

## RFI Questions and Answers

Q: Why was this RFI issued?

A: To determine how best to involve the private sector in providing a common broadband backbone for Vermont which meets the needs of the VTA to fulfill the mandates of Act 79 and reduce the cost of backhaul in Vermont and the current and future needs of the State of Vermont and electrical utilities for connectivity.

Q: Will the VTA, the State of Vermont, and the electric utilities be the only users of this joint backbone network?

A: No. It is anticipated that many other public institutions such as school and hospitals will use the network and that retail providers of Internet access will purchase wholesale backhaul from the network.

Q: What organizations should respond to this RFI?

A: Organizations which have telecom assets in Vermont which they might want to make part of the joint backbone network and organizations which are able and want to invest in building parts of the network themselves.

Q: Is it necessary for vendors who may want to win contracts to construct or supply goods or services to the joint backbone network to respond to the RFI?

A: No. Organizations which do respond will automatically be notified of subsequent RFPs. However, RFPs will always be announced and non-response to the RFI will not affect an organizations ability to bid on these RFPs.