



**AMENDMENT NUMBER 1**  
**2223-05 Internal Connections**

**DATE:** March 10, 2023  
**RE:** Additional Information

The above referenced solicitation issued February 17, 2023 is hereby amended/clarified as follows:

Effective this date, this amendment forms part of the contract documents and modifies the original RFP. All other requirements of the solicitation remain unchanged.

PLEASE NOTE: IN ALL CASES WHERE THE DISTRICT HAS REFERENCED A SPECIFIC MANUFACTURER, OFFERORS SHOULD ASSUME THE DISTRICT WOULD CONSIDER EQUIVALENT ALTERNATE EQUIPMENT.

**Question:** Based on the 470#: 230021280 for Darlington County Schools, Pg. 34 of the RFP lists the SMT3000 as the Manufacture Part#, but the description has "SmartUPS 1500". Can you confirm that a 3000 VA unit is being requested?

**Answer:** The SMT3000 listed as Manufacture Part# on page 34 in the RFP is the correct unit. This is confirmation that a 3000 VA unit is being requested.

**Question:** On the Aruba 6200 and 6300 switches there are no power supplies listed on the bill of materials, do you need power supplies and if so which ones would you like quoted?

**Answer:** For the 6300 switches please include power supplies dual 1050 Watt power supplies. The 6200 series have the power supplies included.

**Question:** On the 6200 and 6300 switches what transceivers do you need quotes, there are none listed on the bill of materials.

**Answer:** The fiber in the District is all multimode fiber and will use short range SR 10Gbps optics.

Question: Which DAC and stacking cables would you like quoted for the switch cables?  
Answer: DAC cables should be minimum 10Gbps 1 meter, stacking cables also need to be a minimum 10Gbps, 1 meter.

Question: On the outdoor access points which mounts would you like quoted? I know for the indoor you need the ceiling grid mounts.  
Answer: Please include mounting hardware "Type B" - standard 1" ceiling mount for the indoor APs. Please use part/number AP-270-MNT-H1 AP-270 Series Outdoor AP Hanging or Tilt Install Mount Kit, for the outdoor APs.

Question: How many strands of fiber would you like?  
Answer: 12 stands of fiber are requested.

Question: Is there conduit in place to run the fiber or will conduit need to be installed?  
Answer: Please include conduit in the quote.

Question: What OM speed would you like run?  
Answer: Please quote two options an OM3 fiber option and an OM4 fiber option.

Question: It is a common practice among manufacturers to grant one of their business partners an additional deeper pricing discount (deal registration) than they offer to the other partners who are responding to the same Solicitation. This is done in hopes that that partner will be awarded the contract. [Service Provider] is aware that Aruba/HPE is participating in this inequitable practice regarding the Darlington Solicitation #2223-05, as they are giving one of their partners a much greater pricing discount that creates an "uneven pricing playing field" for other responding partners. This deal registration discount enables a partner to offer additional pricing discounts to the customer that are not available for other partners to offer, thus eliminating the "even playing field" and giving that specific partner a pricing advantage over all other responding partners. This unfair advantage and can greatly affect the District's award decision according to the evaluation criteria stated in this Solicitation. We would like to ask the District to request that Aruba extend the same pricing to all responding Aruba/HP vendors so that all respondents are competing from the same pricing point. Will the District issue a statement requesting that all manufacturers give equal pricing to all responding vendors in order to ensure there are no unfair pricing advantages? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 7)

Answer: To ensure we are offering a level and equitable environment, Darlington County School District has requested the following from the manufacturer/vendor in question.

As stated in an email sent to the manufacturer/vendor, "Please do not offer any DCSD business partner preferred pricing unless you are going to offer it to all the businesses responding to this request, Darlington County SD Solicitation #2223-05."

Additionally, all vendors should be aware that even though pricing is the most heavily weighted criteria (per E-Rate rules), pricing isn't the only factor that the District will consider, as indicated in the RFP "Evaluation of Offers" criteria listed on page 20 of the solicitation. Darlington School District Technology Department aims for equity in all solicitations.

Question: In the Bill of Materials – Switches – "Modules Needed" is listed under Manufacturer part # and the vendor is requested to determine any modules that are needed for the switch gear listed in the BOM. For transceivers, please clarify the speed (1G, 10G, 25G, or 50G) and type (single-mode or multi-mode) of transceivers required by the District? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 27)

Answer: The fiber in the District is all multimode fiber and will use short range SR 10Gbps optics.

Question: Please clarify if the District requires a central management system and maintenance for the Aruba data switches and wireless access points. If needed, please specify specifics for each? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 27)

Answer: Please offer both options (central management system and maintenance) for the data switches and wireless access points as best fits the solution/brand being proposed.

As the District has not used a central management system with both the switches and the wireless together, please offer the type of system that would be unified, cloud based, and most beneficial and cost effective for the District based on the brand/solution being proposed. Multiple options can be bid and the District will choose one that is suitable.

Maintenance options: for core switches the District requires 24x7 Service, for edge switches and wireless the District requires 8X5 NBD. Three Year options are requested.

Question: The BOM lists part #'s J9782A and J9780A. These switches will soon be End Of Life. Would the District like for these to be quoted anyway, or would you like replacement switches? If so, which specific switch do you request? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 27)

Answer: The District is requesting updated part numbers of JL677A CX6100- 24port 1Gbp PoE+, JL679A, CX6100 12port 1Gbp PoE+.

Question: Does the District require stacking cables and modules even though the 6000 switches do not support stacking? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 28-29)

Answer: Stacking modules are not required for the 6000 series switches, but DAC cables should be minimum 10Gbps.

Question: Please clarify if new access point mounting kits are needed for both the Indoor and Outdoor Wireless Project, and if so, which mounting kit is required for each? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 30)

**Answer:** Please include mounting hardware "Type B" - standard 1" and "Type D" ceiling mount for the indoor APs. Please use part/number AP-270-MNT-H1 AP-270 Series Outdoor AP Hanging or Tilt Install Mount Kit, for the outdoor APs. Please quote 10 packs where possible. All the APs will need the mounts so there should be qty 1200 (at least 1000 Type B, and 200 Type D) for the Indoor APs and 110 for the outdoor APs.

**Question:** Manufacturer part #SMT3000 is listed but the description states Rack Mounted APC Smart 1500 with Integrated Network Management Card. Please clarify if a SMT3000 or SMT1500 is needed for this location? ((RFP/RFQ Page Number 34)

**Answer:** The SMT3000 listed as Manufacture Part# on page 34 in the RFP is the correct unit. This is confirmation that a 3000 VA unit is being requested.

**Question:** Are there alternative labeling options for the full port devices where externally viewable labeling may not be possible? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 13)

**Answer:** Yes, rectangular hanging tags or string tags can be used as an option for the full port devices for external viewable labeling. Regardless of the solution being used, the District will work with the selected vendor(s) for a final solution to the labeling of the equipment.

**Question:** Is the intent to provide full PoE to access points requiring up to 40W? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 13)

**Answer:** Yes, where the AP655 access point is used, it will require Class 6 POE (60W). As an alternative, the District would accept an option of the AP635 access point (R7J28A) which can function at 30W or 60W. In areas where multigig/Class 6 POE is needed, the District will consider the CX6200M (R8Q71A) with 1050W dual PSU.

**Question:** Due to a change in access points, can the District please provide the square footage of each site of drawings for wireless assessment? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 13)

**Answer:** Since the District is replacing the wireless access points, there is no need for the footage or maps as the District has determined the locations and number of APs to be installed within the request for the wireless solution.

**Question:** Will access points connect to IDF stacks or core stack at each site? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 13)

**Answer:** The access points will connection to the nearest IDF or MDF Depending on the distance.

**Question:** Is the intent to utilize Wifi-6e and multi-gig features? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 13)

**Answer:** Yes, the District's intent is to use the latest Wi-Fi 6e technology. In addition to the AP655, and as an alternative, the District would accept an option of the AP635 access point (R7J28A). Multigig will not be required on all switch ports, but will be used with the AP655.

**Question:** Is the intent to utilize all available radios (802.3bt)? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 13)

**Answer:** All access points are to be Wi-Fi 6e capable with the three sets of 2.4/5/6Ghz radios. 802.3bt class 6 60W POE is required for the use of the AP655. In addition to the

AP655, and as an alternative, the District would accept an option of the AP635 access point (R7J28A).

Question: Please provide the District specifications for the configuration of the firewall equipment? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 31)

Answer: In regards to the specifications of the configuration requested, please see those outlined on page 31 of the solicitation. In regards to the configuration services of the arrangement of the hardware and software of the firewall, that will consist of connecting the equipment to the network and using the old firewall structure and design to create the new firewall configuration for the District.

Question: Several of the Manufacturer Part Numbers do not match their descriptions. Can you please provide clarity as which part is requested? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 31-32)

Answer: In all cases the part number is the product requested.

Question: The District requests that the equipment is upgraded to the latest OS. Which OS is required – "Instant OS or the latest "Aruba OS"? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 14)

Answer: Please quote the services for installation of the latest version of Aruba "Instant OS".

Question: What is "scope as defined"? Will current DHCP, DNS, IP Subnet Mask, and Default Gateway implementations remain, or is a new implementation required? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 14)

Answer: The current DHCP, DNS, IP Subnet Mask, and Default Gateway implementations will remain as much as possible. If there are new specifications to be added to this scope because of the new networking equipment, the District will work with the awarded vendor(s) to corroborate on any changes.

Question: Is there a preferred internal or external target for testing reachability? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 14)

Answer: Not at this time, but this can be discussed and the testing target(s) can be determined with the awarded vendor(s).

Question: What is the scope of expected admin training? Please provide the training topics, who is to be trained, and delivery method to be utilized in stated training? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 15)

Answer: The admin training will be for a select number of IT Administrators and needs to be discussed and defined with the awarded vendor(s) so that the limited scope be based on the solution/brand of equipment awarded. The District would expect some on-site training on the use of eligible equipment. This training would not be more than is eligible under the E-Rate rules, which is limited, and should be completed in combination with the installation services of the eligible equipment.

Question: In # 11 the RFP states that the closet switch stacks must be connected to the core with two 10GE connections using existing single mode fiber. However, in the walkthrough meeting the district stated that they had older 62.5 micron fiber everywhere. Can you clarify? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 14)

**Answer:** This is a typo within the text, the fiber in the District is all multimode fiber and will use short range SR 10Gbps optics.

**Question:** If the district does have the older 62.5 micron multimode fiber, those don't support 10G very far. Over OM2 fiber 10G SR will only go 33 meters. With that in mind, does the district wish to use 1G SX modules for closet connectivity? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 14)

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** What length DAC and stack cables are needed? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 28)

**Answer:** DAC cables should be minimum 10Gbps 1 meter, stacking cables also need to be a minimum 10Gbps, 1 meter.

**Question:** The Aruba wireless access points do not ship with mounting brackets. For the indoor APs, there are several options, with the most prevalent being the 15/16ths inch ceiling grid mount for drop ceilings (highlighted below).

The options for the indoor APs are below. If all of the mounts are not the same, can you please give us the breakout of how many of each type are needed?

- a. AP-MNT-A - Campus AP mount bracket kit (individual) type A: suspended ceiling rail, flat 9/16
- b. AP-MNT-B - Campus AP mount bracket kit (individual) type B: suspended ceiling rail, flat 15/16
- c. AP-MNT-C - Campus AP mount bracket kit (individual) type C: suspended ceiling rail, profile 9/16
- d. AP-MNT-D - Campus AP mount bracket kit (individual) type D: solid surface (wall or ceiling)
- e. AP-MNT-E - Campus AP mount bracket kit (individual) type E: wall-box

The options for the outdoor APs are below. If all of the mounts are not the same, can you please give us the breakout of how many of each type are needed? The AP-270-MNT-H1 is the recommended model for articulating mount (highlighted below).

- AP-270-MNT-V1 AP-270 Series Outdoor Pole/Wall Long Mount Kit
- AP-270-MNT-V2 AP-270 Series Outdoor Pole/Wall Short Mount Kit
- AP-270-MNT-H1 AP-270 Series Outdoor AP Hanging or Tilt Install Mount Kit
- AP-270-MNT-H2 AP-270 Series Access Flush Wall or Ceiling Mount
- AP-OUT-MNT-V1A Outdoor AP Pole/Wall Long Mount Kit v2
- AP-270-MNT-H3 AP-270 Series Outdoor AP Hanging or Dual-Tilt Install Mount Kit

(RFP/RFQ Page Number 30)

**Answer:** Please include mounting hardware "Type B" - standard 1" and "Type D" ceiling mount for the indoor APs. Please use part/number AP-270-MNT-H1 AP-270 Series Outdoor AP Hanging or Tilt Install Mount Kit, for the outdoor APs. Please quote 10 packs where possible. All the APs will need the mounts so there should be at

least qty 1200 (at least 1000 Type B, and 200 Type D) for the Indoor APs and 110 for the outdoor APs.

Question: Is installation needed for the 80 UPS units listed on the "Ineligible Equipment – UPS"? (RFP/RFQ Page Number 34)

Answer: Yes, please include installations services.

Question: The multimode fiber requested for the LHS stadium is 2500 feet. The maximum tested distance for the Aruba J4858D 1000Base-SX fiber optic module is 550 meters (1800 feet). Does the district want to use single-mode fiber for this run instead? The 1G LX module can go 10km (6.2 miles) over single-mode fiber. (RFP/RFQ Page Number 36)

Answer: Yes please propose the 1Gbps module. However, the District will be installing new hybrid (SM/MM) fiber to connect the LHS stadium so a 10Gbps module may be necessary within the timeframe of the project scope.

You must acknowledge receipt of this addendum prior to the date and time specified by signing and returning this form with your proposal response or in a separate envelope **clearly** marked "**2223-05 Internal Connections**" if your proposal have already been submitted. Failure to acknowledge, complete, and sign this addendum may result in rejection of any previous offer. This amendment takes precedence over the original portion of the bid documents referenced and becomes part of those documents. All portions of the bid documents not so amended remain in full force and effect.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Nan Johnson, CPPO, CPPB  
Procurement Specialist*