



Request for Proposals

For

Utilization of Tribal 2.5 GHz Spectrum

Issued By:

Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska
PO Box 334 Unalaska, AK 99685

Contact Person:

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Tribal President: Harriet Berikoff

Issued Date: May 5, 2022
Question Period Close: June 23, 2022
Proposals Due Date: June 30, 2022
Award Contract: August 5, 2022
Work Commence: November 7, 2022

Introduction

The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska was granted a spectrum license by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) for the 2.5 GHz band of spectrum, also known as the Educational Broadcast Service (EBS). The Tribe is seeking proposals from interested parties to maximize the partnership opportunities and utilization of this Tribally owned asset.

Background

FCC Tribal priority window was an opportunity for Tribes to gain access to available 2.5 GHz spectrum over their traditional territory. Any federally recognized Tribe, Alaska Native Villages, and Tribally owned entities were eligible to apply provided they submit an application and meet the basic requirements.

The window for applications was opened in May 2020 and closed on September 2, 2020. The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska was granted a license on October 21, 2021 for the entire island of Unalaska.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forever changed how society views and interacts with internet technology. The tragedy of a pandemic has created a unique time in history for the rapid expansion of broadband infrastructure. Through a series of legislation, the US federal government is making a generational investment in the expansion of broadband infrastructure. This investment will occur over the next three to five years through the federal infrastructure bill. The unique standing between Tribes and the federal government creates a favorable position for capitalizing on this generational infrastructure investment.

Opportunity

The Qawalangin Tribe is seeking lease offers to utilize their 2.5 GHz spectrum for the benefit of every resident and business on the island. We are also interested in innovative proposals that build long-term partnerships with carriers and entrepreneurs for the acceleration of broadband connectivity, advanced infrastructure, and broadband use and adoption programming across the island. At a minimum proposals must include an offer for channels two and three of the Tribes spectrum. Channel one will be preserved for Tribal use.

Beyond the minimum, we are seeking innovative proposals that leverage partnerships across carriers, industries, and the public sectors to capitalize on government funding opportunities

becoming available. Innovative proposals expanding on the lease would include the likes of; joint funding proposals, revenue shares, workforce development opportunities, and new businesses to serve the community. Our desired outcomes are unique proposals that expand on the lease with partnerships and projects that bring next generation infrastructure and lasting jobs into the community.

Goals of This Opportunity

The Qawalangin Tribe is interested in monetizing its spectrum as a source of general operating income. The Tribe is keen on using the spectrum for the public good of residents, seasonal dwellers, and transitional citizens that grace the community.

As dedicated stewards of the community at large, the Tribe is attentive to the potential funding becoming available through the federal government and is partial to understanding how partnerships can be formed to bring additional broadband resources into the community.

Spectrum

The call sign of the available spectrum is WROK829.

Channels Under the License

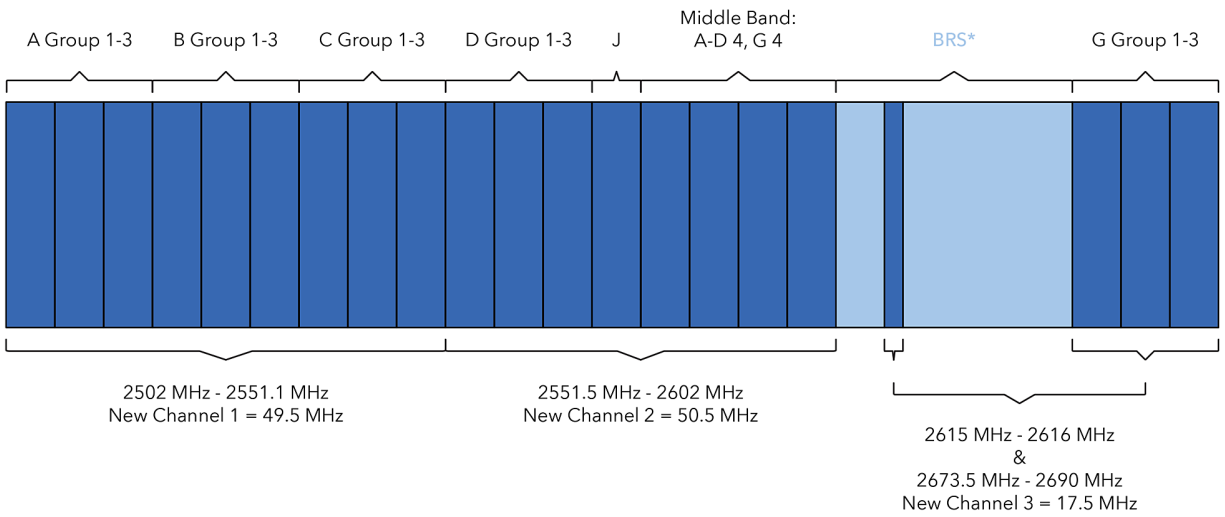
The frequencies that are enveloped in WROK829 are divided into three channels. The channels are comprised of the following frequency bands;

Channel 1: 2502 MHz - 2551.1 MHz (total of 49.5 MHz)

Channel 2: 2551.5 MHz - 2602 MHz (total of 50.5 MHz)

Channel 3: 2615 - 2616 MHz & 2673.5 - 2690 MHz (total of 17.5 MHz)

FIGURE 1: 2.5 GHz Spectrum Band

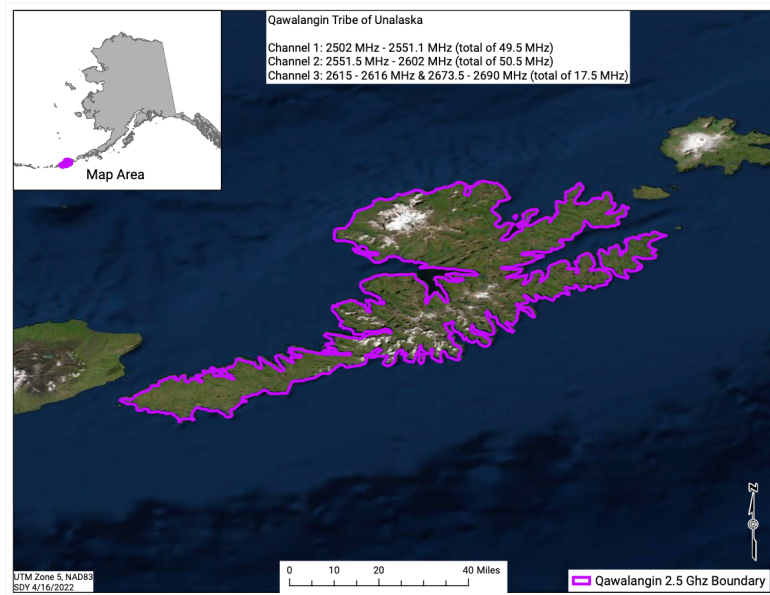


Channels Available to Lease

Channel 2: 2551.5 MHz - 2602 MHz (total of 50.5 MHz)

Channel 3: 2615 - 2616 MHz & 2673.5 - 2690 MHz (total of 17.5 MHz)

Coverage Area



Scope of Proposals

The submissions made by applicants must include a minimum of a 10 year lease offer for channels two and three of the Tribes license. The applicant may propose a lease longer than 10 years. Innovative approaches that expand beyond a straight lease offer are encouraged.

Proposal Procedures

The intent of this solicitation is to create an open and fair process for entities to engage in the development of a spectrum lease with the Tribe. Applicants may reach out to the 'technical contact', listed on the cover page, with questions regarding the attributes of the spectrum, potential for advanced infrastructure funding avenues, potential inclusion of channel 1, and partnership opportunities that might expand the possibilities beyond a straight lease for the spectrum.

Questions

Applicants may submit questions in writing to the technical contact listed on this document. Questions will be answered in writing within three business days of submission. Answers to questions will be distributed to all parties.

To protect the anonymity of applicants, all origins and unique identifiers that reveal the organization asking the question will be removed from the response. Answers will be distributed to all parties. The window for asking and answering questions will close on the date provided on the cover page.

Elements of Proposals

All submissions in response to this RFP should have the following elements:

- Cover Letter on company letterhead with signature from a high-level company official able to bind the organization to contractual obligations.
- A proposition narrative that does not to exceed five pages of 8x10 paper with a minimum of 11 point font, a line spacing of 1.2 point, and one inch margins.
- Proposals must include an offer matrix delineating the proposed monthly lease price.

- Submissions must include one to three paragraphs outlining the logic of how the monthly lease pricing was derived.
- A section of the narrative, and associated appendix, must include an explanation of how the spectrum will be managed to eliminate interference and be accompanied by an associated channel plan.
- Partnership opportunities beyond the lease agreement should be included as an independent section. Proposers should include the potential partnerships, future funding opportunities, unique revenue models that bring additional broadband resources into the community, and novel approaches to leverage the Tribes' federal standing for mutual economic gains.
- Proposals are limited to one cover page, five pages of narrative and four pages of appendices of figures and ancillary data. The total length of the proposal must not exceed ten pages.

Evaluation Criteria

Upon closing of this solicitation a review committee will rank the proposals on; 1. Monthly lease rate, 2. Proposed partnerships for joint proposals, 3. Innovative revenue models that expand beyond the monthly lease, and 4. Workforce Development Opportunities, 5. Broadband Use and Adoption Programing.

The committee will rank the proposals and provide a recommendation to the Tribal council. The endorsement to the council will be made at the regularly scheduled meeting following the closing date listed on the cover page. The Tribal council will make the final decision to accept the recommended proposal.

Anticipated Selection Schedule

Proposers will be notified of the decision in writing by the August 2022.

