



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Mobile Communication Solution

BUTLER COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
3045 MOSER COURT., HAMILTON, OH 45011

Request for Information (RFI) Cover Page

Issue Date: July 13, 2020
Title: Mobile Communication Solution
Issuing & Using Agency: Butler County Regional Transit Authority
Attn: Procurement
3045 Moser Court
Hamilton, OH 45011

Proposals for Furnishing the Product(s)/Service(s) Described Herein Will Be Received Until:
July 31, 2020 5:00 PM EST

Responses Due: July 31, 2020

SEND DIRECTLY TO:

purchasing@butlercountyrta.com

INTERESTED PROPOSER REGISTRATION FORM

Mobile Communication System

Date: July 13, 2020
To: Interested Proposers
Subject: Mobile Communication System

To Proposers:

The REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) is available for download at
<https://www.butlercountyrta.com/doing-business-with-us/solicitations/>

Please submit this Form to purchasing@butlercountyrta.com so that we will have all pertinent contact information.

Name of INTERESTED CONTRACTOR: _____

Name of Contact Person: _____

Title of Contact Person: _____

Street Address/Post Office Box: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Website Address: _____

Date of Download: _____

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to receiving your information.

Sincerely,
Procurement Dept
PH: (513) 785-5023

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

A. City Location and Characteristics

Butler County is a county located in the southwestern part of the U.S. state of Ohio. As of the 2010 census, the population was 368,130. Its county seat is Hamilton. It is named for General Richard Butler, who died in 1791 during St. Clair's Defeat. Located along the Miami River, it is home to Miami University, an Ohio public university that was founded in 1809 as the second university in the State of Ohio.

BCRTA was created by the Butler County Commissioners in 1994 as a public agency in accordance with Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 306 to be governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Butler County Commissioners with the intention of resulting in a coordinated transportation program that better meets the needs of the residents of the county to:

- Provide access to health and human service programs.
- Better foster the economic development and vitality of the county by providing better access to jobs, education, shopping, and government services.
- Conserve energy and reduce pollution.
- Become the designated grantee (designated by the Ohio Governor) for federal and state transportation funds within the Cincinnati Urbanized Area of Butler County.
- Serve as a broker of transportation services for various county boards and agencies that wish to contract with the BCRTA to manage their transportation needs.

BCRTA Operates out of three locations:

3045 Moser Ct. Hamilton, OH 45011
55 S. Broad St. Middletown, OH 45044
303 S. Patterson Ave. Oxford, OH 45056

Currently, BCRTA uses a utilizes a mixture of the MARCs and BRICS local radio network. Butler County has a state-of-the-art voice communication system; a 14-site digital 800MHz Motorola Project 25 radio network. This system belongs to the Butler County Sheriff Department. BCRTA is a third-party client that current is utilizing this system as a customer. BCRTA is a separate entity from any county agency and has no affiliation other than being a consumer of the BRICS product. The BRICS Support unit provides support for several shared, countywide systems and is responsible for the communications technology needs of the Butler County Sheriff's Office. Some of the systems supported are considered critical infrastructure – or networks and systems so vital that their incapacitation would have a debilitating impact on emergency services in such a way as to compromise the safety of the public or first responders.

Responses to this RFI are for informational purposes only. Responses will be reviewed by PM and Team lead and may be used to develop a competitive procurement. PM may elect to utilize existing available contracts to acquire a product and/or service that meets the business needs and requirements. BCRTA will solely determine if a competitive procurement will be conducted. Selection for such product and/or services is not contingent on RFI responses. This RFI does not substitute a competitive procurement process nor will it result in a contract.

Questions concerning this RFI may be sent to Ruth Reed, Procurement Administrator, 513-785-5023 or purchasing@butlercountyrta.com.

B. Purpose

The Butler County Regional Transit Authority (BCRTA) is in the market for a new mobile communication solution that will support our service and take us into the future. We are looking to replace our current system that is equal to or greater than the current BRICS/Ohio MARCS radio system. Butler County has a state-of-the-art voice communication system; a 14-site digital 800MHz Motorola Project 25 radio network.

BCRTA is currently having issues supplying all vehicle operators with radios because at full service we have more operators than radios. The substantial cost of the current system hardware prevents BCRTA from being able to promptly expand the system due to budget limitations and grant availability. This project is meant to correct the problem and create a more sustainable communication strategy for the next 5 to 7 years.

We are seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide a mobile radio equipment solution that achieves the following goals:

- Provide the BCRTA with interoperable radio equipment for use with the BRICS 14-site digital 800MHz Motorola Project 25 radio network or the Verizon 4G network.
- Enhance the BCRTA's communication equipment to facilitate two-way radio talk between vehicle operators, dispatch, supervisors, maintenance, and the local police departments during day-to-day operations, critical incidents, and special events.
- Expand current capabilities of BCRTA dispatchers with broader feature functionality.
- Reduce lifecycle costs of the complete communication system compared with current solutions
- Track and record all traffic

SECTION 2 – PREPARING AND SUBMITTING A RESPONSE

A. Submittals

Interested parties are encouraged to submit email responses to: purchasing@butlercountyrta.com. Emailed responses are strongly preferred.

Hard copy responses may be sent to the following address and must be received prior to the deadline:

BCRTA
Attn: Procurement
3045 Moser Ct.
Hamilton, OH 45011

The receipt of an RFI response from a respondent does not imply any contractual obligation or competitive solicitation on the part of BCRTA, nor does it create any further obligation by BCRTA.

Information received in response to this RFI that is marked “proprietary” will be handled accordingly. Information will only be kept confidential to the extent allowed by State of Ohio Public Disclosure Law.

BCRTA shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by a respondent related to this RFI. Such costs include related activities such as demonstrations and/or presentations. All RFI responses become the property of BCRTA upon receipt and are subject to the state’s public records laws.

B. Calendar of Events

Event:	Date
RFI Posted	July 13, 2020
RFI Response Deadline	July 31, 2020
RFI Summary responses posted	August 10, 2020

C. Response

For all requirements, provide a clear and concise response. Include illustrative examples where appropriate. Clearly indicate the requirement number that you are providing a response to. **Where possible, please limit responses to each area to 100 words or less.**

RFI respondents should organize and present the response using the applicable items noted in “Section 3 A & D”. Also include the Interested Proposer Registration Form – if you have not already submitted ahead of time.

SECTION 3 – INFORMATION REQUESTED

A. Demonstration Requirement

BCRTA is requesting a three-week demonstration. We would need at minimum one (1) dispatch console license. Four (4) handheld or vehicle mounted devices and chargers to test and see how the product suits our needs. We would need support from the vendor at this time to ensure the product is functioning correctly. After the three-week demo BCRTA would return all equipment.

B. Minimum Bidding Requirements BRICS Interoperable Communication System:

1. To be allowed on the 800 MHz System, a subscriber device must meet the following minimum standards:
 - a. The device must be capable of P25 9600-baud trunking system operation.
 - b. The device must be capable of holding 96 talk groups.
 - c. The device must be capable of transmitting and receiving on both the 700 and 800 MHz public safety bands.
 - d. The device must be capable of operating on multiple trunking sites and zones.
 - e. The device must be capable of being disabled by select device inhibit.
 - f. The device must be capable of operating in a site-trunking situation.
 - g. The device must be capable of transmitting and receiving on all Non-Federal 800 MHz National Mutual Aid channels as defined by the most recent NIFOG at the time the device was purchased.
 - h. The device must be capable of transmitting and receiving on at least eight of the 700 MHz National Mutual Aid channels as defined by the most recent NIFOG at the time the device was purchased.
 - i. While the device must be capable of transmitting on all 700 MHz National Mutual Aid channels, users will only be required to program those designated in the BRICS interoperability template at the time the device is programmed
 - j. The device must be type-accepted by BRICS.

2. To be allowed to operate on systems administered by other entities that are directly tied into the BRICS 800 MHz System, the device must be type-accepted by MARCS.
3. To be allowed on the 800 MHz System, a public-safety subscriber device must meet the following minimum requirements in addition to those outlined.
 - a. The device must be capable of holding 512 talk groups.
 - b. The device must be capable of transmitting and receiving with encryption compatible Motorola ADP encryption.
4. Under the auspices of Article VI, Section 6 of the Participation Agreement, the Commissioners have elected to enhance the 800 MHz System through purchase.
5. The Sheriff, as operator of the 800 MHz System, agrees to allow joining participation agencies to make use of the following enhancements provided the joining participation agencies purchase subscriber devices compatible with those enhancements as outlined in Article III, Section 5 of the Participation Agreement:
 - a. Enhanced Data compatible with a Motorola P25 trunking system.
 - b. Alias Download compatible with a Motorola P25 trunking system.
 - c. Group Services compatible with a Motorola P25 trunking system.
 - d. Location on PTT compatible with a Motorola P25 trunking system.
 - e. Over the Air Programming compatible with Motorola APX CPS.
 - f. Programming over Wi-Fi compatible with Motorola APX CPS.

C. Minimum Bidding Requirements for the Verizon 4G Network

A supported push to talk over cellular device that can accept a Verizon sim card.

D. BCRTA Proposed Specifications and Requirements

The mobile communication solution must meet the following requirements:

1. Total System replacement of 70 handheld, vehicle mounted or other communication devices.
2. Three dispatching consoles. One for each location stated above. A dispatch console should be web based. This console allows the on-duty dispatcher to:
 - a. Take and receive radio communication.
 - b. Records all traffic incoming and outgoing.

- c. Create talk groups.
 - d. Send out alerts.
 - e. Listen to what is happening in live time if needed.
3. Features an emergency button. This should be one isolated button on the device that sends a response to the dispatcher informing them that the vehicle operator needs help.
4. Five Isolated channels or the ability to create a talk group and the ability for select devices to scan all channels. The scan feature will allow select devices to listen to all incoming and outgoing communications at one time. The ability to operate on the local fire and police channel. 1 encrypted channel required. Encryption is to prevent unauthorized access.
5. Take the floor feature. This feature will allow the Supervisor or Dispatcher to immediately cancel all radio traffic and speak.
6. Missed radio calls to be recorded on the dispatch console. The dispatcher should be able to check an alert or notification on the console that will notify them of a missed radio call and who it was from.
7. Single button push-to-talk for vehicle operators to reach dispatch. In no scenario will it be acceptable for a vehicle operator to have to scan to reach dispatch.
8. Durable and rugged construction. Must be made of polycarbonate material or aluminum.
9. Warranty and cost of programming and installation, replacement parts (i.e.: clips, microphones, and batteries) included.
10. 8-year product guarantee. We are looking for a product that will not become obsolete and unusable for the network it is being utilized on.
11. Service must cover nearly 2,000 square miles as shown below.

