

**Distributed Antenna System (DAS)
Request for Information (RFI) #231439**

1.0 Description –

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is seeking industry input for the replacement and installation of a new Distributed Antenna System (DAS) that will provide CMS with high-quality cellular signal. CMS would appreciate industry's input regarding continuing maintenance and repairs. CMS needs to ensure that there is a viable level of signal coverage for the current DAS carrier members, which includes AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile. Ensuring proper signal coverage will allow CMS employees who have CMS issued mobile devices to be able to continue to communicate effectively throughout the agency with limited to no disruptions.

2.0 Background –

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Central Office/Headquarters (HQ) building located in 7500 Security Blvd, Woodlawn Maryland has an existing DAS capable of distributing wireless services that are required for CMS employees and visitors for planned frequencies from 700 Megahertz through 2100 Megahertz. The DAS tower has the capabilities to support the following providers: AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile.

The current DAS was procured, designed, and installed in 2012. The current DAS maintenance contract ends on 9/18/2023. The contract is being re-competed and as part of the re-compete, our requirement is to have the DAS replaced/upgraded because it is 11 years old (typical lifespan is between 8 to 10 years) and provide the ability for remote system monitoring. Normally there are components that require upgrading within the DAS. Things such as battery back-ups, antennas, and signaling functionality such as 4G and 5G capability. While these are all components that can be upgraded individually, CMS' DAS has multiple parts that are currently failing and require attention. The battery backups are failing and require replacement at this time. The function to allow remote monitoring will provide the ability to address failures prior to the customer reporting them. Leaving the system as is means that these current issues will not be addressed which will negatively impact the end users requiring cell service while on campus.

3.0 Instructions/Requirements for Submitting RFI Responses to CMS

CMS requests that respondents specifically address each question identified, below. In general, while this RFI is not a request for a technical proposal, respondents should provide enough information for CMS to determine the respondent's capability to perform the same or similar work. Responses will be reviewed for content which demonstrates both capability and experience.

The Contractor shall:

1. Ensure that the DAS remains fully compliant with the guidelines and requirements for the following wireless carriers - Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint.

2. Provide detailed system optimization health check and reporting on a -monthly basis.
3. Provide a qualified technician to respond within 48 hours to trouble calls/identified issues associated with equipment failure
4. Provide maintenance on the DAS solution during the period of performance for all equipment as recommended by the manufacturer to ensure operability.
5. Contractor personnel shall be available to discuss any issues pertaining to the CMS DAS.
6. The contractor shall bring problems or potential problems affecting performance to the attention of the COR and CAM as soon as possible. Verbal reports shall be followed up with written reports when directed by the COR.
7. Replace current system with a system that provides:
 - Remote Access and Reporting Capabilities
 - Provides coverage of 10,000 to 200,000 square feet or more
 - Uses dedicated runs of dual Cat 6/Cat 5e Ethernet cable that is easily adaptable to the current information technology infrastructure at CMS.
 - Provides 5G and 4G/LTE voice quality and data speed.
 - Provides up to 100 dB max gain, up to 1,000 times stronger than most competing commercial cellular amplifiers.
 - Provides coverage for Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile simultaneously.
 - Monitors cellular coverage and manages devices, get performance metrics, receive email, and text alerts if there are any interruptions in cellular service.
 - System must be certified by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and preapproved by all major carriers. Unlike most active DAS systems, the system does not require any licensing to install or operate in your building.
8. Fix or replace outdated and/or failed equipment/parts (batteries, backup batteries, antennas, wires, etc.)
9. Provide, a qualified technician to respond within 48 hours to trouble calls/identified issues associated with equipment failure.
 - Utilize the proper, necessary hardware currently residing within the CMS infrastructure.
 - Clearly identify all hardware and/or software which the Contractor anticipates will be provided as GFE/GFS.
 - Track GFE/GFS via appropriate means.

4.0 QUESTIONS (Responses not to exceed 15 pages in total)

- a) Describe the characteristics of your proposed system/solution and specify its product details.
- b) Describe how CMS would transition to your system, include rough timelines for the transition.
- c) Describe how you would ensure that all equipment is maintained to guarantee proper functionality.
- d) What is the cost associated with ensuring all equipment (wires, antennas, batteries, backup batteries, etc.) are maintained?
- e) What additional information would you require to provide a Firm Fixed Price (FFP) Proposal for this work?
- f) List the advantages your solution offers.
- g) List any potential challenges you foresee in transitioning to your system/solution.
- h) Describe any security feature(s) for your solution, if applicable.

In addition, please provide the following information not included in the page count total:

- Business Information
 - a) Company Name
 - b) Company Address
 - c) DUNS Number
 - d) Type of company (e.g., small business, 8(a), veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran owned small business, HUB Zone small business, and/or women owned small business) as validated via the System of Acquisition Management (SAM)
 - e) Interested vendors shall indicate which contract vehicles they are a member of by listing contract numbers and associated expiration dates (if applicable.)
 - f) Company Point of Contact - Name, Phone and Email address, as well as the Points of contact, phone and email addresses of individuals who can corroborate the demonstrated capabilities identified in the response.
- Provide a list of current or past projects that are using your solution, if applicable. Include the name of the project, agency/corporation name and period of performance.

5.0 One-on-One Meetings

CMS may or may not choose to invite respondents to participate in one-on-one market research meetings based on review of the responses received. Additionally, CMS reserves the right to contact companies responding to the RFI that may not participate in the one-on-one meetings.

6.0 Disclaimer and Important Notes

This notice does not obligate the Government to award a contract or otherwise pay for the information provided in response. The Government reserves the right to use information provided by respondents for any purpose deemed necessary and legally appropriate. Any organization responding to this notice should ensure that its response is complete and sufficiently detailed. Information provided will be used to assess tradeoffs and alternatives available for the potential requirement and may lead to the development of a solicitation. Respondents are advised that the Government is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information received or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted.

7.0 Confidentiality

No proprietary, classified, confidential or sensitive information should be included in your response. The Government reserves the right to use any non-proprietary technical information in any resultant solicitation(s).