

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Fiber Optic Broadband Network Engineering Services

Issued by: GigaBeam Networks, LLC

Funding Source: Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program – Commonwealth of Virginia

RFP No.: GBN-BEAD-ENG-001

Issue Date: January 1, 2026

Proposal Due Date: January 22, 2026

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

GigaBeam Networks, LLC ("GigaBeam" or "the Company") is soliciting written proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide professional fiber optic broadband network engineering services in support of broadband deployment projects in areas awarded to GigaBeam under the Virginia BEAD Program.

This procurement is for professional services and will be conducted in accordance with the competitive negotiation procedures set forth in the Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA), § 2.2-4302.2, as applicable to grant-funded procurements by subrecipients.

These projects are funded in whole or in part with federal BEAD grant funds administered by the Commonwealth of Virginia. As such, this procurement and any resulting contract must comply with:

- The Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA) (§ 2.2-4300 et seq., Code of Virginia)
- All applicable state and federal grant requirements, including BEAD, NTIA, and U.S. Department of Commerce regulations
- Applicable federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200)

In accordance with the VPPA for professional services:

- Offerors' qualifications and technical proposals will be evaluated prior to and independent of cost proposals
- Cost will be considered only after technical merit has been evaluated
- Discussions and negotiations may be conducted with Offerors deemed to be within the competitive range

GigaBeam intends to award one or more contracts to the responsible Offeror(s) whose proposal(s) are determined to be the most advantageous, in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth herein.

2. PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

Milestone	Date
RFP Issued	January 1, 2026
Deadline for Written Questions	January 15, 2026
Issuance of Addenda (if any)	January 19, 2026
Proposals Due	January 22, 2026
Anticipated Award Date	January 30, 2026

GigaBeam reserves the right to modify this schedule at its sole discretion.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The selected Offeror(s) shall provide comprehensive engineering and technical services necessary to design, support, and document fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) broadband networks in BEAD-awarded areas in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Services may include, but are not limited to, the following:

3.1 Network Planning and Design

The selected Offeror shall provide comprehensive high-level, detailed, and low-level fiber network planning and design services to support FTTP deployments in GigaBeam-awarded BEAD areas. Services under this task shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- High-level and detailed FTTP network architecture and topology design, including alignment with GigaBeam standards and BEAD program requirements
- Fiber route planning utilizing GIS data and field-verified information in coordination with GigaBeam staff
- Central office, hub, and hut design support, including space planning, equipment layouts, and interconnection concepts
- Split architecture selection, capacity planning, and growth forecasting
- Network redundancy and resiliency design to support service reliability and operational continuity

In addition, the Offeror shall develop low-level design (LLD) documentation sufficient to support construction-ready engineering and implementation, including:

- Detailed fiber routing, placement, and topology at the distribution and access levels
- Identification and placement of terminals, splice points, enclosures, and related network elements
- Preliminary fiber counts, splitter placement concepts, and logical fiber assignments
- Coordination of low-level design assumptions with downstream construction-ready design activities
- Design documentation suitable for transition into construction-ready design packages and GIS systems

All planning and design activities shall be performed in close coordination with GigaBeam staff and shall be subject to GigaBeam review and approval prior to advancement to subsequent project phases.

3.2 Engineering and Construction Documentation

- Preparation of construction-ready design (CRD) packages
- Fiber counts, splice diagrams, and schematics
- Bill of Materials (BOM) development
- Make-ready and pole attachment engineering coordination with GigaBeam staff. GigaBeam will coordinate directly with pole owners for make-ready and attachments.
- Permitting and right-of-way submittals will be handled by GigaBeam staff

3.3 Field and Technical Support

- Field walkouts and verification
- Coordination with GigaBeam staff; GigaBeam will coordinate directly with construction contractors
- Engineering support during construction
- As-built documentation and closeout support

3.4 Compliance and Grant Support

- Engineering documentation required for BEAD compliance
- Support for environmental, labor, and federal compliance requirements as they relate to engineering. Environmental review documentation and support will be provided by the Mt. Rogers Regional Planning District.
- Coordination with GigaBeam grant reporting and compliance teams

GigaBeam anticipates issuing task orders or work authorizations under any resulting contract.

4. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Offerors must demonstrate:

1. At least five (5) years of experience providing fiber optic network engineering services for broadband deployments
 2. Demonstrated experience with FTTP network design
 3. Experience working on publicly funded or grant-funded broadband projects, preferably BEAD, RDOF, ReConnect, or similar
 4. Knowledge of Virginia permitting, pole attachment, and right-of-way requirements
 5. Capacity to perform work in multiple rural and underserved areas concurrently
 6. Employment of at least one Virginia-licensed Professional Engineer (PE) who will be responsible for, and oversee, the engineering services performed under any resulting contract
-

5. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must be submitted electronically in PDF format and must include the following sections:

5.1 Cover Letter

- Signed by an authorized representative
- Commitment to perform the work

5.2 Firm Qualifications and Experience

- Firm background and history
- Relevant project experience (minimum three references)
- Key personnel resumes and roles

5.3 Technical Approach

- Understanding of the Scope of Services
- Methodology and approach
- Quality control and project management processes

5.4 Schedule and Capacity

- Ability to meet BEAD deployment timelines
- Staffing availability

5.5 Cost Proposal

- Hourly rates by labor category and/or unit pricing
- Any assumptions or exclusions

5.6 Required Certifications and Disclosures

Offerors shall include the following signed statements and disclosures with their proposal:

- Non-collusion statement
- Conflict of interest disclosure
- Debarment certification
- Proof of Virginia Professional Engineering (PE) license for the engineer(s) responsible for the work
- Acknowledgement of addenda (if any)

Failure to submit required certifications and disclosures may result in a proposal being deemed non-responsive.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

This procurement shall be conducted using competitive negotiation for professional services in accordance with § 2.2-4302.2 of the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

6.1 Evaluation Process

- Proposals will be evaluated by GigaBeam based on qualifications, experience, and technical merit.
- Cost proposals will be reviewed only after completion of the technical evaluation.
- Oral presentations, interviews, or written clarifications may be requested.
- A competitive range may be established, and negotiations may be conducted with Offerors within that range.
- Award will be made to the Offeror(s) determined to be fully qualified and whose proposal(s) are determined to be the most advantageous to GigaBeam.

6.2 Evaluation Factors and Weights

Criteria	Weight
Technical Qualifications and Experience	45%
Understanding of Scope and Technical Approach	35%
Past Performance and References	20%

Pricing will be negotiated with the selected Offeror(s) following completion of the qualifications-based evaluation, in accordance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act for professional services.

7. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

7.1 Compliance with Laws

The Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and grant requirements, including but not limited to the Virginia Public Procurement Act, 2 CFR Part 200, and all BEAD and NTIA requirements.

7.2 Professional Services Standard

The Contractor shall perform services in accordance with the professional standards and ethics applicable to engineering services in the Commonwealth of Virginia and shall exercise reasonable skill, care, and diligence.

7.3 Small, Women-, Minority-, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SWaM)

Consistent with Virginia procurement policy, GigaBeam encourages participation by SWaM-certified and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. Offerors shall describe any planned SWaM participation.

7.4 Non-Discrimination

The Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

7.5 Records Retention and Audit

The Contractor shall maintain all records related to this contract for a minimum of **five (5) years** following final payment, or longer if required by grant conditions, and shall make such records available for inspection and audit by GigaBeam, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and federal authorities.

7.6 Confidentiality and Public Records

Proposals submitted in response to this RFP shall become the property of GigaBeam. Proprietary or confidential information must be clearly marked. Disclosure shall be handled in a manner consistent with the VPPA and applicable public records requirements.

8. NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

Following evaluation and selection, GigaBeam intends to issue a written Notice of Intent to Award to the selected Offeror(s). Award shall not be final until approval by GigaBeam and execution of a written contract.

Unsuccessful Offerors will be notified in writing from GigaBeam.

9. RIGHTS RESERVED

GigaBeam reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals
- Waive informalities or minor irregularities
- Cancel or reissue this RFP
- Negotiate with one or more Offerors

10. POINT OF CONTACT

All communications regarding this RFP shall be directed to:

Eric Workman, Ed.D.
Chief Strategic Officer
GigaBeam Networks, LLC
Email: eworkman@gigabeam.net

Unauthorized contact with other GigaBeam personnel may result in disqualification.
