

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

January 8th, 2025

**Volo.net Internet+Tech Connect Illinois FTTH Project Materials Request for Proposals
Grant Agreement #21-431018**

The notice to bidders defines general parameters of the Quote.

1. Pricing quotes are due to Volo no later than 3 p.m. CT January 23rd, 2025.

Volo.net Internet+Tech(Volo)

Attn: Peter Folk

3310 N

Cunningham Ave.

Urbana, IL 61802

Email submissions of proposals are preferred, please submit all electronic proposals to:

Wyatt Tomlinson

w.tomlinson@finleyusa.com

2. Vendors are to review the entire Material Specification and Request for Pricing for the requirements of the Request for Proposals.
3. The Request for Proposals for Material Pricing is a “Best Value” solicitation and is not entirely based on the lowest price from a single vendor. Vendors are encouraged to provide their best solutions and products for consideration by Volo.

All proposals and products submitted by vendors will be reviewed and scored against the Scoring Rubric for selection of products and vendor solutions which best meet the requirements of the project. Volo reserves the right to choose products and solutions from a single or multiple vendors based on the “Best Value” approach.

4. There will not be a conference to review the Request for Proposals, if there are any questions regarding the Material Specification and Request for Pricing; please contact Wyatt Tomlinson with Finley Engineering. Answers to any questions which result in changes to the Material Specification and Request for Pricing will be communicated to the companies indicating an interest in this Request for Proposal.

Finley Engineering, Wyatt Tomlinson: w.tomlinson@finleyusa.com

5. Materials will be for construction of a Connect Illinois FTTH Broadband Project in Champaign County, Illinois. The construction of the Connect Illinois FTTH Project will begin in Q1 of 2025.
6. Vendors are to provide product data sheets or marketing material for each proposed product or solution.
7. The successful bidder WILL NOT be required to obtain a Bid Bond or Performance Bond for the delivery of material to Volo Internet.
8. An Excel file of the Unit Pages is attached for Unit Price entry. Use the Excel file to input pricing for submission of Request for Proposals.
9. If vendors have previously submitted pricing proposals, please review this Notice to Bidders for the requirements of complete Request for Proposal responses.

Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program Requirements

Certain requirements are incumbent on Volo, and include certain provisions outlined in Connect Illinois Grant Agreement # 21-431018.

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.322, as appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, Grantee must, to the greatest extent practicable under this Award, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products).

The successful bidder will be required to provide a Lobbying Disclosure and Certification Form indicating.

Grantee certifies that it will not use and has not used Grant Funds to influence or attempt to influence an officer or employee of any government agency or a member or employee of the State or federal legislature in connection with the awarding of any agreement, the making of any grant, the making of any loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any agreement, grant, loan or cooperative agreement. Additionally, Grantee certifies that it has filed the required certification under the Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment (31 USC 1352), if applicable.

If any federal funds, other than federally-appropriated funds, were paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence any of the above persons in connection with this Agreement, the undersigned must also complete and submit Federal Form LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Form, in accordance with its instructions.

Grantee warrants and certifies that it and, to the best of its knowledge, its subrecipients have complied and will comply with Illinois Executive Order No. 1 (2007) (EO 1-2007). EO 1-2007 generally prohibits grantees and subcontractors from hiring the then-serving Governor's family members to lobby procurement activities of the State, or any other unit of government in Illinois including local governments, if that procurement may result in a contract valued at over \$25,000. This prohibition also applies to hiring for that same purpose any former State employee who had procurement authority at any time during the one-year period preceding the procurement lobbying activity.

For fulfilling Procurement Requirements of 2 CFR Part 200, Volo is utilizing a full and open procurement for material required to complete Grant Award 21-431018.

Please see below for the scoring rubric for evaluating the best material solutions for Grant Award 21-431018. All vendor proposals will be scored fairly against this scoring rubric.

Qualifications Evaluation Criteria

The Volo and Finley evaluation team will assess each vendor response and rank on a vendor product basis.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>
General Qualifications: Experience, company history, and background of the entity responding.	20
Availability and Delivery of Material: Timelines for delivery of material; include any proposed solutions for Material Management which are advantageous to Volo for a 2025 project.	30
Pricing: Proposed pricing for the required materials, noting any specific discounts and payment terms which are advantageous to Volo. Identify individual cost line items for the material and separate cost line items for shipping.	40
Value-Add: Value added solutions from the vendor or manufacturers which provide an advantage to Volo for installation or operations of the FTTH network.	10
Total Possible Points:	100