



Request for Proposals for the Operation of the MassBroadband123 Network

(RFP No. 2023-MBI-01)

Bidders' Conference Questions Group #4

Group #4 of Rolling Questions Posted: August 31, 2022

	Question	Answers
1.	Would MassTech consider a 30 day extension to the current RFP due date?	Yes. We have issued the fifth addendum to the RFP to extend the deadline for submission of responses to October 11, 2022, at 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time and to make other adjustments to the procurement schedule. MassTech recognizes that potential Respondents may be evaluating and pursuing other opportunities with overlapping deadlines.
2.	Would MassTech entertain an outright purchase of the fiber network assets?	No. MassTech is not considering an outright purchase of the MassTech network at this time.
3.	With respect to "up to" \$7million dollar investment? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the MassTech committing \$7 million in all cases? 	MassTech intends to contribute up to \$7 million to the MassTech Network based upon the selected Respondent's proposed capital investment recommendations. This funding is subject to authorization and contracting with the Commonwealth, but Respondents' responses should assume the full \$7 million in funding is available for investment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the funds to be used for: POP? DWDM Equipment? Core Switching? Edge equipment? 	This capital investment is for upgrades and refresh of the network which may include DWDM, core switching, and edge equipment. Respondents should propose specific investments to accomplish the network refresh.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If equipment, is the equipment to be selected by the winning bidder or by the MassTech? 	<p>The equipment will be proposed by the selected bidder and approved by MassTech.</p>
4.	<p>Would MassTech consider not having access to the equipment network? For an existing public network telecom operator with existing operational systems, allowing a 3rd party access to network information would preclude integration with existing systems.</p>	<p>It is MassTech’s intention to have real time read-only access to the network monitoring and management system to be aware of outages affecting the MassTech Network only. MassTech does not need to have access to any network systems other than the MassTech Network. Respondents can propose an alternative method of providing MassTech this required information, which MassTech may consider.</p> <p>Please see the Draft Network Operating Agreement, Sections 4.3.1-4.3.5, which outlines the real-time information about the MassTech Network that we need to access. Per the RFP, the Respondent may propose exceptions to the Draft Network Operating Agreement, if applicable.</p>
5.	<p>We and our partners have reviewed the MassBroadband123 Network RFP 2023-MBI-01 and are requesting a thirty-day extension of time to allow us to further evaluate the opportunity.</p>	<p>Please refer to the answer to Question #1.</p>
6.	<p>Does MBI currently sell Dark Fiber and do you have a tariff for Dark Fiber products?</p>	<p>The current network operator acts as MassTech’s agent in leasing dark fiber on the MassBroadband 123 network by means of an IRU. The rate, as described in the current Network Operating Agreement, Section 4.7.4.1 and Exhibit D, is \$60 per strand mile per month.</p>