

South Utah Valley Electric Service
District (SESD)

Request for Proposals to Partner with
SESD to Install, Operate, and Maintain
West Mountain Broadband System

July 2024

Due Date: July 26, 2024

By: 5:00 p.m.

To Be Received By:

Mark Holdaway (mark@sesdofutah.org)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

ISSUING OFFICE

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by:

**South Utah Valley Electric Service District
803 N 500 E
Payson, UT 84651**

Point of contact for this RFP will be:

**Mark Holdaway
South Utah Valley Electric Service District
803 N 500 E
Payson, UT 84651**

mark@sesdofutah.org

INTRODUCTION

South Utah Valley Electric Service District (“SESD”) is an electric improvement district providing electricity to residents, agricultural producers, businesses, and municipalities in south Utah County. SESD is soliciting proposals from vendors experienced in providing fiber and/or broadband services to partner with SESD to install, operate, and maintain a fiber network in the West Mountain and Lake Shore areas of south Utah County. These areas have been determined by state and federal agencies as “underserved” for internet and broadband service. SESD has, therefore, received a \$5.9 million grant from the Utah Broadband Center to support building a fiber network to these areas. The grant requires a 25% match of entity resources such as cash, materials, like-kind services, etc. The grant also requires filing reports with federal and state agencies. The project must be completed by December 26, 2026.

SESD is hereby contacting prospective vendors who have an interest or are known to also do business relevant to this RFP.

OBJECTIVE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The objective of this RFP is to provide sufficient information to enable qualified Respondents to submit written proposals. The RFP is not a contractual offer or commitment to purchase products or services. All information must be legible. The

contents of the proposal submitted by the successful Respondent of the RFP may become part of any contract awarded as a result of this solicitation.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

Respondents are requested to submit one (1) email copy of the proposal in PDF format. The proposals must be received no later than the date and time shown on the cover of this RFP. Responses should be sent to:

mark@sesdofutah.org

Any proposals received after the deadline will not be opened. All proposals become the property of SESD. The content of all proposals will be kept confidential.

Proposals may be withdrawn or modified in writing prior to the proposal submission deadline. Proposals that are resubmitted or modified shall be re-submitted via email to Mark Holdaway prior to the proposal submission deadline.

AWARD OF PARTNERSHIP

Award of the partnership may be negotiated with vendor(s) whose proposal is determined to be most responsive and advantageous to SESD's needs, considering all factors based on the criteria described herein, all as solely determined by SESD. Award of sale may be made without discussion after proposals are received. Proposals should, therefore, be submitted initially on the most favorable terms. SESD reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

ADDENDA TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, an addendum will be provided to all Respondents who have indicated intent to respond.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The Request for Proposal (RFP) contains the instructions governing the proposals to be submitted and the material to be included therein, mandatory requirements which must be met to be eligible for consideration.

All communication regarding this Request for Proposal, including requests for clarification or additional information regarding submission shall be directed in writing and/or via email to:

Mark Holdaway

**South Utah Valley Electric Service District
803 N 500 E
Payson, UT 84651**

mark@sesdofutah.org

All technical questions must be received in writing (or email) a minimum of five (5) calendar days prior to the proposal submission date. All timely requests shall be responded to in writing by SESD in the form of a written addendum addressed to all prospective Respondents to seek clarification.

RESPONDENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROPOSAL COSTS

SESD is not liable for any cost incurred by Respondent associated with the preparation of a proposal or the negotiation of the sale; nor shall it be responsible to any successful bidder for any costs associated with the preparation of a proposal or the negotiation of the sale.

ECONOMY OF PROPOSALS

Respondents must submit a complete and concise response to the RFP. All proposals received in response to this RFP will be retained by SESD. Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, while providing complete details of the vendor's abilities to meet the requirements of this RFP.

PROPOSALS BINDING

Respondents are advised that proposals shall be binding upon the Respondent for thirty (30) calendar days from the proposal due date. A Respondent may withdraw or modify their proposal any time prior to the proposal due date by a written request.

NOTIFICATION

Each Respondent submitting a proposal in response to this RFP will be notified in writing as to acceptance or rejection of their proposal. SESD plans to release such letters within thirty (30) days of the proposal submission date. SESD may delay this action if it is deemed to be in the best interests of SESD.

RIGHT TO REJECT PROPOSALS AND NEGOTIATION

SESD reserves the right to reject all proposals and to waive any informalities in proposals received, to accept or reject any or all the items in the proposal and award the sale in whole or in part if it is to be in SESD's best interest. Additionally, SESD reserves the right to

negotiate all elements of the proposal, if such an action is deemed to be in the best interest of SESD.

AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH

Throughout the term of this RFP, prospective Respondents must secure from SESD written approval prior to their release of any verbal or written information to third parties that pertains to potential work, or activities covered by this RFP. Failure to adhere to this clause may result in the disqualification of the Respondent.

TAXES ARE APPLICABLE

Any equipment provided to SESD because of this proposal is not tax exempt.

SELECTION PROCESS

A proposal evaluation team will judge the merit of all proposals received in accordance with the general evaluation criteria listed below. Failure to provide any of the information requested may result in the proposals being removed from further consideration.

PROPOSAL CRITERIA

A committee made up of SESD Board members and staff will judge the proposals. Providers will need to answer the four questions below in their proposals. Each question can receive up to 25 points.

1. Please provide a brief overview of your company, including its history, mission, and experience in the fiber and broadband industry. Describe your experience in similar projects, including specific examples and references.
2. How will you bring fiber to the project area in the most efficient, timely, and cost-effective way possible? How do you envision you and SESD working together to accomplish this goal?
3. How do you envision SESD, you the provider, and the end users benefiting from this partnership? For example, SESD needs fiber access to run a SCADA and AMI metering system in the future. What would be the best way for SESD to obtain that fiber access? Can you identify any opportunities for SESD to generate revenue as part of this fiber network partnership? How would end users benefit from you being

the fiber partner in the project area? What improvements in service quality, connectivity, or additional features would they gain from your involvement?

4. Why would you be the best choice to work with SESD to bring fiber to the project area?