

MARIA Request for Proposals
Wavelength-based Optical Network Services
Post Pre-Proposal Conference Call Questions and Answers
Posted July 1, 2013

1. *Please provide more information on the cross-connect needs at the Telx and Equinix data centers as discussed in Section III.3.c of the RFP.*

MARIA Members prefer that firms provide the optical cross-connect services at the Telx and Equinix data centers.

- a. The locations for MARIA equipment in the data centers is:
 - i. Equinix – Ashburn, VA: First floor, Cage Designation: 41415
 - ii. TELX – Atlanta, GA: Second floor, Rack Designation: 002-A65
 - b. Since the provision of cross-connects by firms is not mandatory, MARIA requests that firms list the cross-connect pricing (MRC and NRC) as separate line items.
2. *Please elaborate more on the characteristics of the “Protected” service in terms of redundancy and diversity as described in Sections III.2 and III.3.a of the RFP.*

As described in Section II of the RFP, the MARIA members seek proposals for high speed point-to-point network connections between the member’s location and Atlanta in order to build redundant and geographically diverse backup connections to the national higher education research networks (National Lambda Rail and Internet2). MARIA members presently connect to the national higher education research networks in Northern Virginia and MARIA members expect to retain their connectivity to Northern Virginia for this purpose. This RFP is for services to add redundant connectivity.

Given that this RFP is for circuits that will be used to build backup network services, MARIA does not expect firms to propose constructing new redundant fiber pathways into MARIA member data centers. MARIA members expect circuits to be delivered via a single port on the firm’s equipment. The “Protected” wavelength requirement is for the circuit to not be subject to an outage due to any single failure (e.g., a fiber cut, optical amplifier failure, other electronics failure, etc.) **on the long-distance inter-city portions of the network connection**. Intra-city local loop services may be provisioned over a single fiber cable with non-redundant electronics and still have the overall service meet the MARIA requirements for a “Protected Wave”. Firms should clearly describe the local-loop and inter-city redundancy of any “Protected Wave” services that they propose.

3. *Please provide the NPA/NXX for each of the endpoints.*

The locations below correspond to the endpoints specified in the RFP's Attachment 4, Anticipated Initial Service Needs.

- a. University of Virginia: 434/924
 - b. Old Dominion University: 757/683
 - c. Virginia Commonwealth University: 804/828
 - d. College of William and Mary: 757/221
 - e. Equinix Facility: 703/723
 - f. Telx Data Center: 404/214
4. *There was some discussion of alternative endpoints on the pre-proposal conference call. Please provide more information on potential alternate endpoints.*

Section III.3.d, Alternate Member Endpoints of the RFP identifies possibilities for alternative campus endpoints. No alternatives exist for the endpoints in the Telx and Equinix data centers located in Atlanta and Northern Virginia. Firms may contact MARIA as per Section III.3.d to discuss other possibilities for campus endpoint locations. There is no existing list of approved alternate campus endpoint locations.

5. *We are having problems with the email address rfp@marialliance.net. Do alternative email addresses exist for this procurement?*

We have had a report of problems sending to rfp@marialliance.net. If you encounter problems with this address, please send email to jokl@virginia.edu instead or simply cc both addresses. All communication will be acknowledged promptly. If you do not receive an answer back within one business day, please assume that your email message was lost and resend the note.