

Attachment I – Acknowledgement Form

Interoperability

To ensure interoperability among all components of the ESInet/NGCS, and the CHE solutions selected, all Respondents must commit to, and document (prior to completion of contract negotiation), interoperability with all other awardees' solutions (ESInet/NGCS or CHE). If, as required, all solutions are truly NENA i3-compliant, this should not impose an undue burden on the Respondent(s). Documentation of interoperability may take the form of any of the following (listed in order of probative value, from highest to lowest):

- References from joint customers where solutions from multiple vendors have been deployed and made operational for a minimum of six (6) months
- Documentation of interoperability efforts undertaken within a non-production (i.e., laboratory) environment with the participation and support of all organizations represented in the combined solution
- Documentation of interoperability efforts undertaken within a non-production (i.e., laboratory) environment and by only one solution provider as a proof-of-concept exercise

☐ By checking this box, you acknowledge you have read and understand.

Standards Evolution

As industry standards evolve, the selected Respondent's solution must be upgraded to maintain compliance with the current version of established industry standards. The Respondent's solution must support new IP network and security industry standards within eighteen (18) months of ratification of applicable industry standards. If a Respondent is not compliant with the version or revision listed, they must include their compliant version in their proposal. Compliance requirements apply also to the supporting standards referenced within each standard. As solution updates are made to maintain compliance, the solution must not abandon services or feature functionality in place at the time of the solution upgrade. The selected Respondent must uncover any performance or feature changes prior to the upgrade and report them to GCRECD for approval.

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Support Commitment

The Respondent commits to supporting the offered solution(s) or service(s) for a minimum of seven (7) years from the date of full solution or service acceptance by GCRECD. In this context, "supporting" means the continued development, evolution, and availability of improvements, enhancements, and identified bug fixes of the solution(s) and service(s). If market forces, component suppliers, or other events beyond the control of the Respondent requires an unexpected end to the service life of a service or solution offered herein, the Respondent agrees to provide a migration path to an equivalent or better service or solution, at no cost to GCRECD beyond the support contract provisions contained hereunder.

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Technical Requirements

GCRECD desires to procure an i3-compliant NG9-1-1 CHE solution for its 23 PSAP/ECCs within the District. The GCRECD legacy 9-1-1 network is supported by a three-host-pair CHE configuration hosted in its PSAP/ECCs, but the Respondent's NG9-1-1 CHE solution must be a single-host pair to be in two designated geo-diverse data centers. The chosen NG9-1-1 CHE solution must be NENA i3 — one specifically designed for NG9-1-1 — and not simply Request for Assistance Interface (RFAI) protocol-compliant. An output of the Respondent's Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) stack to prove protocol compliance will be required. Additionally, the chosen NG9-1-1 CHE must be able to function in a legacy 9-1-1 environment during the transition to NGCS and ESInet at no additional cost.

The proposed solution and implementation of NENA i3-capable NGCS call-routing functions and an ESInet must be capable of interoperability with, and continuing support of, existing legacy systems currently in use.

GCRECD prefers to implement an i3-compliant CHE before proceeding with implementation of NGCS and an ESInet. Because of the requirements in Senate Bill 8 (SB8) passed during the third special session of 2021 and detailed in Rule 5.408 (Title 34, Part 1 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 5, Subchapter S § 5.408) to implement NG9-1-1 prior to the end of 2024, this document seeks to solicit both CHE and NGCS/ESInet solutions.

The procurement and implementation of new CHE is a complex and collaborative effort. The chosen contractor will work with GCRECD to manage the deployment process, including implementing the proposed Host-Remote CHE network as illustrated in Figure 1, and completing any necessary hardware refreshes and software upgrades, operational readiness testing, and training of GCRECD stakeholders.

Respondent will provide solution(s) that conform to this implementation approach. GCRECD offers no instruction on preference as to the physical location of the “service” — for example, cloud-based or premises-based — but seeks the best value for compliance to the technical requirements to accomplish the service.

Attachments E and F contain a series of tables that must be completed and submitted with your respective proposal.

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