

OUTSIDE PLANT PRE-BID CONFERENCE NOTES

Project Designation: **City of Sylvester FTTH Project**

Name of Owner: **City of Sylvester**

Project Engineer: **Engineering Associates, LLC**

Date of Conference: **July 8, 2021 1:00 PM EDT**

I. Persons Attending Conference

FICOA Communications

Mike Scheuerman Sr
Business Development/Manager
(678) 482-5100 Office
(386) 852-6119 Mobile
mike.scheuerman@ficoa.com

Seth Plunkett
Construction Manager
(336) 509-5815 Mobile
seth.plunkett@ficoa.com

Electricom

Eddie Swing
Business Development
336-250-3087
eddie.swing@electricominc.com

Rick Ranard
rranard@ElectricomInc.com

Trawick Construction Co LLC

Joey Hurley, PMP
Vice President - Operations
Trawick Construction Co, LLC
Mobile (850) 658-2515
Office (850) 638-0429 ext. 2215
joey.hurley@trawickconstruction.com

Danny Cook
danny.cook@trawickconstruction.com

CFSSouth

Jeff Morley
Jeff_morley@cfssouth.com
Cell: 404-823-7083

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Kent Wilson
Kent_wilson@cfssouth.com
770-605-4904

Spligitty

Bob Morphew
Director of Operations, Eastern US
Spligitty Fiber Optic Services
www.Spligitty.com
rmorphew@spligitty.com

TripleCross

Tom Cromartie
229-224-7641
tomc@rose.net

KGPCO

William Soltesz
Proposal Specialist III
Office: 913-393-6738
William.Soltesz@kgpco.com

Gina Williams
Field Sales Manager, Utilities - FL, GA, AL, MS, LA
Mobile: 256.679.2911
gina.williams@kgpco.com

City of Sylvester

Marvin Golden
Jason Gauntt

Engineering Associates, LLC

Marshall Lance
Mike Martin

II. Plans and Specification Data

A. Bid Date and Location:

August 4, 2021, 10:00 AM

**City of Sylvester
City Hall
101 North Main Street
Sylvester, GA 31791**

Attention: Ms. Melissa Curry

B. Mileage Summary

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Aerial Fiber Optic Cable

Joint Use – Electric – Cable	15.14 miles
Modification of Existing Aerial Plant	35.57 miles
Duct	5.82 miles
Fiber Optic Cable in New Duct	7.19 miles

71 Handholes

490 Aerial MST's and 77 Buried MST's

III. Maximum Number of Cable Placement Operations

It was agreed that no more than two buried crews will operate at once but it was decided and agreed that the number of aerial crews will not be restricted.

IV. Recommended Type of Equipment for Soil Conditions on this Project.

Properly sized plows, multiple trenchers.

V. Status of Right-of-Way (Construction Corridor)

All construction corridors are restricted.

VI. Brush and Tree Clearing

There is no pay unit for ROW clearing. Minor clearances are to be performed by the contractor as part of aerial installation. Any clearing required other than minor clearances will be performed by the City. The contractor will work with the City and Engineer to confirm any areas that the City needs to clear.

VII. Permits (To include Highway and Railroad Requirements)

Permits are to be arranged by the Owner or its representative. The contractor will not be responsible for pulling permits for this project. It is anticipated that there will be very few, if any, City permits to be issued, thus leaving the permits to State Roads and RR crossings.

VIII. Contact Point for other Utilities, Agencies, Companies, etc.

See RUS Form 515 Contract Page 12 GADOT.

IX. Engineering Observation

A. Buried Splices
None allowed.

B. Plowing Operations
Resident Engineer and/or Inspector will control when cable placement operations will be permitted, dependent on clean up status, weather conditions, etc.

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C. Unit Variations

As per RUS Form 515 Page 111, paragraph 16, all quantities are approximate, and a 5% variation in quantity is allowed before a unit can be re-priced.

D. Method to be used in determining Rock Units

No rock is expected. There are no rock adders applied to any of the underground construction units.

X. Special Construction Requirements (See Section XII) below

A. Buried Plant: **n/a**

B. Underground Plant: **n/a**

C. Aerial Plant: **n/a**

D. Other: **n/a**

XI. Bid Alternates

See “Summary of Open Discussion”, Item 12 below.

XII. Review Special and Miscellaneous Units

See Notes in RUS Form 515 Page 93.

XIII. Supplement "A" Materials to be Furnished by Owner:

n/a

XIV. List of Changes

See “Summary of Open Discussion” below for all items that have been modified as a result of the discussion at the Pre-Bid meeting.

XV. Use of Subcontractors

The RUS Contract states that the contractor shall perform directly without subcontracting not less than 50 percent of the labor required for the construction of the Project (RUS Form 515, Page 142, Section 3). This minimum threshold is waved for this project; the Owner will make no restrictions to the number of subcontractors used nor the percentage of the construction that they can provide.

However, any / all subcontractors must follow the procedures set forth in the RUS contract:

1) Each Subcontractor must furnish Certificate of Insurance.

2) Contractor must complete and receive approval of Subcontract Agreement (RUS Form 515, Pages 158 & 159) before any work is done by subcontractor.

XVI. Timing

A. Commencement Date

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Thirty (30) calendar days after approval of Construction Contract by Owner.
(RUS Form 515, Page 110, Section 14).

B. Construction Time

One Hundred Sixty (160) working days after Commencement Date (**working days do not include Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal / State Holidays**). See RUS Form 515, Page 2 & Page 110, Section 14).

C. Liquidated Damage Provision

The Liquidated Damages Provision (Form 515, Page 2 and Page 138) originally listed as \$500/day has been eliminated.

XVII. Clean-up Requirements

Clean-up to be completed daily, with Final Clean-up (including seeding and mulching as needed) within three weeks after completion of construction.

XVIII. Acceptance Tests

Per RUS Form 515, Page 135 – 137B.

XIX. Tour of Area

A tour of the area is optional and was provided after the adjournment of the meeting.

XX. Questions and Answers

1) Special Requirements:

- a) Contractor will be required to furnish City of Sylvester and Resident Engineer with telephone number of a contractor employee for emergency after hours and weekend work. If they cannot be reached, the City of Sylvester or Resident Engineer may get repairs made by other parties of their choice at the expense of contractor, as per RUS Form 515, Page 125, Article IV, (h) last sentence.
- b) A Georgia Utility Contractor's License is required. License number and expiration date must appear on envelope containing the sealed bid. If license is from reciprocating state, proof of reciprocity must be included.
- c) Contractor awarded this contract will be required to obtain a Contractor's Bond from a surety or sureties listed by the United States Treasury Department as Acceptable Sureties.

2) Special Notices

Please complete all components of the bid accurately which includes the following:

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- Complete envelope per instructions found on Page 7, Item 3 including Contractor's License Number and expiration date. Note: In case of electronic submission this information is to be featured in a prominent place easily and readily identified by the Owner.
- Complete Page 109, Georgia Utility Contractor's License is required.
- Complete Page 112 regarding Equal Opportunity.
- Complete Page 113, ensuring that it is signed, attested, and has the corporate seal affixed. (Note bottom of page for requirements of person signing).

Note the change found in Section 4, Page 127, first paragraph (Insurance Requirement).

Note that according to RUS Form 515 Page 9 Item #14 and #15, the Owner reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and also the right to reject any and/or all Proposals.

Unless otherwise allowed by the Owner, maximum hours worked per week shall be limited to 40 hours, and/or specific begin/end hours each day. When the length of daylight hours allows more than 8 hours worked per day, work days may be shifted within the week to allow extended weekends, but only with the Owner's consent. Splicing and cleanup may be performed on Saturdays. No work will be allowed on Sundays, unless specifically agreed by the Owner. Exceptions may be considered, but not without specific consent of the Owner or its Representative.

3) Summary of Open Discussion:

1. The RUS 515 Form is to be used as a legal framework for the project. All technical specifications associated with the 515 Form (515 a, b, c, and d) are incorporated by reference with the 515 Contract. However, this project is not funded by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS); it is self-funded by the Owner. References to the "Administrator" are understood to mean "Owner" or the Owner's designated representative(s).
2. Make Ready for the aerial pole lines is underway by the City and is expected be completed to the extent that the contractor will not be delayed while waiting for poles to be made ready.
3. If railroad crossings require additional costs to the contractor due to RR-mandated flagging requirements, these costs may be passed through separately to the Owner at cost.
4. The Engineer will provide an Excel-based file of the bid quantities which make up sheets 25 and 25A in the contract. The bidders will complete the Excel sheet including quantities and unit price so that extended prices and project totals are automatically calculated (see attached).
5. It was clarified that RUS Assembly Units as shown and defined in this contract are understood to contain any/all miscellaneous materials required to furnish and install

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- the unit. For example, lashing wire, misc. hardware, etc. are not called out separately but are understood to be part of the aerial construction unit.
6. All construction will conform to all applicable national, state, and local safety standards, including but not limited to the latest versions of the NESC and NEC.
 7. One Touch Make Ready will be enforced if needed. Pole attachers such as MediaCom have been notified that the 90-day notice has been given.
 8. Handholes lids will be rated at Tier 15 (occasional vehicular traffic).
 9. Outside Plant cables will be brought into the new hut at 105 East King St. and will be spliced at the relay rack containing the fiber optic termination shelves. There will be no intermediate splice on the entrance wall, and indoor transition cables will not be used.
 10. All connectors, located in both the hut (BM21 unit, page 93, item 3B) as well as the FDH cabinets (FDH units, page 93, item 8), **shall be provided as LC/APC**. Note: this is a change from the SC/APC connectors that were initially described in the FDH units.
 11. All MSTs will be collocated at poles or within a 50' tail length. Therefore, all MST tails are to be provided with 50' tail length.
 12. In an effort to improve delivery times and enable timely completion of the project, bidders may propose alternate bids containing alternate versions of hardware and materials for consideration with their bids (see also item 4-2 below regarding the use of armored cable). Any such variations must be clearly identified with detailed material descriptions included. The Owner reserves the right to scrutinize any alternate proposals and be the sole decider if any alternate bids are responsive to the specifications. Alternate bids will not be chosen if they are deemed non-responsive, even though they may be offered at lower prices.
 13. Regarding Page 93, List of Changes, Additions, and Deletions: Item 5B (HACO aerial closures) referencing "3M splice closures 2178 series or equivalent" is deleted.
 14. The quantities of 1:32 splitters to be provided in the hut, as well as each type of FDH cabinet, are given in the descriptions of the BM21 Unit (Page 93, Item 3B) and the FDH Unit (Page 93, Item 8). The bidder will provide the same type of splitters at all locations. Note: The cost of the splitters is to be included in the FDH and BM21 units; there is no separate unit price for splitters.
 15. The smaller of the two types of HDPE conduit described in the contract has been changed from 2" diameter to 1.25" diameter. Any unit descriptions labeled as 2"HDPE either in the drawings or specifications are taken to represent conduit with 1.25" diameter.
 16. The contractor will be allowed to stage materials at the City-owned property where the hut will be located (105 East King St).

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17. A schedule will be developed between the contractor and the City after award, but the NW area (routes NW1 through NW5) will be the priority area where construction will begin first.
18. The City reserves the right to do partial acceptance of some of the work in the NW area so that ownership of a portion of the work can be transferred to enable some customers to be turned up prior to the completion of all the work in this project.
19. The city plans to award the entire project described in the contract to a single contractor.
20. The following clarification was made with respect to the items contained in the Hut contract (provided under a separate procurement) and this outside plant contract.
 - a. Hut contract will contain ladder racking or other vertical support method on the cable entrance wall as well as overhead (horizontal) ladder racking over the to the rows of equipment racks.
 - b. OSP contract will contain the vertical relay racks as well as the fiber termination hardware and fiber management equipment.

4) Response to Questions received via email:

1. On the MST's, do you know if the engineer has a break down of how long the tails need to be for each one, or is up to the contractor to determine? There are 567 MST's and a configure sheet will have to done for each one unless the engineer has a breakdown.

Response: See item 11 above; it was determined that all tails are to be 50'.
2. On the fiber is it all dielectric or can it be single armor, single jacket with dielectric strength member
Response: The fiber type has been specified as all-dielectric and that fiber type should be included in the fiber unit costs. However, if the bidder desires to submit an alternate bid using armored cable which would result in better lead times and/or lower pricing, this will be allowed. However, it should be noted that the use of armored cable, if accepted, will require all necessary and applicable grounding procedures to be followed.
3. On the FDH panels, do these need to be a specific manufacturer?
Response: No specific manufacturer is named. Bidders will provide catalog information / product sheets for all proposed products for Owner review.
4. Do the fiber distribution hubs need to be loaded or are they empty cabinets?
Response: The splitter quantities are specified in the BM21 unit description and the FDH unit descriptions, see page 93.
5. In reviewing the specifications on the FTTH, we need more information for our supplier regarding the "fiber enclosure placed in HH" on exactly what those are. These are listed as HU on the bid tab, but there is no description in the spec. Can you please let us know what you are looking for.
Response: The HUU units (HUU024 through HUU432) are the fiber optic splice closures that will be placed in handholes where the fiber cable is

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underground. The number at the end of each unit is the quantity of fiber optic splices that the closure will need to accommodate.

Addendum Dated 7/20/21 addressing new questions received:

1. **Clarification:** Regarding the MST tails, all of the MSTs will be close enough to a splice point that 50' will suffice for all tail lengths.
2. **BM21:** Are there drawings or anything that tells or gives more information on the # of the fiber patch panels? Such as #of ports per panel and if the connectors are to be SC/APC?
Response: Patch panels are in groups of 48. Divide the total number of fibers being brought into the office by 48 and round up to the nearest whole number. Also, as was mentioned in the Pre-Bid meeting notes dated 7/13/21, all connectors are to be LC / APC.
3. Is the 2" HDPE and 4" HDPE SDR 11 or SDR 13.5?
Response: SDR-11
4. What diameter is the U-guard?
Response: One inch.
5. What is included in the 10M OHG and 10M Guy as these are not standard RUS units?
Response: all strand and associated hardware required for installation.
6. Can you provide more information of detailed description of the 12M anchor?
Response: 12,000 pound pulling tension; either screw or "bust" types are accepted.