



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DATES EXTENDED DUE TO OVERWELMING
INTEREST IN MUNICIPAL GIGABIT INTERNET
RFQ SEEKING PUBLIC/PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS; MUNICIPALITIES CAN JOIN
UNTIL DECEMBER 12**

(November 12, 2014 -- Hartford, CT) – On September 15, 2014, the mayors of three Connecticut municipalities issued a joint Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) seeking information and dialogue with interested parties, hoping to increase access to ultra-high-speed gigabit networks in their cities and throughout Connecticut while simultaneously reducing the cost of such networks for businesses, high-tech industry, universities, homeowners and other users.

The RFQ stated that since inclusiveness is the theme of this Project, other Connecticut municipalities may choose to join this RFQ in order to approach the concept of Connecticut becoming the first GigabitState. There has been an overwhelming response from a diverse group of the state’s municipalities to that invitation and the potential respondent universe of Internet service providers have encouraged an enlargement of the scope of the RFQ from the original three cities.

At the time of the release of the RFQ, Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz stated, “These three cities have stepped out front to lead this project, but everyone involved in this project recognizes that there is strength in numbers,” Katz said. “They are therefore inviting any municipality in the state to join the conversation by simply submitting an addendum describing their town’s interest and assets. I don’t think there’s been anything quite like it around the country.”

Accordingly, the original schedule proposed in the RFQ has been modified by an addendum filed with the City of New Haven purchasing department which has volunteered to administer and coordinate the RFQ for the participating municipalities. The RFQ, with instructions for submitting a municipal referendum, is available online at ct.gov/occ and <http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/PurchasingBureauOnline/index.asp>.

The new deadlines are:

Municipal filing of addendum for joining the RFQ: Wednesday 12/12/14;

Respondent proposal deadline: Tuesday, 1/13/15.

Additional informational meetings will be scheduled on the RFQ, dates to be determined.

It is hoped that every interested community in the state will ultimately join this project focused on making Connecticut the first gigabit state. In this way, Connecticut will be on the leading edge of a technology that helps our local communities, residents, and businesses be on the forefront of the benefits that are propelling the world into a frontline role in the emerging Information Age. It is essential that the municipalities in this state work together on this project as a cohesive group in order to boost Connecticut to best utilize the array of assets it already possesses.

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