

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
PURCHASING DIVISION**

DATE: April 24, 2023

TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Kristin Daniels, Director - Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Jennifer Hyde, Purchasing Manager

SUBJECT: Rejection of Bids - 2023020 for Fiber Optic Engineering, Design, Material, Supplies, and Installation

BACKGROUND:

On September 20, 2022, the Board approved the final one-year extension to the agreement with Gerelcom for Fiber Optic materials and services, awarded under bid 2021003. An extension to the agreement with Precision Contracting Services, Inc. from the same bid was not requested by staff, as the vendor was requesting significant increases to pricing. Because it is more effective and efficient to have multiple firms available to perform this work, new bids were solicited for firm, fixed pricing for the procurement, installation, integration, repair and support services for the County's enterprise network system. The new bid also reflected substantial changes to the unit items of work requested.

BID RESULTS:

Advertising Date: February 3, 2023
Bid Opening Date: February 28, 2023
DemandStar Broadcast to: 609 Subscribers
Bid Documents Requested by: 12 Firms
Replies: 3 Firms

Bidder	Location
Gerelcom, Inc.	Port St. Lucie
Mastec North America, Inc.	Coral Gables
Precision Contracting Services, Inc.	Jupiter

DISCUSSION:

The Information Technology Department has become dissatisfied with responsiveness and contract compliance of Gerelcom, and does not consider the vendor responsible to provide the work as needed.

Mastec does not have FDOT certification required in the bid, to ensure appropriate maintenance of traffic during work, and therefore is considered non-responsive to the requirements of the bid.

The Department considers PCS to be the sole responsive, responsible bidder.

Due to the need for multiple qualified firms under contract for the work, staff reached out to other service providers to determine why there was not larger response to the bid. One vendor indicated their office was too far away to meet the two-hour emergency response time. Another indicated the requirement for bidders to have a full-time Registered Communications Distribution Designer (RCDD) on staff excluded them from participation.

Staff proposes to modify the bid documents to enable firms to utilize a subcontractor to perform any necessary RCDD services, and restructure the emergency response requirements to facilitate better response.

FUNDING:

There is no cost associated with rejecting the bids and re-advertising.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board reject the responses to Bid 2023020, and authorize staff to re-advertise the bid with the noted changes.