



Volo.net Internet+Tech

Grant 21-431018 OSP Construction Request For Proposals

Champaign County, Illinois

Addendum #1 – February 4th, 2025

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RFP Changes through 2/4/2025

Changes to Receipt of Proposals

RFP Selection Process Section 2, (RFP Page 3)

The requirement to submit a Contractor Safety Pre-Qualification Form is being replaced with a Bidders Pre-Qualification Form. The Bidder's Qualifications Form is added to the Proposal Format.

Changes to PON cabinet locations

Owner has decided to REMOVE from this RFP the requirement for the contractor to install or prep the cabinet site for each cabinet. Instead, Contractor will place a 30x48x36 handhole, with three ducts running from that handhole to a stub-up location approximately 10ft from the handhole.

Appendix A has been updated to:

- Remove BSDO and BM73 units
- Add BHF(30X48X36) qty 9
- Add Mobilization qty 1

Appendix C has been updated to:

- Remove BSDO and BM73 units
- Add BHF(30X48X36): Buried Handhole for fiber optic systems. Concrete Polymer HH with TIER 22 Traffic rated Lid. Contractor shall include in this item the cost of installing the handhole with one 1.5" duct and two 2.5" ducts run from handhole to a location to be specified that is approximately 10ft from the handhole. Ducts are to be stubbed up 12" above grade and sealed at both ends.
- Add Mobilization: Any costs associated with pre-construction mobilization, to the extent they are not reflected in per-unit prices

Clarification to Appendix A: Compliance with Laws and Regulations

Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-1 et seq.).

For grants with an estimated total project cost of \$500,000 or more, the grantee will be required to comply with the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative ([30 ILCS 559/20-20](#) to [20-25](#)) and all applicable administrative rules: "The goal of the Illinois Apprenticeship Initiative is that apprentices will perform [at least] either 10% of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less."

Changes to Proposal Format

THESE ADDITIONAL SECTIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR AN RFP RESPONSE TO BE CONSIDERED RESPONSIVE. See below "Updated Proposal Format" the format with changes included:

Updated:

- Formatting

- Section 5's title was changed to "**Socioeconomic and Location Considerations**" to match original text.
- Section 5 paragraph 2 was modified to provide more direct instructions.

Added:

9. Compliance with Illinois Works Jobs Program Act:

Indicate whether you will -

- A. ___ Comply with the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act through apprentices you will supply (5 points)
- B. ___ Request Owner to supply apprentices that will work with your crews, and if so how many and which PW classifications will be required (5 points), or
- C. ___ Request waiver of the 10% Apprenticeship Requirement (0 points)

10. Production Efficiency: Owner recognizes that inefficient construction will be bad for Contractor and Owner and will weigh Contractor's preferences in order to maximize construction and cost efficiency as follows.

- A. Please specify how many miles of contiguous, easement-acquired construction path (CECP) you will require Owner to provide prior to mobilization:

Pre-Mobilization CECP _____

- B. Please specify how many miles of Owner Furnished Materials you will require Owner to have on-hand prior to mobilization:

Pre-Mobilization CECP _____

- C. Upon construction start, how many miles per week of contiguous, easement-acquired construction path and materials will be required to maintain your crews' productivity:

Ongoing weekly CECP _____

- D. If Owner meets the above criteria for mobilization and material availability, what is your proposed completion date:

Proposed Completion Date _____

Dates after September 1, 2025 will be considered if they do not push project completion beyond the State's funding deadlines, but will result in some reduction in total points awarded under "Contractor Availability/Schedule". If owner fails to meet above criteria, completion date will be adjusted.

- E. Owner is considering whether to supply toneable duct and/or use toneable, armored, cable. If Contractor's rate for BFOV and/or BM60 line items should be reduced if tracer wire is not required, identify those savings (negative number) or additional costs (positive number) per

foot here:

No-Tracer savings on BFOV/BM60 _____

- F. Owner is planning to supply duct with pull tape. If Contractor's rate for BFOxxl units would be altered by removal of the pull tape, identify those savings (negative number) or additional costs (positive number) per foot here:

No-Pull-tape savings on BFOxxl items _____

11. **Pricing Proposal:** Attach an Excel .xlsx spreadsheet containing the provided "[Grant 21-431018 Volo CONNECT Champaign County OSP Construction RFP - Appendix A 2025-02-04.xlsx](#)" spreadsheet with columns D and E filled in with your proposed cost per unit.
12. **Bidder's Qualifications Form:** Fill out and attach the below [Bidder's Qualifications](#) form with your proposal.

Changes to RFP Award Criteria

Update

- Reputation and quality of work: 20 points
- Details of **Contractor Availability/Schedule** updated to read:
 - 3 points for ability to complete by September 1st, 2025. Partial points will be awarded for later contractor-proposed completion date within grant time frame.
 - 2 points for capacity to complete a similar sized project in 2026

Add:

- Compliance with Illinois Works Jobs Program requirements** **5**
- Comply through contractor- or owner-supplied Apprentices

Changes to Closing Date

The proposals shall be received no later than **1:00 PM, Monday February 10th, 2025.**

Changes to Anticipated Event Dates

Final Questions must be submitted by noon, Feb 5th, 2025.

Final Answers will be provided by noon, Feb 7th, 2025.

Proposals are due by 1:00 PM CST on February 10th, 2025.

Changes to Appendix B – Compliance with Laws and Regulations

Added:

Boring Compliance

Contractor shall refer to each governing municipality's ROW specifications for hard surface potholing (county, state, and federal) and insight on base layer compaction to maintain the surface

integrity when boring. Contractor shall restore hard surfaces in accordance with the requirements of the governing municipality.

Conduit Compliance

Installed conduit shall be “Slug Tested”: Prior to invoicing for a given segment, Contractor shall certify that a non-compressible ball, having as its diameter a minimum of 80% of the conduit diameter, has been pulled or blown from handhole to handhole to verify duct is not collapsed or otherwise compromised, and that depth of cover is 36” or greater, except where required by local regulations to be at different depth, or within 24” of a handhole or other access location.

Responses to Questions Submitted by Contractors

Question #1

- What is the depth of cover required for placement of direct buried cable and conduits?
- Will warning tape be required above any direct buried cable?

Response #1

- Standard depth of cover should be at least 36". Road crossing standard depth of cover shall be 60". Some municipalities may require deviations from this depth standard; specific depth details will be confirmed prior to a segment being added to the Contiguous Segment List, with any deviations from standard called out explicitly to Contractor.
- No warning tape is required.

Question #2

What time are bids due?

Response #2

Bids are due by 1:00 PM CST on February 10th, 2025.

Question #3

- There are gray/white conduits on the KMZ. Are those a part of the construction bid? If not, are they already in place and will they be used for fiber placement.
- In Appendix A. What do OFM and CFM stand for?

Response #3

- The gray/white conduits are existing conduit and fiber. These are not a part of this RFP.
- OFM is Owner Furnished Material
- CFM is Contractor Furnished Material

Question #4

- What gauge or type tracer wire are you requiring?
- Is the contractor supplying couplers?
- If we are supplying couplers is there a specific type?

Response #4

- Tracer wire shall be 12 AWG and rated for direct bury use. Tracer wire must be insulated and meet the following standards: ASTM – B910,B170,D1248. Tracer wire shall be bored/trenched/plowed in entire duct system and with direct buried fiber. See added RFP response item 10 above for cost savings related to excluding tracer
- The contractor is supplying couplers. There is no specific type of coupler required, but they must be air-tight to 215PSI to support blown fiber installation. All couplings not specified on the plans must be approved by Finley Engineering and explicitly called out

on as-builts

Question #5

Is there a KMZ available?

Response #5

KMZ is available in Owncloud with the staking sheets.

Question #6

- What is the estimated date for easement procurement?
- Will the completion date be modified accordingly should easements be delayed?

Response #6

See added RFP response item 10 above.

Question #7

- Will the material be on hand by February 28th?

Response #7

- See added RFP response item 10 above

Question #8

- What is the % of subcontractors that can work on this project and/or can the 90% of IL residents be subcontractors if there is no limit on subcontractors?

Response #8

- There is no restriction on the number of subcontractors which can be used on this project; while Volo has not established a percentage of the work to be completed by the Contractor, Volo prefers proposals with the Prime Contractor completing a significant portion of the work and proposals which include proposed subcontractors as part of the proposal response.
- As noted on Page 10 of the Volo RFP for FTTH Outside Plant (OSP) Fiber Construction, it is the responsibility of the Contractor to understand all the requirements of Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 et seq.).

Question #9

- What are the landscape restoration requirements?
- Who is responsible for providing landscape restoration materials?

Response #9

- The contractor is responsible for returning all landscaping to acceptable condition in accordance with IDOT standards, or other standards to be negotiated with Owner on a case-by-case basis.
- Contractor will provide any landscape restoration materials needed.

Question #10

- What are the anticipated reel sizes for duct and fiber cable.
- Where will materials be stored that are furnished by others?

Response #10

- Fiber cable no more than 20,000' reels.
- Duct no more than 12,000' reels.
- Owner furnished material will be stored in an owner-provided storage facility.
- Contractor furnished material storage is the responsibility of the contractor.

Question #11

- Is QC testing required for any concrete work related to restoration?
- If potholing is required under a paved road, is the contractor responsible for any additional restoration outside the limits of the pothole?

Response #11

Contractor will be required to restore concrete work to satisfaction of the AHJ for the concrete work (municipal inspector, highway commissioner, IDOT inspector, etc as appropriate). In some cases this may require a larger concrete excavation and/or replacement, depending on the rules of that AHJ.

See also "Changes to Appendix B – Compliance with Laws and Regulations" above.

Question #12

Does the 90% Illinois workforce requirement include back office and project management?

Response #12

Our understanding of the requirement is that it only applies to Prevailing Wage designations, however we expect Contractor to comply with these State of IL provisions, and do not guarantee that our interpretation of them is correct.

Question #13

Is the project tax exempt for contractor material purchases?

Response #13

No

Question #14

The RFP lists completion dates of September 1st, 2025 and September 26th, 2025. Which is correct?

Response #14

The September 1st, 2025 date is correct, but see added RFP response item 10 above.

Question #15

- If we do not meet the 90% Illinois resident requirement, can we still submit a proposal?

- Was the pre-proposal conference mandatory?

Response #15

- Yes, we can accept proposals that do not meet the Illinois resident requirement, but we can only choose your proposal if we do not receive any proposals that do meet the requirement.
- The pre-proposal conference was not mandatory.

Updated RFP Award Criteria

RFP Award Criteria:

The Finley evaluation team will assess the submitted proposal and rank it according to the following point system:

Category	Maximum Points
General Qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quality of response to RFP, experience, company history, background, and financial stability of entity responding. Failure to meet certain requirements outlined in this RFP can result in deducting points under this category.	25
Reputation and Quality of Work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Give three examples of completed projects similar to this RFP.	20
Compliance with Illinois Works Jobs Program requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">Comply through contractor- or owner-supplied Apprentices	5
Pricing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposed unit pricing.Provide unit spreadsheet: Appendix A	40
Contractor Availability/Schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none">3 points for ability to complete by September 1st, 2025. Partial points will be awarded for later contractor-proposed completion date within grant time frame.2 points for capacity to complete a similar sized project in 2026.	5
WBE/MBE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Minority-owned businessWomen-owned business	5
Total Possible Points:	100

Updated Proposal Format

To aid in the evaluation of construction service proposals, Volo requires that proposals follow this outline:

1. **Cover Letter:** Indicate your firm's interest in the project and highlight your proposal's key points.
2. **Firm Overview:** Include company history, number of employees by discipline, company locations, location of office where this project will be managed, length of time your firm has provided similar services, and other relevant information. Volo requires the selected Firm to be licensed to do business in Illinois.
3. **Project Approach:** Provide a detailed narrative and proposed schedule describing your specific approach and your ability to meet the needs of this Project. Outline your understanding of the Project and identify critical issues based on your Firm's experience. Please include all technologies proposed for construction, placement, and delivery outlined in the proposal.
4. **References:** Please provide at least three (3) references where your organization has completed a construction project similar to our request. Please include each reference's name, address, phone number, email address, and a description of the work and completed dates.
5. **Socioeconomic and Location Considerations:**

Contracting with Small and Minority Businesses, Women's Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms under 2 CFR § 200.321, the Recipient and its sub-recipients must take all necessary affirmative steps (as described in 2 CFR § 200.321) to ensure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

Please identify the extent to which Small Businesses (SBs), Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSBs), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs), HUBZone Small Businesses, Small Disadvantaged Businesses (SDBs) Woman-Owned Small Businesses (WOSBs), Minority-Owned Businesses (MOBs), or Local Businesses (LBs) would be utilized in the performance of this proposed contract.

A small business is defined by the Small Business Administration's size regulation 13 CFR 121.201. In addition, as determined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code applicable to this RFP, the offeror's participation as an SB, VOSB, SDVOSB, HUBZone SB, SDB, WOSB, MOB or LB is to be identified in the Socioeconomic and Location Considerations section of this RFP, and DBE participation will be considered in evaluating the Socioeconomic Considerations and Location as an evaluation factor.
6. **Value Add:** Firms should include any "value-added" solutions in their responses to this RFP. Solutions will be evaluated for feasibility and benefits to the project's program goals. If the value-added solution is deemed feasible and beneficial, it will be considered in assessing the Socioeconomic Considerations, Location, and Value-Added evaluation factors.
7. **Financial Statements:** Include information about your financial stability, pending lawsuits or legal actions against your company, a current copy of an Illinois Certificate of Good Standing, and contact information for your financial institution. Include your coverage for general liability, workers' compensation, professional liability, and errors & omissions insurance. Volo requires a minimum of \$1,000,000 in liability insurance.

8. **Other Current Projects:** Indicate your client workload and any other projects your team is committed to, including project time frames. If you have any project that may cause a conflict of interest or could otherwise hinder your proposed timeframes, please describe those projects and how your firm manages multiple client priorities.

9. **Compliance with Illinois Works Jobs Program Act:**

Indicate whether you will -

- A. ___ Comply with the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act through apprentices you will supply (5 points)
- B. ___ Request Owner to supply apprentices that will work with your crews, and if so how many and which PW classifications will be required (5 points), or
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11. **Pricing Proposal:** Attach an Excel .xlsx spreadsheet containing the provided "Grant 21-431018 Volo CONNECT Champaign County OSP Construction RFP - Appendix A 2025-02-04.xlsx" spreadsheet with columns D and E filled in with your proposed cost per unit.

12. **Bidder's Qualifications Form:** Fill out and attach the below Bidder's Qualifications form with your proposal.

BIDDER'S QUALIFICATIONS

To be submitted in accordance with the provisions set forth in "Notice and Instructions to Bidders" contained in the bidding documents for the project.

The undersigned Bidder makes the following representations relating to its proposal to **Gargoyle Technologies, Inc. d/b/a Volo.net Internet+Tech**

for (Business name and project name)

Connect Illinois Round 3 Grant 21-431018 - Volo Connect CC Phase 1 OSP Construction

1. The Bidder maintains a permanent place of business at

_____ , _____ , _____

2. The Bidder possesses adequate financial resources as indicated by the following abbreviated statement:

Financial condition at close of business _____ 20 _____

ASSETS:

(a)	Cash in bank and on hand _____	\$ _____
(b)	Receivable -- notes, open accounts and interest _____	_____
(c)	Stock and bonds _____	_____
(d)	Real estate, furniture and fixtures, materials _____	_____
(e)	Equipment _____	_____
(f)	Other assets (name) _____	_____
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ _____

LIABILITIES:

(a)	Payable--notes, open accounts and interest _____	\$ _____
(b)	Real estate encumbrances _____	_____
(c)	Other encumbrances (name) _____	_____
(d)	Reserves _____	_____
(e)	Capital stock paid up (all classes) _____	_____
(f)	Surplus--net worth _____	_____
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ _____

In addition to the foregoing, a complete and detailed financial statement will be furnished if required.

3. The following judgments are outstanding against the Bidder:

	<i>Judgement Creditors</i>	<i>Where Docketed and Date</i>	<i>Amount</i>
(a)	_____	- -	\$ _____
(b)	_____	- -	_____
TOTAL JUDGMENTS			_____

4. In the event the contract is awarded to the Bidder, a surety bond in a penal sum not less than the maximum Contract price will be furnished by:

5. The Bidder will make available for use in connection with the proposed construction the following construction plant and equipment:

6. The Bidder has had the following experience on other similar work:

7. If awarded the contract for the construction of the Project, the Bidder will employ the construction superintendents and supervisors listed hereunder for work throughout the course of the construction of the Project.

Attached hereto are signed statements of the qualifications of said superintendents and supervisors, including specific experience in supervision of construction of the type of facilities included in the plans and specifications.

8. The Bidder now has the following bonded jobs under contract:

_____ \$ _____
_____ _____
_____ _____

9. The Bidder possesses Contractor's License No. _____ for the State of _____ in which the Project is located, and said license expires on _____, 20____.

10. The Bidder to provide their most recent Experience Rating: _____

11. The Bidder hereby represents and warrants that all statements set forth herein are true and correct. (If the Bidder is a partnership, the partnership name must be signed, followed by the signature of at least one of the partners. If the bidder is a corporation, the corporate name must be signed, followed by the signature of a duly authorized officer and the corporate seal affixed. A typewritten copy of all such names and signatures shall be appended. No alterations, erasures, corrections or interlineations will be permitted.)

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

Name of Bidder

_____ Date	_____ Signature	_____ Title
_____ Date	_____ Signature	_____ Title