



# Request for Proposals for Construction of a Fiber to the Premise Project in Poplarville, MS

Due Date: March 20, 2024

## Notice to Bidders

CableSouth Media, III (“Swyft”) requests proposals for the construction of a telecommunications project as described below:

Project Name: Swyft Poplarville FTTH

Company Name: CableSouth Media, III dba Swyft Fiber

County(ies): Pearl River County

State(s): Mississippi

shall be received at the following location and time:

Address: **contracts@fibersmith.co**

Bid Date: 3/20/2024

Time: 5:00:00 , PM , CST At which time the proposals shall be opened and read.

The project shall consist of the following miles of plant:

Aerial:	<u>36.65</u>	miles;
Buried:	<u>1.78</u>	miles;
MST Tails:	<u>316</u>	stubs;
Conduit:	<u>1.78</u>	miles;

## Project Description

The Poplarville Broadband Project is a federally funded subaward made to Swyft from the Broadband Expansion and Accessibility Office of Mississippi ("BEAM") NTIA BIP Award, and includes overbuilding existing aerial coaxial cable plant in and around the City of Poplarville, Mississippi. A limited amount of underground fiber may be deployed in areas where aerial construction is not feasible or cost effective. This project will bring core fiber to an underserved area of Mississippi and make high speed broadband available to over 1,400 households.

The deadline for completion of construction is August 1, 2024. The Poplarville Broadband Project is projected to be 90% aerial and 10% underground fiber construction. Aerial fiber construction will comprise aerial overlash on existing poles under a current pole attachment agreement with the pole owners in the proposed service area.

Buried or bored fiber will be placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-ways. To provide a more secure and reliable fiber footprint, the buried fiber will be placed at a minimum depth of 36 inches unless other depths are required by the affected highway, railroad, municipalities, or other authorities. Along the buried fiber route, flush-mounted handholes will be deployed, leaving the deployed fiber accessible at each location.

The time for Completion of Construction of the Project shall be **50 days** (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) from the contract commencement date.

Liquidated damages in the amount of 1% of the contract value per day shall apply for each and every day that construction is delayed after giving effect to extensions of time as provided for in the contract (this includes weekends and holidays).

Respondents may register their intent to respond by sending an e-mail to [contracts@fibersmith.co](mailto:contracts@fibersmith.co).

Technical inquiries and specification clarifications are due by **5 PM Central on March 13, 2024**, to [contracts@fibersmith.co](mailto:contracts@fibersmith.co). All inquiries must be in writing. Responses will be provided to all registered respondents. Respondents are not entitled to rely on any verbal clarification or response from anyone in connection with this RFP. **Final RFP due by March 20, 2024.**

## Project Specifications

All work is to be done in accordance with the plans and specifications referenced below. All work to be completed has been described as discrete Assembly Units per the following referenced specification packets.

The quantities of units, as well as the estimated cost of owner furnished materials associated, is attached in the Bid Pricing Sheet.

The applicable Specification Packet(s) listed below shall become a part of the Contract by this reference:

RUS Form 515a - Specifications and Drawings for Construction of Direct Buried Plant (RUS Bulletin 1753F-150).

Dated: 30 September 2010

RUS Form 515b - Specifications and Drawings for Construction of Underground Plant (RUS Bulletin 1753F-151).

Dated: 17 September 2001

RUS Form 515c - Specifications and Drawings for Construction of Aerial Plant (RUS Bulletin 1753F-152).

Dated: 17 September 2001

RUS Form 515d - Specifications and Drawings for Service Installations at Customer Access Locations(RUS Bulletin 1753F-153).

Dated: 17 September 2001

The following Standards are applicable:

RUS Bulletin 1753F-401 (PC-2)

RUS Bulletin 1753F-201 (PC-4)

RUS Bulletin 1753F-801 (PC-5A)

## Design Maps

Maps of the area design will be provided as a Google Earth KMZ here as reference to bidders.

## Special Assembly Unit List & Descriptions

**Disclaimer:** Descriptions below are for clarification purposes **ONLY** for Assembly Units otherwise not fully addressed by standard RUS Assemblies. Definitions outlined in any applicable RUS 515 document or associated bulletin will supersede the descriptions provided below if any discrepancies between the descriptions arise.

**BM51(##X####) - Fiber Optic Pre-connectorized Multiport Terminal Assembly Unit** - Material to install a fiber optic pre-connectorized multiport terminal from a distribution splice enclosure to a designated pole or network structure. The numbers in parentheses refer to the number of ports followed by the length of fiber stub. Labor for installation is covered in the later mentioned BM51(UGLabor) unit.

**BM51(UGLabor)/BM51(OHLabor) - Fiber Optic Pre-connectorized Multiport Terminal Installation Assembly Unit** - Labor to install a fiber optic pre-connectorized multiport terminal from a distribution splice enclosure to a designated pole or network structure. Specification of this unit is covered in the above mentioned BM51(##X####) unit.

**BFO##-Slack or CO##-Slack - Placement of Fiber Slack Loop** – Labor and materials to place one (1) lineal foot of fiber within a slack coil. The numbers following BFO or CO indicate the count of fiber strands within the cable to be placed.

**BM53\_B - Warning Sign Assembly Unit with Test Station Assembly Unit** - Consists of one (1) warning sign and test station. This unit includes all labor and material to install the sign, with #6AWG copper wire terminated to adjacent BM2 unit, placed with separate unit, as well as one (1) #6AWG copper wire per cable and direction, as described in the attached detail drawing.

**BFO##-Slack or CO##-Slack - Placement of Fiber Slack Loop** – Labor and materials to place one (1) lineal foot of fiber within a slack coil. The numbers following BFO or CO indicate the count of fiber strands within the cable to be placed. \*Note: Aerial Slack loops will be paid for under the subsequent CO(SLACK) unit.

**CO(6M) Strand – Placement of Strand** – Labor and materials to hang/attach one (1) lineal foot of strand upon which fiber will be placed between poles (fiber placement under a separate unit). For this unit, the customer will provide strand and lashing wire. All other materials are at the expense of the bidder and should be reflected within the bidders cost per foot.

**CO(Materials) – Parts for Attachment** – Materials to hang/attach one (1) lineal foot of fiber cable between poles. For this unit, the customer will provide fiber, strand, and lashing wire. All other materials are at the expense of the bidder and should be reflected within the bidders cost per foot. For reference, please see the attached pole attachment materials list.

**CO(SLACK) – Aerial Slack Loop** – Labor and materials to hang/attach one (1) aerial fiber cable slack loop.. For this unit, the customer will provide fiber cable, strand and lashing wire. All other materials (e.g. “Snow Shoe”) are at the expense of the bidder and should be reflected within the bidders cost per unit (each).

**HBFO(###) - Placement of a Buried Fiber Optic Closure** - A fiber optic closure, splice organizer, and miscellaneous materials adequate for the individual location. The numbers within parentheses indicate the largest cable size planned for the closure.

**HBFO(###)-SPL - Placement of a Buried Fiber Optic Closure with Splitter** - A fiber optic closure, splice organizer, 1x32 Planar Splitter, and miscellaneous materials adequate for the individual location. The numbers within parentheses indicate the largest cable size planned for the closure.

## Owner Furnished Materials

Swyft will provide cable, duct, and other associated materials as identified in the attached “List of Owner Furnished Materials”.

The Bidder will be provided the materials identified and will be responsible for the management of these materials, as well as the return of any not used, for the duration of the project.

## Progress Reporting & Invoicing

Swyft utilizes a digital construction management system, Ocius-X, for progress reporting, inspection, and invoice validation.

The winning bidder will be provided credentials and training for Ocius-X. All designs, permits, and any related documents will be provided through Ocius-X. The winning bidder will be required to report billable units and construction progress within this system.

## Response Guidelines

Respondents may register their intent to respond by sending an e-mail to [contracts@fibersmith.co](mailto:contracts@fibersmith.co).

Technical inquiries and specification clarifications are due **by 5 PM Central on March 13th, 2024**, to [contracts@fibersmith.co](mailto:contracts@fibersmith.co). All inquiries must be in writing. Responses will be provided to all registered respondents. Respondents are not entitled to rely on any verbal clarification or response from anyone in connection with this RFP. **Final RFP due by March 20, 2024.**

Questions relating to Bidder's Qualifications shall be resolved during the Pre-bid conference call.

All proposals must include the following:

- Bid Summary
- Bid Pricing Sheet

A Bid Summary Template and Bid Pricing Sheet template are attached as editable documents and spreadsheets.

## Selection Process

Responses will be evaluated between March 21 and March 27, 2024. During such time, Swyft or its Engineers may be in contact bidders to seek clarification on responses and to request documentation on bidder qualifications.



The Respondents qualifications and price shall be evaluated, and the contract will be awarded to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to Swyft, with price and other factors considered. CableSouth Media III, LLC d/b/a Swyft Fiber d/b/a Swyft Connect (“Swyft” or “the Owner”) reserves the right to award multiple contracts, select multiple vendors, re-bid services, or elect to perform services listed in this RFP in-house. Minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, and disadvantaged businesses are encouraged to apply.

Upon choosing a bid, Swyft will notify all Respondents of their status.

## Prevailing Wage

Please note that the project described herein requires that all Contractors and subcontractors working on the Project comply with the prevailing wage requirements contained in Revised Code Sections 164.07(B) and 4115.03 through 4115.16.

Swyft’s contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards are attached here for reference. Contracts entered into subsequent to Bid selection will contain the attached provisions.

## Attachments

1. Bid Summary Template
2. Bid Pricing Sheet
3. Owner Furnished Materials List
4. Design Maps (as Google Earth File)
5. Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards
6. Pole Parts Per Mile