

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



**Request for Information
Federal Communications Commission
North American Numbering Plan
Billing and Collection Agent**

This is a Request for Information (RFI) for Government planning purposes as described in FAR 15.201 (e). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is requesting information to assess potential sources and methods of meeting its needs for a North American Numbering Plan Billing and Collection Agent. This request also seeks to gather information from potential sources and interested parties on questions relevant to a potential procurement as part of the collaborative, deliberative planning process for the FCC. Interested vendors should review the questions and reply no later than February 25, 2016, 3:00PM.

Disclaimer:

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation. Responses to the RFI will not be returned. In accordance with FAR 15.201 (e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. Submitters are solely responsible for all expense associated with responding to this RFI.

The FCC will safeguard proprietary or confidential information submitted, but only when such information is: (1) clearly marked as confidential or proprietary and (2) is, in fact, information that has not been, and could not be, lawfully obtained by FCC from another party or source without restriction. Submitters should specifically identify the information that is claimed to be proprietary or confidential. Freedom of Information Act requests for submitted information will be addressed in accordance with E.O. 12,600, FAR Part 24, and 47 C.F.R. §0.461, which provide submitters with opportunities to provide views and take administrative or legal action prior to a decision to release, should any such decision be made. More specific disclosure restrictions and procedures may exist under FCC rules for certain kinds of proprietary information and will be applied where relevant.

Point of Contact:

Kadian Ferguson, Contracting Officer

Phone: 202-418-0137

Email: Kadian.Ferguson@fcc.gov

How to respond:

Please submit comments no later than February 25, 2016, 3:00PM. The only method of submission is via email to **Kadian.Ferguson@FCC.Gov**, with the substance of comments made in Microsoft Word, Power Point, or Excel attachments. **Reference “NANP B&C Agent RFI – FCC16Q0002” in the email subject.**

Background

The North American Numbering Plan (NANP) Billing and Collection (B&C) Agent is responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds to support numbering administration functions for telecommunications service in the United States. The NANP B&C Agent is also responsible for collecting funds from other NANP member countries to support NANP administration. The entity selected to serve as the NANP B&C Agent will be expected to perform its duties in accordance with the terms and conditions of a Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) based contract.

The B&C Agent shall be responsible for collecting payments for all functions associated with numbering administration and pooling administration described in this document for a period of five years. Payments for numbering administration will be provided by telecommunications carriers in nations participating in the NANP. As described in more detail below, Bermuda, Canada and Caribbean nations participating in the NANP will not be required to contribute to certain categories of costs as certain numbering activities are not performed on their behalf. Cost collection activity will begin 90 days after the selection of a B&C Agent.

In the United States, payments for numbering and pooling administration will be assessed on all telecommunications carriers providing telecommunications services using their own facilities or the facilities and services of other telecommunications carriers. Such payments will be based upon each telecommunications carrier's proportionate share of end-user telecommunications revenues, as mandated by the Commission in CC Docket No. 98-171, FCC 99-175 (Consolidated Forms Order, released Jul. 14, 1999). The term telecommunications carrier is defined in Section 3 (44) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. See 47 U.S.C. § 153(44)

Non-U.S. payments shall be based on each nation's share of the total population of the NANP area. A single aggregate payment will be collected from a representative identified by each country's government or telecommunications carriers. The representative shall be responsible for collecting from the telecommunications carriers in that country. Population estimates must be obtained from a public source that is acceptable to the affected governments. Non-U.S. entities that perform their own central office code administration function will not be responsible for costs associated with the administration of U.S. central office codes and associated billing and collection activities. Other adjustments to the share of non-U.S. carriers may be required.

The B&C Agent shall have responsibility for maintaining and updating a comprehensive list of U.S. telecommunications carriers. The B&C Agent shall obtain from the prior B&C Agent its list of telecommunications carriers. Carriers shall be responsible for self-reporting. However, the B&C Agent is charged with monitoring carrier reporting and taking reasonable steps to identify non-complying carriers.

All U.S. telecommunications carriers shall contribute to the recovery of costs associated with numbering administration. The amount of each carrier's payment will differ depending on its

proportionate share of total end-user telecommunications revenues. The minimum payment will be \$25.00 per year, per the Commission's Consolidated Forms Order, (CC Docket No. 98-171, released July 14, 1999). Any carrier that contributes \$1,200 or more shall be permitted to make 12 equal monthly installment payments.

The B&C Agent shall be responsible for those functions set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 52.16.

Objectives

This RFI is to support the FCC in its market research of a contractor that can provide programmatic and administrative support to the Commission, to provide Billing and Collection Agent services for calculating, assessing, billing, and collecting payments for numbering administration functions and for distributing funds to the entities that support these functions for the North American Numbering Plan (NANP).

Scope

Contractor will provide Billing and Collection Agent services for calculating, assessing, billing, and collecting payments for numbering administration functions and for distributing funds to the entities that support these functions (e.g., the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) and the Pooling Administrator (PA)). The North American Numbering Plan Billing and Collection (NANP B&C) Agent is responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds to support numbering administration functions for telecommunications service in the United States. The NANP B&C Agent is also responsible for collecting funds from other NANP member countries to support NANP administration. The Contractor shall operate as the NANP B&C Agent for five years consisting of one base year and four one-year options. The Contractor shall assume the NANP B&C Agent functions from the entity currently performing these functions.

RFI Questions:

- 1) Is the submitter experienced in billing and collecting funds?**
- 2) Is the submitter experienced in working on FAR based contracts?**
- 3) Is the submitter experienced in working with NANP countries?**
- 4) Is the submitter experienced in working with the NANP?**
- 5) Has the submitter ever worked with the FCC?**
- 6) Is the submitter experienced in meeting relevant and applicable federal financial management and reporting statutes, including the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, Debt Collection Improvement Act, Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act and the Federal Information Security Management Act? If so, please provide past experience information.**
- 7) Is the submitter experienced in working with processing high volume applications in a compressed time frame as the prime contractor?**
- 8) Please provide the FCC with a copy of your company's portfolio, (i.e., balance sheet, income statement and statement of retained earnings)? If publicly traded, please provide the Ticker Symbol.**
- 9) Does the submitter have other business relationships that would potentially compromise or might appear to others to bias work performed for the FCC in this area?**
- 10) Can the submitter identify its successful past performance in delivering program management for prior efforts of similar magnitude, complexity, and schedule as a prime contractor, including:**
 - Date (s) of service provided**
 - Name of the institution (Federal, State, or local agency or private entity) provided the services**
 - The magnitude and type of services provided.**

- 11) What SIC and NAIC code or codes is most appropriate for the effort and is the submitter a small business under the code(s)?**
- 12) Are there routine or standard business processes or methods that should be considered for achieving the objectives discussed above?**