

Terms of Reference – Lac La Biche County Fibre Optic and Cellular Broadband Project

Summary

Lac La Biche County is seeking proposals from capable proponents for supply, installation, and ongoing operation of fibre optic and enhanced cellular broadband internet services in the County.

Due to the size and scope of the project, Lac La Biche County does not have exact specifications or requirements but is planning, through this process, to select at least one proponent to meet with and successfully negotiate the following terms and technical requirements:

- **Fibre Optic (urban) requirement**
 - The County is seeking fibre optic connections to all occupied residential and commercial/industrial structures and properties in the hamlets of Lac La Biche, Beaver Lake, and Plamondon, as well as residential and commercial/industrial subdivisions located in close proximity to these hamlets. While there may be technical and economic limits to the installation of fibre optic to rural areas, the County would work with the successful proponent to maximize the buildout of fibre to as many properties as economically feasible.
 - Included in these areas are County owned or leased buildings or facilities that need to be connected with fibre.
 - The successful proponent would have to have demonstrated a successful long – term ability to install and operate fibre optic connections in urban areas in Alberta.

- **Wireless (rural) requirement**
 - For residential and commercial/industrial structure and properties that are not feasible to be served by fibre (i.e. rural areas outside of the hamlets of Lac La Biche, Beaver Lake, and Plamondon), similar enhanced cellular wireless service to equivalent fibre specifications is sought by the County.

- **Internet speed**
 - Must at a minimum match the current targets of the Canadian Radio – Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), as well as being economically scalable to higher speeds (i.e. 5G) in the future.

- **Cost, Financing, and Ownership**
 - Lac La Biche County believes this project will need County funding of a substantial amount to incent the proponent to accomplish the objectives required. A level of cost recovery from the final users are expected.

- A number of federal and provincial grant funds and perhaps some private funding may be available as part of the project. The County will work with the successful proponent to maximize grant funding from other sources.
 - Lac La Biche County is open to reviewing various financing options to ensure the project is complete and operational.
 - Customer rates for a two – year term based on comparable installations in Alberta will be negotiable.
 - At the end of the project, ownership, operational and maintenance responsibilities will reside with the proponent and not with the County.
 - As part of the proposal, the proponent would discuss its policies on use of its County network by other internet service providers.
- **Timeline of installation**
 - The County is looking for up to a three-year construction period starting with the 2020 construction year. Details would continue to be negotiated as part of the final agreement.
 - The project milestones would be negotiated as part of the final agreement.
- **Lac La Biche County profile**
 - Population (2016 municipal census)
 - 8,544
 - 9,531 (including a shadow population of 987)
 - Hamlet population
 - Lac La Biche 2,682
 - Beaver Lake 527
 - Plamondon 348
 - Approximate number of premises (including dwellings, businesses and institutional) to connect with fibre:
 - Hamlets of Lac La Biche and Beaver Lake: 2,900
 - Hamlet of Plamondon: 200
 - Most are served with some level of broadband service by a number of existing providers.
 - Additional information about Lac La Biche County can be obtained by accessing its profile at www.albertahub.com or the County’s website at www.laclabichecounty.com.
- **Other items**
 - The County is expected to choose one proponent to continue negotiations to develop the project but is not necessarily limiting itself to only one.
 - County will supply changes to the RFP via the Alberta Purchasing Connection if necessary.
 - **Deadline for return of proposals – 2:00 PM, Friday, May 10, 2019.**

- **Evaluation criteria**

- 70% - experience with supplying fibre optic broadband internet service in urban areas equivalent to the hamlets of Lac La Biche, Beaver Lake, and Plamondon
- 30% - experience with supplying of cellular wireless broadband internet service in rural areas in Alberta similar to Lac La Biche County