RFQ Addendum No. 1 – Questions & Answers

RFQ Title: Microwave System Engineering Services
Owner: MACC 911 – Multi-Agency Communications Center
Addendum No.: 1
Date: February 5, 2026

This Addendum is issued to address questions received regarding the RFQ. The information below shall be considered part of the RFQ and shall be distributed to all firms known to have received the RFQ.

Question 1

Q: Can you confirm the exact Aviat equipment models currently in use?

A: MACC 911's existing microwave system is based on the Aviat (formerly Harris Stratex) Eclipse family, including Eclipse E300hp-class ODUs. Path coordination data sheets identify an Eclipse ODU 300 HP configuration with 128QAM modulation and 30 MHz emission designators.

In addition to the microwave radios, the accepted field test and baseline documentation identify supporting network components including Larus loop switches, Asentria SiteBoss RTUs, and a ProVision NMS environment as part of the overall microwave/IP backhaul stack.

For RFQ/qualifications purposes, firms may assume an Eclipse-based environment with multiple licensed bands (including 6 GHz and 11 GHz portions of the system). Final "as-installed" inventory (ODU/IDU part numbers, quantities, and firmware) will be confirmed with the selected engineering firm as part of the initial documentation review and validation scope.

Question 2

Q: Can you describe the current network topology and any target capacity or performance requirements?

A: Baseline system documentation describes a multi-site licensed microwave backhaul network serving public safety communications, with multiple hops interconnecting core and remote sites. Existing coordination and engineering documents include hop profiles and link budget calculations (frequency, modulation, channel bandwidth, protection type, antenna characteristics, fade margin, and reliability/outage assumptions), as well as system layout diagrams showing key sites and interconnections.

Acceptance documentation reflects field testing to verify receive signal levels (measured vs. calculated), fade margin, and BER performance aligned with the original design assumptions.

For this RFQ, MACC 911's expectation is that the selected engineering firm will:

- Validate the current topology and hop performance against present and forecast operational needs,
- Identify constraints and single points of failure, and
- Develop recommended designs/alternatives that meet public-safety resiliency expectations (capacity, availability, recoverability).

If firms wish to state assumed target throughput/availability objectives in their SOQ (e.g., typical availability targets for licensed public-safety microwave), they are welcome to do so, but SOQs will be evaluated primarily on qualifications and approach rather than specific performance values proposed at this stage.

Question 3

Q: Can you provide site-specific details, including tower locations, antenna types, heights, and any known constraints at each site?

A: MACC 911 maintains site-by-site information including location, coordinates, elevations, tower type/height, ownership, power/backup power, and site access considerations. Engineering/coordination sheets also include antenna manufacturer/model information, centerline heights, azimuth, path length, and related RF parameters by hop.

As examples, we have standardized site information for multiple system locations including Beezley, Beverly, Coulee City, Frenchman Hills, Grand Coulee, Hartline, Moses Lake, Pixlee, Quincy, Vantage, Wahatis, Warden and Wilson Creek, with documented coordinates, tower specifications, ownership, and power/generator details.

Detailed site packages and underlying engineering documents will be made available to the selected firm during the design phase and used to validate and update the basis-of-design.

Question 4

Q: Is there an established budget range for the required engineering and consulting services?

A: MACC 911 has internal planning figures for the scope described in this RFQ; however, we are not publishing a specific budget range for engineering services as part of the RFQ Q&A.

Selection will be based on qualifications in accordance with RCW 39.80. Following selection of the most qualified firm, MACC 911 will negotiate a detailed scope and fee. Firms should focus their SOQs on relevant experience, team qualifications, and project approach, rather than on price.

Question 5

Q: What is the expected project schedule?

A: The following is a general target schedule and may be refined in consultation with the selected firm:

- Engineering selection and contract execution: Spring 2026
- Design, plans, specifications, and engineer's estimate: Spring–Summer 2026
- Public works bidding for installation: Late 2026
- Construction, cutover, and implementation: 2026–2027

In their SOQs, firms may describe their typical approach to schedule management (e.g., documentation review, field validation/site visits as required, draft and final deliverable timelines). This schedule detail is provided for planning purposes only and does not modify the RFQ submittal deadlines.

Question 6

Q: Are there specific FirstNet compliance requirements or validation expectations that we should consider as part of the scope?

A: MACC 911 does not have a requirement for "FirstNet certification" of the microwave network itself. The microwave network is intended to provide reliable IP transport for public safety communications, including systems that may interface with carrier or FirstNet-related services.

Baseline acceptance documentation for the existing system includes a structured test approach (field acceptance testing and performance verification), including throughput/latency testing (e.g., RFC2544-style methodologies) and BER/continuity validation at the hop/service level.

For this RFQ, firms should describe a validation and acceptance framework appropriate for a public-safety microwave backhaul environment, including any recommended testing related to IP performance, latency, resiliency, and cutover risk mitigation. If firms have experience with

FirstNet-related interfaces and believe that is relevant to their approach, they may identify that experience in their SOQ.