

From: [Olson, Bill T](#)
To: [Brady Kraft](#)
Subject: Idaho Education Network RFI - Integra
Date: Friday, February 13, 2015 11:03:29 AM

Dear Mr. Kraft

I understand that the requested format for responding to the Idaho Education RFI was one original and five copies plus an electronic copy.

However, due to time restraints and the brief nature of our response – I have decided to deliver our input informally in an email.

The new Idaho Education Network should be patterned after State Wide Networks in the State of Washington and the State of Oregon and State Education networks in Washington (K20) and Utah (UEN).

The design should include 2 to 4 Hub Sites in a Ring Topology. The Hub Sites would be in Boise, Coeur D'Alene/Post Falls/Spokane, Pocatello/Idaho Falls, and Twin Falls.

The State would bid out individual segments of the backbone network on this ring.

The State would conduct a second RFP to determine partners to provide the individual circuits back connecting to the backbone network. This RFP would require that partners be MEF certified for instance in order to insure a certain level of network quality. Once the state has selected its 3 to 6 partners – the state would send out RFQs to its partners for individual sites that want to be on the IEN Network. Each site would specify the address to deliver the circuit, the associated Hub, the required bandwidth, and the term of the service. This method would insure quality in the network at the best price.

If the State of Idaho did not wish to run this network – it could issue an RFP to find a firm to outsource the management of the network. This would include all activities associated with eRate. The state should be in charge of the procurement for all services – only the project management for installation and ongoing maintenance would outsourced if the State of Idaho decides to outsource.

The State would also issue RFPs for all the other services such as video conferencing and desk top support as separate awards. This would allow for best of breed support at the most cost effective price.

Thank you for considering my suggestions.

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