

RFQ Addendum No. 3 – Questions & Answers

RFQ Title: Microwave System Engineering Services
Owner: MACC 911 – Multi Agency Communications Center
Addendum No.: 3
Date: February 12, 2026

This Addendum is issued to address additional questions received regarding the RFQ. The information below shall be considered part of the RFQ and applies to all respondents.

Question 1

Q: Please confirm the microwave replacement manufacturer must be included/listed and approved on the NASPO “Public Safety Communications Products, Services and Solutions” contract.

A: MACC 911 intends to procure microwave equipment via the Washington DES / NASPO “Public Safety Communications Products, Services and Solutions” cooperative contract. The replacement equipment will be selected from manufacturers and product lines available under that contract.

For planning purposes, firms should assume the project will continue to utilize Aviat equipment acquired through the applicable DES/NASPO contract, and that the engineering scope is to work within that procurement framework rather than to conduct a new, open manufacturer selection process.

Question 2

Q: Is MACC 911 seeking additional backhaul bandwidth and, if so, does MACC plan to move from a mixed technologies environment to a fully IP backhaul?

A: One of MACC 911’s objectives is to ensure that the upgraded microwave system provides sufficient IP backhaul capacity and resiliency to support current and projected public safety communications needs and the addition of live camera feeds. The existing environment includes a mix of technologies; the replacement effort is expected to emphasize a modern, packet-based (IP/Ethernet) backhaul design, while preserving or improving overall reliability and path diversity.

Specific capacity targets and any technology migration details (e.g., how fully “all IP” the design should be) will be refined in collaboration with the selected engineering firm during the basis-of-design phase.

Question 3

Q: Is MACC 911 wishing to remain with ODU technologies, or are IDUs a consideration?

A: MACC 911 is not prescribing a specific radio form factor (all-outdoor vs. split-mount) in the RFQ. The expectation is that the selected engineering firm, working with MACC 911 and the selected equipment vendor, will recommend an appropriate combination of ODU/IDU or all-outdoor configurations based on site constraints, system requirements, and best practices for licensed public safety microwave.

Firms may describe their general preferences or experience with different architectures in their SOQ, but the final selection of specific form factors will be part of the design effort.

Question 4

Q: Does MACC 911 already have uninterruptible power backup that will sustain microwave links through extended power outages? If not, will that be a design consideration?

A: Yes. All microwave sites in the MACC 911 network have generator power for backup in the event of utility outages. Battery and generator configurations vary by site, but the intent is to maintain microwave service during extended power interruptions.

As part of the overall resiliency assessment, the selected engineering firm will be asked to review existing power and backup arrangements (including battery runtime and generator support) and provide recommendations where improvements or adjustments may be warranted. Any major power-system upgrades identified (e.g., changes to battery capacity or generator infrastructure) may be addressed as separate projects or bid items, depending on the final design and budget.

Question 5

Q: Will a new NMS be required for this system replacement and, if so, will the expectation be that it is integrated directly with the microwave vendor-provided equipment?

A: MACC 911 currently uses a network management system for the existing microwave environment. As part of the replacement effort, MACC anticipates evaluating options for an updated or upgraded NMS capable of managing the new microwave equipment and associated network components.

The expectation is that the final design will include an NMS solution that integrates directly with the selected microwave equipment, with appropriate alarming, monitoring, and reporting capabilities for a public safety network. The selected engineering firm will be asked to develop recommendations and requirements for the NMS approach, including integration and migration from the current environment.

Question 6

Q: Will MACC 911 be adding any additional public safety or commercial partners to this system and, if so, is there an estimate of what additional bandwidth may be needed?

A: MACC 911 must account for growth in both public safety usage and potential interagency/partner use of the network over the life of the system. There are no specific, committed additional partners or fixed bandwidth figures to publish as part of this RFQ Q&A.

Firms should assume that the design must accommodate reasonable growth in traffic and allow for future participation by additional public safety partners, with scalability considerations addressed in the basis-of-design. Any known partner additions and more detailed bandwidth projections will be discussed with the selected engineering firm during project initiation.

Question 7

Q: Will the selected contractor be responsible for the final system design, or will the selected equipment manufacturer be expected to provide the final system design based upon MACC 911's and the consultant's recommendations and specifications?

A: Under this RFQ, MACC 911 is selecting an engineering/consulting firm to serve as the primary design professional for the project. The selected firm will be responsible for developing the basis-of-design, plans, specifications, and engineer's estimate, and for supporting MACC during bidding and implementation.

The microwave equipment manufacturer and vendor are expected to support the design process (e.g., detailed link calculations, equipment configurations, application engineering), but the final system design documents used for procurement and public works bidding will be prepared and overseen by the selected engineering firm in its professional capacity.