OC3c circuits going to be operating in an active/active state and passing traffic?	Yes.
2.2.2	Service Requirements for FCC-DC	4	The RFQ calls for two full rate OC3c PoS circuits. FCC is asking for 1 routine and 1 critical MTIPS port in addition to Access Route and Path Diversity, however, is FCC asking for Access Route and Path Diversity between the routine and critical circuits?	Yes. If a vendor's implementation of Critical service includes two access links with Access Route and Path Diversity, the Routine circuit must only be diverse from one of the two Critical circuits.
2.2.2.1	Service Delivery Point (SDP) for FCC-DC	4	The RFQ states: "The provider will be responsible for extending the circuits from the demarcation point to the FCC computer room three (3) floors above." Will the FCC amend the solicitation to provide the approximate distance (in feet) from the demarcation point to the extended demarcation point?	Site visits have been scheduled to allow vendors to inspect the facilities. Refer to the ***"Site Visit Schedule"*** tab for detailed information.
2.2.2.1	Service Delivery Point (SDP) for FCC-DC	4	Who owns the risers in the building between the 1st floor room 1C-432 and the FCC computer room?	Room 1C-432 is the FCC computer room. The risers are owned by the landlord, Republic Properties.
2.2.2.2	UNI Requirements for FCC-DC	5	Interface type and connector type not specified for the connection to the agency-facing UNI. Should these interfaces be electrical or optical? If optical, are SC, LC, or FC connectors preferred? Should these be multi-mode or single mode handoffs?	Agency-facing UNIs should be electrical, 10BASE-T, 100BASE-T or 1000BASE-T as appropriate.

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2.2.2.4	Diversity Requirements for FCC-DC	5	The RFQ states: "Diverse SONET rings and building entry points currently exist." Will the FCC amend the RFQ to provide further detail about the diverse SONET rings the FCC has indicated as currently available (Street Address and NPA/NXX) to allow offerors to optimize their engineering solution?	Premises Street Address and NPA/NXX have been provided. The SWC CLLI codes are believed to be: WASHDCSW and WASHDCDT This information has not been verified with the LEC. (Verizon).
2.2.2.4	Diversity Requirements for FCC-DC	5	The RFQ states: "One POP shall be within the Washington, DC Metropolitan area and one outside the Metropolitan area." Will the FCC amend the solicitation to quantify (in terms of distance from the FCC-DC location) how far outside the Washington DC Metropolitan area the diverse POP needs to be?	A diverse POP located outside the Capital Beltway (I-495) will meet this requirement.
2.2.2.4	Diversity Requirements for FCC-DC	5	The FCC has requested the second POP to be outside the DC metropolitan area. Because there are numerous definitions for this designation, vendors need to know which one should be used. Will the FCC please provide which measurement it requires for the DC metropolitan area?	A diverse POP located outside the Capital Beltway (I-495) will meet this requirement.
2.2.2.4	Diversity Requirements for FCC-DC	5	The GSA defines Critical service as requiring dual access circuits with dual ports that are configured as active/standby. Please confirm that the FCC agrees with this definition. Is it the FCC's intent to purchase one (1) critical OC-3 service (2 OC-3 access circuits and ports) and one (1) routine OC-3 service (1 OC-3 access circuit and port)?	It is the FCC's understanding from the GSA Networx Enterprise SOW that Critical and Routine services are differentiated by Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and the method by which the KPIs will be met is not specified. It is the FCC's intent to purchase one (1) critical OC-3 service and one (1) routine OC-3 service. The method by which the vendor implements Critical service shall conform to the GSA Networx Enterprise SOW and any subsequent modifications.
2.2.2.4	Diversity Requirements for FCC-DC	5	In section 2.2.2.4 the RFQ indicates that the FCC requires one circuit as routine and one as critical. In table 8 the RFQ also includes CLINs for access or route diversity. Would the FCC please clarify the intent of providing both critical and diversity CLINs for a single solution?	The RFQ is written this way to ensure diversity because Critical service does not in itself guarantee diversity but only conformance to specified Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). For example, refer to GSA Networx Enterprise SOW section B.1.3.1.5, "**If** the contractor's solution for an IPS Critical Service Level requirement employs two access links..." [emphasis added]. In the case where a vendor's solution for Critical service includes the diversity required by the diversity CLINs, the FCC will consider the diversity requirement as having been met.

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2.2.2.5	Equipment Requirements for FCC-DC	5	The RFQ states: "Equipment located at FCC premises shall not be managed by the vendor except where required by the MTIPS CLINs." Because MTIPS is a Managed Service and SEDs are required to enable the MTIPS service to the customer premise, management of the SEDs is crucial to providing quality management and service recovery capabilities to the FCC. Typically, MTIPS is not ordered by our customers without CLINs for MNS. If desired the FCC may request "Read Only" access to the SEDs to ensure vendor compliance to FCC policies. In order for vendors to be able to meet the aforementioned MTIPS requirements (including ability to manage to SLAs and KPIs), will the FCC permit the carriers to manage the proposed SEDs, and amend the SOW to allow for SED management (add MNS CLINs)?	As stated, vendors can manage customer premise equipment as required by the MTIPS CLINs (e.g., encrypted DMZ). FCC prefers to manage equipment where possible. The GSA SOW for MTIPS service does not mention the need for MNS with MTIPS and it would appear to be superfluous since MTIPS is a Managed Service.
2.2.2.6.1 & 2.3.2.7	External Network Connection for FCC-DC and FCC-GB	5 & 8	Equipment requirements at the external, non government sites. Is the equipment at the external, non government sites air gapped and dedicated for the FCC?	IT equipment at external, non government sites is not air gapped and dedicated for the FCC. This is the reason these connections are specified as MTIPS external connections rather than other types of connectivity such as PLS or Internet VPN. FCC expects vendors to propose whatever equipment and services are necessary to connect the external sites to the vendor's TIC portals in order to implement the MTIPS External Network Connection feature.
2.2.2.6.1 & 2.3.2.7	External Network Connection for FCC-DC and FCC-GB	5 & 8	Equipment requirements at the external, non government sites. Will the data need to be re-encrypted after being inspected by the MTIPS/TIC Portal?	Yes. This is the reason the Encrypted DMZ feature is required.
2.2.2.6.1 & 2.3.2.7	External Network Connection for FCC-DC and FCC-GB	5 & 8	Regarding external, non government sites. Are the Business Partner VPNs site to site VPNs (i.e., each site will only have one tunnel per location)?	The Business Partner VPNs are site to site VPNs, although strictly speaking there may be more than one tunnel (e.g., IPSec Security Association) per location.
2.2.2.6.1 & 2.3.2.7	External Network Connection for FCC-DC and FCC-GB	5 & 8	Regarding external, non government sites. If encryption is being used over the VPNs, is the encryption being used IPSEC or SSL? Will the government please provide a breakdown by site?	All existing Business Partner VPNs are IPSec. The existing VPN connections will be replaced by the MTIPS External Connection feature.
2.2.2.6.2	Feature 8 – Encrypted DMZ for FCC-DC	6	Will FCC consider an alternative implementation approach of placing a Premise Based Firewall and Managed Internet Screening Router at the premise location in lieu of purchasing the MTIPS Optional Feature #8, Encrypted DMZ? Please note that the Encrypted DMZ option can add additional monthly recurring charges to the service.	No. FCC specifically requires the DMZ to be encrypted.

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2.2.2.6.2	Feature 8 – Encrypted DMZ for FCC-DC	6	Will FCC consider an alternative implementation approach of placing a Premise Based Firewall and Managed Internet Screening Router at the premise location in lieu of purchasing the MTIPS Optional Feature #8, Encrypted DMZ? Please note that the Encrypted DMZ option can add additional monthly recurring charges to the service.	No. FCC specifically requires the DMZ to be encrypted.
2.2.2.7	Table - OC-3 Service CLINs for FCC-DC	6	The RFQ includes the OC-3 Service CLINs table indicating the CLINs required to engineer the desired FCC solution. Will FCC amend the solicitation to permit Vendors to propose alternate CLINs that do not affect the requested RFQ solution design for the FCC-DC, FCC-DC ISAS, and FCC-GB locations? For example, the CLIN 749507 is indicated for MTIPS Encrypted DMZ and is an ICB CLIN, but this vendor would like to use CLIN 749607 which is a MTIPS Encrypted DMZ fixed (Non-ICB) CLIN.	Alternate CLINs shall not be proposed. The FCC is not aware of any obstacle to a vendor pricing an ICB CLIN the same as a fixed-price CLIN.
2.2.2.7	Table - OC-3 Service CLINs for FCC-DC	6	The table in Section 2.2.2.7 indicates there are 7 MTIPS External Network Connections (CLIN# 749506) in the OC-3 Service CLINs table. Will the FCC amend the RFQ to clarify if all 7 MTIPS External Network Connections are to be available to both OC-3 connections or are they to be split between the connections (i.e. Circuit #1 (Critical) will require connectivity to 4 of the 7 and Circuit #2 (Routine) will require the remaining 3 external VPN connections)?	All 7 MTIPS External Network Connections should be available to both OC-3's.
2.2.3.4	Equipment Requirements - FCC-DC ISAS	7	The RFQ states: "Equipment located at FCC premises shall not be managed by the vendor except where required by the MTIPS CLINs." Because MTIPS is a Managed Service and SEDs are required to enable the MTIPS service to the customer premise, management of the SEDs is crucial to providing quality management and service recovery capabilities to the FCC. Typically, MTIPS is not ordered by our customers without CLINS for MNS. If desired the FCC may request "Read Only" access to the SEDs to ensure vendor compliance to FCC policies. In order for vendors to be able to meet the aforementioned requirements of MTIPS (including ability to manage to SLAs and KPIs), will the FCC amend the RFQ to permit SED management (add MNS CLINs)?	As stated, vendors can manage customer premise equipment as required by the MTIPS CLINs (e.g., encrypted DMZ). FCC prefers to manage equipment where possible. The GSA SOW for MTIPS service does not mention the need for MNS with MTIPS and it would appear to be superfluous since MTIPS is a Managed Service.
2.2.3.5	FT3 Service CLINs for FCC-DC ISAS	7	The FT3 Service CLINs table does not include an Encrypted DMZ (eDMZ) CLIN as indicated elsewhere in the RFQ. Will the FCC amend the RFQ to confirm that an eDMZ solution is to be proposed for the FCC-DC ISAS solution as well (or that it is NOT to be included in the FCC-DC ISAS solution)?	Encrypted DMZ is not required for the DC ISAS solution and was intentionally omitted.
2.3.2.4	Diversity Requirements for FCC-GB	8	The RFQ states: "Fiber connections to diverse SWC's currently exist." Will the FCC amend the RFQ to provide further detail about the diverse fiber connections to diverse SWCs the FCC has indicated are currently available (Street Address and NPA/NXX) to allow us to optimize our engineering solution?	Premises Street Address and NPA/NXX have been provided. The SWC CLLI codes are believed to be: GTBGPAXG and FRFDPAXF This information has not been verified with the LEC (CenturyLink).

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2.3.2.4	Diversity Requirements for FCC-GB	8	The GSA defines Critical service as requiring dual access circuits with dual ports that are configured as active/standby. Please confirm that the FCC agrees with this definition. Is it the FCC's intent to purchase one (1) critical DS-3 service (2 DS-3 access circuits and ports) and one (1) routine DS-3 service (1 DS-3 access circuit and port)?	It is the FCC's understanding from the GSA Networx Enterprise SOW that Critical and Routine services are differentiated by Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and the method by which the KPIs will be met is not specified. It is the FCC's intent to purchase one (1) critical DS-3 service and one (1) routine DS-3 service. The method by which the vendor implements Critical service shall conform to the GSA Networx Enterprise SOW and any subsequent modifications.
2.3.2.6	Equipment Requirements for FCC-GB	8	The RFQ states: "Equipment located at FCC premises shall not be managed by the vendor except where required by the MTIPS CLINs." Because MTIPS is a Managed Service and SEDs are required to enable the MTIPS service to the customer premise, management of the SEDs is crucial to providing quality management and service recovery capabilities to the FCC. Typically, MTIPS is not ordered by our customers without CLINS for MNS. If desired the FCC may request "Read Only" access to the SEDs to ensure vendor compliance to FCC policies. In order for vendors to be able to meet the aforementioned requirements of MTIPS (including ability to manage to SLAs and KPIs), will the FCC permit vendors to manage the proposed SEDs and amend the RFQ to facilitate SED management (add MNS CLINs)?	As stated, vendors can manage customer premise equipment as required by the MTIPS CLINs (e.g., encrypted DMZ). FCC prefers to manage equipment where possible. The GSA SOW for MTIPS service does not mention the need for MNS with MTIPS and it would appear to be superfluous since MTIPS is a Managed Service.
2.3.2.7.2	Feature 8 – Encrypted DMZ for FCC-GB	9	Will FCC consider an alternative implementation approach of placing a Premise Based Firewall and Managed Internet Screening Router at the premise location in lieu of purchasing the MTIPS Optional Feature #8, Encrypted DMZ? Please note that the Encrypted DMZ option can add additional monthly recurring charges to the service.	No. FCC specifically requires the DMZ to be encrypted.
2.3.2.8	FT3 Service CLINs for FCC-GB	9	The FT3 Service CLIN table in Section 2.3.2.8 identifies the CLINs required to engineer the FCC desired solution. Will the FCC amend the RFQ to clarify if Vendors are permitted to propose alternate CLINs that do not affect the requested RFQ solution design for the FCC-DC, FCC-DC ISAS, and FCC-GB locations? For example, the CLIN 749507 is indicated for MTIPS Encrypted DMZ and is an ICB CLIN, but this vendor would like to use CLIN 749607 which is a MTIPS Encrypted DMZ fixed (Non-ICB) CLIN.	Alternate CLINs shall not be proposed. The FCC is not aware of any obstacle to a vendor pricing an ICB CLIN the same as a fixed-price CLIN.
2.3.2.8	FT3 Service CLINs for FCC-GB	9	The FT3 Service CLINs table also does not indicate the availability of a Site Survey CLIN for the FCC-GB location, Due to the complexity of implementing diverse access for (2) circuits on of which has a "Critical" service level priority, will the FCC amend the RFQ to include a Site Survey CLIN for the FCC-GB location?	GSA has advised FCC that a site visit, as distinguished from a site survey, should be sufficient. A site has been scheduled to allow vendors to inspect the facility. Refer to the ***"Site Visit Schedule"*** tab for detailed information. As stated in RFQ section 2.3.2.5, premise wiring at the Gettysburg facility will be provided by FCC.

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8	Bid Model/Pricing Table	12	The number of MTIPS external connections listed under the 2xOC3 DC site is seven, however, there are only six T1s listed under the 1xFT3 DC site. Does the FCC intend the number of external MTIPS connections to be six?	The MTIPS external connections have no relationship to the DC FT3 connection. The DC 2xOC3 service is to have seven MTIPS external connections. The DC FT3 service is to have no MTIPS external connections. FCC's understanding is that MTIPS external connections are between the external sites and the TIC portals as shown in Figure C.2.4.1.5-1 of the GSA MTIPS SOW, "Networx MTIPS Notional Architecture". Please see also Appendix B of the RFQ.
9	Instructions to Offerors	14	This vendor respectfully requests that the FCC revise the due date for proposals for WAN services to reflect a due date that is equal to four weeks following the FCC's posting of answers to vendor questions. This request is due to the following considerations: - the short timeframe between the due date for vendor questions (09/12/11), the FCC's intended response to vendor questions (09/13/11) and the FCC's specified due date for proposals (09/19/11), - that FCC has released three separate SOWs simultaneously each requiring significant design and pricing on the part of vendors - that the FCC has requested complex CLINs and services that are Individual Case Basis (ICB) items. ICB items require additional time for custom solution and pricing development. This will allow vendors sufficient time to develop the most cost effective and technically compliant WAN solution for the FCC.	CPC issue. This is a reasonable request. Suggest a new due date of 10/17/11.
9 and Appendix F	Instructions to Offerors and FCC Cover Pages	14, 21 and 22	Section 9 of the RFP states that "All quotes shall indicate an acceptance period of no-less-than 45 days from the due date for submission." However, the Cover Pages in Appendix D specify an Offer Acceptance Period of no less than 90 days from due date of quote. Please clarify which statement is correct. Will the Government clarify whether the Contractor should include DNRC or DMRC charges in its proposed pricing solution?	Yes, vendors can add or alter the Bid Model/Pricing Table to included out years for the remainder of the Networx contract.
10.2.2	Evaluation Factor 2: Price	16	The cost quote should include the SEDs purchase charge, lease charge/Device Monthly Recurring Charge (DMRC), and maintenance charge/Maintenance Monthly Recurring Charge (MMRC) options for this equipment. However, the NRC/MRC Table does not include the upfront purchasing charge (DNRC), but does include the monthly leasing charge (DMRC).	DMRC is not required. Section 10.2.2 should reference DNRC rather than DMRC.

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10.2.2	Evaluation Factor 2: Price	16	Premises wiring is required for connection to SDP. Will the Government please add site survey CLINs to the RFQ for the locations where they are needed? Is the premise wiring level of effort (e.g., number of feet required) known, and will the Government please include the information in the RFQ for the locations where it is needed?	Site visits have been scheduled to allow vendors to inspect the facilities. Refer to the ***"Site Visit Schedule"*** tab for detailed information.
Appendix C & D	List of Business Partners	19	Appendix C - Business Partners (FCC-DC) Appendix D - Business Partners (FCC-GB) Internet VPN specific speeds are not provided. Will the Government clarify the required speeds for Internet VPN service for the Business Partners in Washington, DC and Gettysburg, PA locations?	USAC, Baseline Wireless and SMS 800 shall be 1-2 Mbps. Terremark from both DC and Gettysburg shall be 40-45 Mbps. Any speed within these ranges is acceptable.
2.2.2.4 and 2.3.2.4	Diversity Requirements for FCC-DC	5 & 8	Will the FCC provide the CLLI codes and addresses for the primary and secondary serving wire centers for both the Washington, DC and Gettysburg, PA locations?	The SWC CLLI codes are believed to be: DC: WASHDCSW and WASHDCDT Gettysburg: GTBGPAXG and FRFDPAXF This information has not been verified with the LECs (Verizon and CenturyLink, respectively).

FCC Site Visit Schedule

Location (Detail Name)	Location (Short Name)	Date	Time
FCC National Call Center 1270 Fairfield Road Gettysburg, PA 17325	FCC-GB	9/28/2011	10:00 AM
FCC/Office of Engineering Technology (OET) Lab 7435 Oakland Mills Road Columbia, MD 21046	OET LAB	9/29/2011	10:00 AM
FCC/High Frequency Direction Finding Facility 9200 Farm House Lane Columbia, MD 21046	HFDF	9/29/2011	11:00 AM
FCC Warehouse 9300 East Hampton Drive Capitol Heights, MD 20743	Warehouse	9/30/2011	9:00 AM
FCC Headquarters 445 12 Street, SW Washington, DC 20554	FCC-HQ	9/30/2011	11:00 AM