

# Request for Proposal (RFP) for Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) System

**Issuing Company:** Grizzly Broadband, LLC located at 222 N 2nd St, Hamilton, MT 59840  
**RFP Number:** 2023\_GBRC01\_Construction

## I. Introduction

Grizzly Broadband is pleased to issue this Request for Proposal (RFP) for the implementation of a Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) system in **Corvallis, MT** herein referenced as project **GBRC01**. The purpose of this project is to provide high-speed internet access to unserved & underserved areas in our community, and we are excited to be awarded funding through the ConnectMT grant program to make this project a reality.

As a locally owned and operated broadband internet service provider, Grizzly Broadband is committed to providing reliable and affordable broadband services to our customers. We recognize that access to high-speed internet is essential for education, healthcare, economic development, and social connectivity in today's world. Therefore, we are eager to partner with a qualified contractor who shares our vision and can help us deliver this project on time and within budget.

Through this RFP, we seek to identify a contractor with the technical expertise, experience, and resources to build a state-of-the-art FTTP system in accordance with the specifications and requirements outlined in this document. We invite all interested and qualified contractors to submit a proposal that demonstrates their ability to meet our needs and goals.

We look forward to reviewing the proposals and working with the selected contractor to deliver a successful project that will have a positive impact on our community.

## II. Scope of Work

The scope of this **GBRC01** project includes the installation, testing, and commissioning of a Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) system that provides high-speed internet access to unserved & underserved areas in **Corvallis, MT**. The project will encompass the following components:

**Electronics Cabinets:** The contractor will be responsible for the installation of all required electronics cabinets as defined by engineering documents.

**Handholes:** The contractor will be responsible for the installation of all required handholes

along the FTTP network. The handholes must meet the specifications outlined in the construction specifications and be located in appropriate locations along the FTTP network.

**Mainline Duct:** The contractor will be responsible for the installation of all required mainline ducts along the FTTP network. The mainline duct must meet the specifications outlined in the construction specifications and be located in appropriate locations along the FTTP network.

**Distribution Duct:** The contractor will be responsible for the installation of all required distribution ducts along the FTTP network. The distribution duct must meet the specifications outlined in the construction specifications and be located in appropriate locations along the FTTP network.

**Drop Duct:** The contractor will be responsible for the installation of all required drop ducts along the FTTP network. The drop duct must meet the specifications outlined in the construction specifications and be located in appropriate locations along the FTTP network.

**Fiber Placement and Splicing:** The contractor will be responsible for the placement and splicing of all required fiber optic cables along the FTTP network. The contractor must use high-quality fiber optic cables that meet the specifications outlined in the construction specifications.

**NID Installation:** The contractor will be responsible for the installation of Network Interface Devices (NIDs) at each customer's house. The NIDs must meet the specifications outlined in the construction specifications and be located in appropriate locations at the customer's premises.

**Fiber Testing:** The contractor will be responsible for testing all fiber optic cables in accordance with the construction specifications. The contractor must use Optical Time Domain Reflectometers (OTDRs) and power meter/light source equipment to ensure that the cables meet the required specifications.

The successful contractor must also provide all necessary labor and equipment required for the project, materials will be supplied and procured by GBB, as well as comply with all applicable safety regulations and quality standards. The project must be completed within the agreed-upon timeline and budget.

### III. Technical Specifications

The FTTP system for this project will use the Hexatronic System Micro-Fiber with fiber plant facing SC/APC & LC/APC connectors. The following technical specifications are list as a guide for the bid proposal:

**Fiber Optic Cables:** The fiber optic cables defined are made by Hexatronic for the Hexatronic

Micro duct / fiber system:

Cable Sizes: 12 count, 24 count, 48 count, 96 count, & 144 count are specified in the engineering designs

**Attenuation:**  $\leq 0.4$  dB/km @ 1550 nm

**Insertion Loss:**  $\leq 0.2$  dB

**Return Loss:**  $\geq 50$  dB

**Bandwidth:**  $\geq 10$  Gbps @ 1550 nm on all middle mile connection points, and 100 Mbps on all subscriber end points (tested at the router).

**Connectors:** The connectors used in the system must be SC/LPC & LC/APC type connectors that are compatible with the Hexatronic System Micro-Fiber cables. The connectors must meet or exceed the following specifications:

**Air Blown Fiber:** The fiber optic cables must be Hexatronic System Air Blown Fiber with a minimum of 1 fiber and up to 12 fibers.

**Electronics Cabinets:** The electronics cabinets used in the system must be designed to house the necessary electronics and equipment for the system. The cabinets must be made of durable materials and be able to withstand harsh environmental conditions.

**Handholes:** The handholes must be made of durable materials and be able to withstand harsh environmental conditions. Lids will range in rating from Tier 15 in light traffic areas, tier 22 in traffic areas, and H20 Lids for heavy traffic areas.

**Mainline Duct:** The mainline duct used in the system must be compatible with the Hexatronic System Micro-Fiber cables and connectors. Mainline duct will be 18mm/14mm O.D. / I.D. in diameter and supplied in either a 2-way or 4-way configuration inclusive of tracer wire.

**Distribution Duct:** The distribution duct used in the system must be compatible with the Hexatronic System Micro-Fiber cables and connectors. Distribution duct will be 7mm/3.5mm O.D. / I.D. in diameter and supplied in either a 2-way, 4-way, 7way, 12-way or 24-way configuration inclusive of tracer wire.

**Drop Duct:** The distribution duct used in the system must be compatible with the Hexatronic System Micro-Fiber cables and connectors. Distribution duct will be 7mm/3.5mm O.D. / I.D. in diameter and supplied in either a single duct configuration with an outer sheath inclusive of tracer wire.

**Network Interface Devices (NIDs):** The NIDs used in the system must be compatible with the

Hexatronic System Micro-Fiber cables and connectors. The NIDs must be designed to be easily installed at the customer's premises and provide reliable and secure connections. The NIDs must be able to withstand harsh environmental conditions.

All equipment and materials used in the system must meet or exceed industry standards and be compatible with the Hexatronic System Micro-Fiber cables and connectors. The system must be installed in accordance with all applicable safety regulations and quality standards. The successful contractor will be provided with all necessary documentation and must provide as-built drawings, test results, and operating manuals as defined by timeline and milestones.

The successful contractor must be willing to be trained<sup>1</sup> by Hexatronic personnel and installed per Hexatronic ABF system standards as defined by the Hexatronic warranty attached as Exhibit C.

#### **IV. Project Timeline**

The project must be completed within 18 months of the performance period start, which is defined as the date when construction shovels are in the ground.

The following is an estimated project timeline:

RFP Posted **March 9th, 2023** open for 30 days  
RFP Submission Deadline - **April 8th, 2023**

Engineering to begin TBD [est. April 2023]

Construction to begin as early as 4 weeks post engineering start date

Project must be completed within 18 months of construction begin date.(i.e. If construction was to begin on May 15th, 2023 project **GBRC01** would need to be completed no later than November 14th, 2024)

#### **V. Proposal Requirements**

The following proposal requirements must be met in order to be considered for the contract:

##### **Company Overview:**

Provide a brief overview of the company, including years in business, experience with fiber optic installations, and relevant certifications and qualifications.

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<sup>1</sup> Initial training is provided by Hexatronic as their expense, further training of personnel due to lack of sufficient internal training practices will be at expense of bidders

**Proposed Action Plan:**

Detail the proposed workflow for completing the project within the designated timeline. Include a timeline that outlines the key milestones and deadlines for each phase of the project. Identify the personnel who will be responsible for each phase of the project.

**Budget and Pricing:**

Provide a detailed budget and pricing breakdown that includes all labor, equipment, and material costs. Use the provided Exhibit A BOM-Units Spreadsheet to detail the unit costs required for the project. Identify any potential cost savings or efficiencies that may be realized during the project.

**Qualifications and Experience:**

Provide information on the qualifications and experience of the key personnel who will be involved in the project, including project management, engineering, and field staff. Include a list of references from similar projects completed by the company. Specifically address experience installing micro-duct and micro-fiber cable systems.

**VI. Contractual Requirements**

The following contractual requirements must be met in order to receive funding through the ARPA grant agreement for the ConnectMT program in the state of Montana. All contractual requirements must also comply with applicable Federal and Montana Code Annotated 2021 regulations:

**Performance Standards:**

- The contractor must meet all performance standards outlined in the project final statement of work.
- The contractor must ensure that all work is completed within the designated project timeline.
- The contractor must ensure that all work is completed in compliance with all applicable safety regulations and industry standards.

**Reporting and Documentation:**

- The contractor must provide regular progress reports to the project manager throughout the duration of the project. Weekly reporting is recommended.
- The contractor must provide all necessary documentation, including as-built drawings, permits, and certifications, after each weekly closeout period and upon completion of the project.

**Change Management:**

- Any changes to the project scope of work must be approved in writing by the project manager prior to implementation.

- Any changes to the project timeline must be approved in writing by the project manager prior to implementation.
- Any changes to the project budget must be approved in writing by the project manager prior to implementation.

**Payment and Invoicing:**

- The contractor must submit invoices in accordance with the payment schedule outlined in the contract.
- The contractor must provide accurate and detailed invoices that clearly outline all work completed and materials used.
- Payment will be made by the Company within 30 days of receipt of a properly submitted invoice.

**Termination and Default:**

- The contract may be terminated by either party for cause with written notice.
- The contractor may be considered in default if they fail to meet project performance standards, fail to comply with applicable regulations, or fail to complete the project within the designated timeline.
- In the event of termination or default, the project manager may pursue legal remedies as outlined in the contract.

**Compliance:**

- The contractor must comply with all applicable Federal and Montana Code Annotated 2021 regulations, including but not limited to labor laws, environmental regulations, and safety standards.
- The contractor must verify all necessary permits and approvals prior to commencing work. GBB will apply for and manage rights of way permits, all other permits needed to do work in the state of Montana must be acquired by Contractor prior to construction start date.
- All contractual requirements must be met in order to receive funding through the ARPA grant agreement for the ConnectMT program. The successful contractor must ensure that all work is completed in accordance with the specifications outlined in this RFP and in compliance with all applicable regulations.
- The contractor must certify they satisfied the strong labor standard requirement, either by certifying that the work complies with the Davis-Bacon Act (or related state laws, commonly known as “baby Davis-Bacon Acts”) and is subject to a project labor agreement OR by certifying that the work met the strong labor standard requirement by providing the alternative information as proscribed in the Certification of Wages and Labor Standards, Exhibit D.
- Ongoing compliance will be required quarterly, contractor will need to keep Project Manager informed of all subcontractors used during construction and will certify that only subcontractors that are verified to NOT be on the federal debarment / suspension list will be used.

## VII. Evaluation and Award Process

There will be a 5 business day evaluation period after the RFP deadline. Awards will be decided based on the following criteria: **GBRC01** decision will be made by End of Business 5:00pm MST/MDT on **April 14th, 2023**

- Verification that all contractors and subcontractors are not listed on the federal debarment or suspension list.

Criteria	Points	Score <sup>2</sup>
Total Project Price	10	
Vendor Experience with similar projects (in years)	20	
Commitment to construction timeline requirements	10	
Level of Support Offered in Construction Contract	10	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	

The review will be completed by a committee of 3 people to include the Program Officer, Project Manager, and a leadership staff member of the Company

## VIII. Contact Information

### Program Officer

**Name:** Jason Pond

**Phone Number:** 406-375-0828

**Email Address:**

jason.pond@grizzlybb.com

### Project Manager

**Name:** Jordan Bauman

**Phone Number:** 406-361-5829

**Email Address:**

jordan.bauman@grizzlybb.com

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<sup>2</sup> To be filled out by review committee

## IX. Appendices

### Construction Specifications:

The following construction specifications must be followed for the installation of the FTTP system:

#### Mainline Duct Installation:

- Mainline duct will be installed in MDOT right of way at a depth of 42" or greater.
- Mainline duct will be installed in County and City right of way at a depth of 36".
- Mainline duct must be placed in as straight of a line as practical and secured to prevent movement or damage.
- Mainline duct must be installed using trenching, plowing, or boring techniques.

#### Distribution Duct Installation:

- Distribution duct will be installed at a depth of 42" in MDOT right of way and at a depth of 24" in all other rights of way.
- Distribution duct must be placed in as straight of a line as practical and secured to prevent movement or damage.
- Distribution ducts must be installed using trenching, plowing, or boring techniques.

#### Drop Conduit Installation:

- Drop conduit will be installed at a depth of 12" minimum, not to exceed 18".
- Drop conduit must be placed in as straight of a line as practical and secured to prevent movement or damage.
- Drop conduit must be installed using trenching, plowing, or boring techniques.

#### Conduit Protection:

- All conduit must be installed with protective measures to prevent damage from external factors such as soil erosion, animal interference, or excavation work.
- All conduit must be covered with a protective cover or placed in a conduit encasement where necessary.
- All conduit/tracer wire must be grounded in accordance with industry standards.

#### Fiber Optic Cable Placement and Splicing:

- Fiber optic cable must be placed in the conduit and secured to prevent movement or damage.
- Fiber optic cable splicing must be performed using fusion splicing techniques.
- All splices must be tested and verified using OTDR and power meter/light source equipment.

All construction work must comply with all applicable safety regulations and industry standards. The successful contractor must ensure that all work is completed to the satisfaction of the



project manager and in compliance with the specifications outlined in this RFP.

## **X. Disclaimers**

### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Disclaimer:**

This project is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The recipient of these funds is responsible for compliance with all applicable ARPA requirements, including but not limited to reporting requirements and compliance with all applicable Federal and Montana Code Annotated 2021 regulations.

### **Termination of Contract:**

The grantor reserves the right to terminate the contract at any time if the recipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the contract, including but not limited to compliance with all applicable Federal and Montana Code Annotated 2021 regulations.

### **Liability and Indemnification:**

The recipient of these funds assumes all risks and liabilities associated with the project, including but not limited to property damage, personal injury, and third-party claims. The recipient agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the grantor, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, damages, losses, liabilities, and expenses arising out of or in connection with the project.

### **Public Records:**

All documents and materials generated as part of the project are subject to public records laws and may be subject to disclosure under Montana Code Annotated 2021. The recipient of these funds agrees to comply with all applicable public records laws and to provide all requested documents and materials in a timely manner.

### **Governing Law:**

This contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Montana, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law provisions. Any legal action arising out of or in connection with this contract shall be brought in the courts of the State of Montana.

## **XI. Conclusion**

In conclusion, Grizzly Broadband is pleased to submit this proposal for the construction of a fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) system utilizing the Hexatronic system. We are committed to delivering a high-quality and reliable system that will meet the needs of the residents and businesses in the target areas.

We are confident that our proposed action plan and project timeline will allow us to complete the project within the 18-month performance period.



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Grizzly Broadband values the opportunity to partner with the ConnectMT grant program and contribute to the development of high-speed internet infrastructure in the state of Montana. We look forward to the possibility of working with you and delivering a successful project.

## **XII. Submission Details**

Submission are being accepted electronically only, all submissions must be submitted to the project email: [rfp\\_gbr01@grizzlybb.com](mailto:rfp_gbr01@grizzlybb.com)

Requests for additional information and/or to schedule any phone or virtual meetings you may do so by contacting the project email [rfp\\_gbr01@grizzlybb.com](mailto:rfp_gbr01@grizzlybb.com)

### **ENCLOSED:**

EXHIBIT A: BOM Units Spreadsheet

EXHIBIT B: **GBRC01** boundary map & pathways

EXHIBIT C: Hexatronic Warranty Document

EXHIBIT D: CERTIFICATION OF WAGES AND LABOR STANDARDS