

**State of Maine
Waiver of Competitive Bidding Request Form**

Form Instructions: Please provide the requested information in the white boxes below. This form is to precede all contract requests that are not the direct result of a competitive bid process.

Requesting Department's Contract Administrator:	Beth Lambert	Office/Division/Program of Contract Administrator:	Education/ Office of Learning Systems
Est. Contract Amount:	\$ 539,734.53	Contract or RQS Number:	CT 20190912*0852
Proposed Start Date:	7/1/2020	Proposed End Date:	6/30/2021
Vendor/Provider Name, City, State:		Systems Engineering, Inc 120 Exchange Street Portland, ME 04101	
Short Description of Good or Service:		Operation, maintenance, and support of wireless networks in Maine schools	
Please note, for transparency purposes, Waivers of Competitive Bidding will be publicly posted. Public postings are placed on the Division of Procurement Services website for a period of seven consecutive calendar days.		To be completed by the Division of Procurement Services Posting dates on Division of <i>Procurement Services</i> website: From: <u>09/18/2019</u> To: <u>09/24/2019</u>	
Notice of Intent to Waive Competitive Bidding Number:		NOI# 0920191547	
1. Statutory Justification State of Maine statute (5 M.R.S. §1825-B(2)) allows waivers of competitive bidding only for the specific reasons listed below. Please mark the appropriate box (X) next to the justification which applies to this specific request.			
	A. The procurement of goods or services by the State for county commissioners pursuant to Title 30-A, section 124, involves the expenditure of \$2,500 or less, and the interests of the State would best be served;		
	B. The Director of the Bureau of General Services is authorized by the Governor, or the Governor's designee, to make purchases without competitive bidding because, in the opinion of the Governor or the Governor's designee, an emergency exists that requires the immediate procurement of goods or services;		
	<i>If citing the above justification for this Waiver of Competitive Bidding request, please have the requesting Department's Commissioner or Chief Executive (as the Governor's "designee") sign and date on the right.</i>	<i>By signing below, I signify as the Governor's designee there is an emergency that necessitates this non-competitive procurement.</i>	
		Signature:	
		Printed Name:	Date:

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X	C. After reasonable investigation by the Director of the Bureau of General Services, it appears that any required unit or item of supply, or brand of that unit or item, is procurable by the State from only one source;
	D. It appears to be in the best interest of the State to negotiate for the procurement of petroleum products;
	E. The purchase is part of a cooperative project between the State and the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System, the Maine Maritime Academy, or a private, nonprofit, regionally accredited institution of higher education with a main campus in this State involving: (1) An activity assisting a state agency and enhancing the ability of the university system, community college system, Maine Maritime Academy, or a private, nonprofit, regionally accredited institution of higher education with a main campus in this State to fulfill its mission of teaching, research, and public service; (2) A sharing of project responsibilities and, when appropriate, costs;
	<i>If citing the above justification for this sole source request, please note that the specific approval of the Governor's Office is required, in accordance with Executive Order 26 FY 11/12, "An Order to Enhance Competitive Bidding". The approval must be documented on DAFS/BGS/Division of Procurement Services "GOVCOOP" form, found here: http://www.maine.gov/purchases/info/forms/govcoop.doc.</i>
	F. The procurement of goods or services involves expenditures of \$10,000 or less, in which case the Director of the Bureau of General Services may accept oral proposals or bids;
	G. The procurement of goods or services involves expenditures of \$10,000 or less, and procurement from a single source is the most economical, effective and appropriate means of fulfilling a demonstrated need.
	If a different authorization specifically allows for this non-competitive procurement, please provide that reference here:

Please note that the following four points below (#2 through 5) all require a response.

2. Description of Specific Need

Please identify, and fully describe, the specific problem, requirement, or need the resulting non-competitive contract would address and which makes the goods or services necessary. Explain how the requesting Department determined that the goods or services are critical and/or essential to agency responsibilities or operations.

The Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) is a Department of Education program funded using General Purpose Aid. "The fund must be used to enable the full integration of appropriate learning technologies into teaching and learning for the State's elementary and secondary students. The fund must be managed and governed in a manner that provides for the financially sustainable support, use and integration of learning technology in Maine schools as determined by the Legislature" (Maine Revised Statutes 20-A §19102).

Since 2002, over 300 schools in the state have relied on Department programs to provide wireless networks in their school buildings to meet both educational and operational needs. During the 2020-2021 school year, the Department will not have a full solution option in place and will instead take a "Bridge Year" as it determines the next steps for the program. Systems Engineering is the current vendor and has worked with MLTI schools to ensure each school's wireless network is functional.

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Changing the providers and setting up new systems would be costly to the districts both financially and in a time/personnel resource capacity. To avoid serious disruption and hardship to schools, we recommend that the state continue to pay for the same services for the 2020-2021 school year.

3. Availability of other Public Resources

Please explain how the requesting Department concluded that sufficient staffing, resources, or expertise is not available within the State of Maine's government, or other governmental entities (local, other state, or federal agencies) external to the requesting Department, which would be able to address the identified need more efficiently and effectively than the identified vendor.

The state does not operate or support wireless networks in Maine schools.

4. Cost

Since a waiver of competitive bidding is being requested for this procurement, please explain how the requesting Department concluded the negotiated costs, fees, or rates are **fair and reasonable**.

We consulted with staff at Apple, who had previously subcontracted with Systems Engineering for this work as part of the RFP-awarded contract with Apple through MLTI, and concluded that this price is fair and reasonable.

5. Future Competition

Please describe potential opportunities which may be available to foster competition for these goods or services in the future.

The MLTI is being examined by various stakeholders and will be re-envisioned for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond. If wireless network support is to be a part of its future, that will be included in a subsequent RFP.

Please note that only one of the two points below ("Uniqueness" or "Timeframe") requires a response. Requesting Departments are not required to respond to both points.

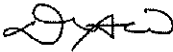
6. Uniqueness

Please explain if the goods or services required are unique to a specific vendor. Describe the unique qualifications, abilities, and/or expertise of the vendor and how those particular unique factors address the specific need identified above. If the vendor has unique equipment, facilities, or proprietary data, also explain the necessity of these particular unique assets.

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Systems Engineering and subcontractor, NetworkMaine, have the knowledge and equipment in place to continue to perform the services for an additional year. Changing vendors for this final year would disrupt operations at over 200 schools.

7. Timeframe (Complete only if B. is the Statutory Justification marked on Page 1)
 Please explain if time is of the essence and an emergency exists which requires the immediate procurement of goods or services. Describe the nature of this emergency, provide the date by which the goods or services must be delivered, and explain how that date was determined and its significance (i.e. impact if delayed beyond this date). Also, provide information as to how it was determined this vendor is the best option to address this time-sensitive procurement.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner or Chief Executive (or designee within the Commissioner's Office):	<i>By signing below, I signify that my Department requests, and I approve of, this Waiver of Competitive Bidding.</i>
	
Printed Name:	Daniel A. Chuhta
Date:	9/16/2019