

# **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) PRITS-2025-001**

FOR DEPLOYMENT OF OPTICAL FIBER AND PROVIDING CONNECTIVITY TO PUERTO RICO TRAFFIC LIGHTS NETWORK



RFI Release	14 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025
Deadline for Submitting Questions or	24 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025
Requests for Clarifications	
Publication of Responses	28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025
RFI Submission Deadline	14 <sup>th</sup> March, 2025



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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS) is the central government agency responsible for technology, innovation, and digital transformation in Puerto Rico. Established under Law No. 75-2019, PRITS is responsible for leading and coordinating government-wide technology initiatives.

In today's digital era, high-speed internet is a critical component of modern infrastructure, particularly for transportation networks that depend on seamless communication. Fiber-optic connectivity enhances traffic management and road safety by ensuring reliable and efficient data transmission between traffic signals and control centers.

As Puerto Rico's lead technology authority, PRITS collaborates with key stakeholders to explore infrastructure improvements, including broadband expansion, intelligent transportation systems, and digital government services.

Through this Request for Information (RFI), PRITS, in collaboration with the Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority, seeks to gather insights regarding the deployment of fiber-optic connectivity for Puerto Rico's Traffic Light Network. The information obtained will support efforts to enhance traffic safety, optimize smart mobility solutions, and modernize the island's transportation infrastructure.

This RFI is an information-gathering exercise. It does not constitute a solicitation for bids, nor will it result in a contractual agreement. The information gathered will help assess existing solutions, provider capabilities, potential challenges, and industry best practices for deploying fiber-optic infrastructure in the traffic light network.

#### 1.1 Purpose of this RFI

The Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority (PRHTA) and PRITS are collecting information on:

- The feasibility of deploying fiber-optic connectivity to approximately 1,229 traffic light intersections/sites across Puerto Rico. A detailed list of locations is provided in Annexure A.
- The coverage areas and service availability from providers, including estimated timeframes for implementation.
- The technical and logistical challenges associated with network expansion.
- The existing infrastructure that may facilitate faster deployment.

#### 2. RFI SCOPE OVERVIEW

PRITS is particularly interested in engaging with providers that have existing network infrastructure, including broadband conduit assets located within or near traffic light sites.

PRHTA currently manages approximately 1,229 traffic light intersections/sites, all of which require fiber-optic connectivity to enable real-time monitoring and management. PRHTA operates a centralized traffic control center, which must also be integrated into the network to ensure seamless traffic signal coordination and operational efficiency.

### 2.1 Project Goals

General goals of the Project include, but are not limited to:

- Providing optical fiber connectivity across Puerto Rico Traffic Light network in ways that
  result in fast, affordable, and reliable wired service, especially for the purposes of traffic
  management and traffic safety.
- Enabling and accelerating PRITS & PRHTA network connectivity for last-mile equipment, particularly those servicing rural communities.
- Expanding the optical fiber network available to PRHTA and PRITS for the expansion of ITS technology and to build capacity for next-generation Smart Transportation.
- Increasing network capacity (at PRITS' discretion) for governmental use and other initiatives that benefit the public.
- Expediting project delivery and maximizing innovation and delivery.
- Delivering long-term benefits in operational and maintenance costs.

#### 2.2 Implementation Considerations

PRITS is evaluating multiple implementation models that may involve one or more providers, depending on:

- Existing network coverage and footprint.
- Service reliability, bandwidth availability, and long-term scalability.
- Capacity for seamless network expansion and integration.
- Technical capabilities for network monitoring, maintenance, and support.
- Ability to integrate with PRHTA's centralized traffic control system.
- Each traffic light site must be equipped with fiber-optic connectivity, ensuring a bandwidth of 1 Gbps per site.

#### 3. RFI PROCESS

#### 3.1 Timeline

All documents shall be submitted on or before the deadline below.

Table 1 - RFI key dates.

RFI Release	14 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025
Deadline for Submitting Questions or Requests for	24 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025
Clarifications	
Publication of Responses	28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025
RFI Response Submission Deadline	14 <sup>th</sup> March, 2025, @5:00pm

- Any submission before the deadline will be considered and accepted.
- Incomplete responses or late submissions shall not be considered and will be rejected.

#### 3.2 Communication with PRITS

#### 3.2.1 Point of Contact

All communications with PRITS should be directed to the sole PRITS POC, as indicated below:

Antonio Ramos Guardiola

Chief Innovation and Information Officer (CIIO)

Email: procurement@prits.pr.gov

#### 3.2.2 Questions and Request for Clarifications

- Submit queries to <a href="mailto:procurement@prits.pr.gov">procurement@prits.pr.gov</a> referencing "[PRITS-2025-001]" in the subject line. Non-compliant emails will not be acknowledged.
- Verbal queries are not permitted.
- Queries submitted after the deadline stated in Table 1 will not be answered.
- Responses to valid queries will be consolidated and published at www.prits.pr.gov.
- PRITS CIIO or his delegate reserves the right to amend this RFI. Any changes will be documented on PRITS website.
- Participants are responsible for periodically reviewing their emails and PRITS website for updated information regarding this RFI.
- Submission implies acceptance of all RFI terms and amendments.

#### 3.3 Changes to this RFI

The schedule presented in this RFI is subject to change. At the discretion of PRITS, dates might change. In such a case, the updated dates and times will be published.

#### 3.4 Clarification of Responses

PRITS reserves the option, at its sole discretion, to contact any Provider to seek clarification regarding information contained in its response but shall have no obligation to do so. The decision to contact and request clarification from a Provider rest solely with PRITS. In submitting its response, a Provider should not assume that it will be provided an opportunity to subsequently clarify or otherwise discuss any feature thereof.

#### 4. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

#### 4.1 RFI Response Content and Checklist

The Responses shall be submitted in PDF format and include all the documents in the following checklist. Items (a) to (f) are mandatory.

Please ensure that all required documents are provided, as failure to do so may result in disqualification.

#### Table 2 - Required information for Responses submittals.

a. **COVER LETTER**: Include a cover letter presenting the organization, its network footprint, and capabilities, as well as any awards, certifications, or documents demonstrating the stability, reliability, and bandwidth of the network. Highlight crucial information for PRITS during the review, assuming they have no prior knowledge of the Participant's experience or methodologies. Additionally, provide a brief company background, including years in operation and relevant experience with large-scale fiber optic deployments. Mention previous government or transportation projects completed and detail the certifications, licenses, or approvals required to operate in Puerto Rico.

#### b. **COVERAGE AREA**:

- 1. Provide a comprehensive overview of the provider's fiber optic network, including:
  - The current coverage area of the provider's Optical Fiber network, specifying locations where fiber is already deployed.
  - The IDs of the Traffic Lights that can be connected to the provider existing network (use the same IDs provided in Annexure A).

#### 2. Network Infrastructure:

- The availability and reach of the existing fiber optic network in the target area, including backbone and distribution networks.
- Coverage maps illustrating both current and planned fiber routes.
- Capability to extend fiber where needed, including new trenching or aerial deployment options.
- Fiber specifications, such as single-mode/multi-mode types, bandwidth capacity, and redundancy measures.

c. <b>WORK PLAN</b> : Provide a detailed connectivity schedule and implementation strategy,
including:

#### 1. Connectivity Schedule

- The number of sites to be connected within one (1) month.
- The number of sites to be connected within six (6) months.
- Provisions for phased deployment, prioritizing critical intersections or hightraffic areas.

#### 2. Connectivity & Technical Solutions

- Proposed methods to connect each traffic signal to the Centralized Traffic Control Center (CTCC).
- Estimated bandwidth per signal and overall network capacity.
- Redundancy and failover mechanisms in case of outages.
- Integration with existing traffic management systems
- Available options for managed services, dark fiber leasing, or dedicated circuits.
- Scalability considerations for future expansion, including additional traffic signals and smart city applications.

#### 3. Implementation Timeline & Challenges

- Estimated timeline for full deployment and activation. (for full or partial project)
- Potential challenges or permitting requirements that could impact implementation.
- Dependencies on third-party infrastructure (e.g., utility poles, municipal rights-of-way).
- Environmental and geographic challenges (e.g., flood-prone areas, hurricane resilience).

#### 4. Ongoing Maintenance & Support

- Service Level Agreements (SLAs) outlining response times and uptime guarantees.
- Routine maintenance plans, including fiber inspections and proactive repairs.
- Procedures for testing connectivity, latency, and redundancy.
- Support availability, such as 24/7 monitoring, technical support teams, and emergency response services.

#### 5. Budgetary Estimates

- Rough cost estimates for installation, leasing, or long-term maintenance.
- Pricing models, including one-time build-out costs versus recurring service fees.

#### 6. Compliance & Security

- Compliance with National Electrical Code (NEC), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and other relevant standards.
- Cybersecurity protections and resilience against attacks.

<ul> <li>Disaster recovery and emergency response capabilities.</li> </ul>
d. RUP certificate or evidence demonstrating ongoing efforts towards its acquisition.
e. RPT PRITS - Registration of Technology Providers Certificate
f. Physical and mailing address of the company's main office in Puerto Rico and the
name, email and phone number of the company's Point of Contact for this RFI
g. (OPTIONAL) Any other document that allows the evaluation of the Participant's
capabilities to provide the services outlined in this RFI

#### 4.2 Submission details

Responses shall include coverage maps, a detailed explanation of Traffic Light coverage, and expansion plans for additional connectivity. Additionally, submissions must provide a list of sites where connectivity can be established immediately, within one (1) month, and within six (6) months, in accordance with the proposed connectivity schedule.

#### 4.3 Submission of Responses

- Submit RFI responses electronically via email to procurement@prits.pr.gov.
- RFI responses must be received by the deadline in Table 1.
- The email should have in the subject the following: "PRITS-2025-001 RFI Response < Your</li> Company Name>".
- If attachments are too large for email, physical copies may be acceptable. If multiple versions are sent, only the final one shall be considered.

#### 4.4 Signatures

The RFI Responds Cover Letter, the Work Plan and General Certification (Appendix I) must be signed by the person registered in the RUP or their authorized representative. Electronic signatures are permitted.

#### 4.5 **Interviews and Demonstrations**

After reviewing all submissions, PRITS may request interviews, demonstrations, or clarifications from Participants. This allows them to clarify any information contained on the original RFI Response.

#### Appendix I – General Certification

This certification must be signed by a duly authorized representative and submitted along with the Response as outlined in <u>Table 1</u>.

- 1. I acknowledge that this Response is solely a Request for Information (RFI) and does not constitute a commitment or obligation by the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service (PRITS) or the Government of Puerto Rico to allocate funding or enter into any contractual agreement.
- 2. I understand that participation in this RFI does not authorize the provision of services under it without a valid legal agreement with PRITS.
- 3. I understand that any false information provided may result in the rejection of the submitted Response and/or immediate disqualification from participation in future projects, even if discovered after the approval of the Response or the execution of a contract with the Government.
- 4. I acknowledge that providing false information or documentation in violation of federal and/or state laws may be subject to civil, criminal, or administrative penalties.
- 5. I guarantee there is no conflict of interest between myself, my corporation or entity members, and the Government of Puerto Rico, or the Puerto Rico Innovation and Technology Service or its employees.
- 6. I understand that I am responsible for all costs associated with preparing and submitting this Response.
- 7. I acknowledge that failure to submit the required documents and information within the specified timeframe may result in rejection of the Response by PRITS.
- 8. I understand that all information submitted under this RFI will be part of the official records held by PRITS and may be subject to disclosure under Act No. 141-2019 (Law on Transparency and Expedited Procedure for Access to Public Information). If any submitted information is to be treated as confidential, it must be clearly designated in the submission, specifying which parts are to be treated as such.
- 9. I acknowledge and accept that the approval of this Response and the potential implementation of any project under this RFI process are subject to the availability and allocation of funds to PRITS for the development of the proposed work/tasks.

I hereby certify that all the information provided here is correct and that I am the Participant

or the authorized person to r	epresent the entity.
Name	Signature
Position	Date

#### Appendix II – General Conditions and Requirements

All required forms, certifications specified in this Request for Information, and the attached specifications must be included with the response. All participants must comply, without limitation, with the following:

- PRITS may partially or fully cancel this RFI if it serves the best interests of the Government of Puerto Rico, at any stage before the formalization of a contract or issuance of a purchase order. Cancellations will be communicated via PRITS website.
- All documents, including submitted responses, become the property of PRITS. The selection or rejection of a response does not alter this provision.
- This RFI is for informational purposes only and does not guarantee the awarding of a contract or funding. Publishing this RFI or selecting participants does not constitute a formal agreement, nor does any participant have the right to demand a contract with the Government.
- PRITS reserves the right to modify instructions, terms, conditions, and specifications before the RFI closing date. Any modifications will be communicated to participants.
- If a participant submits multiple responses under their name or pseudonyms, all their submissions will be rejected. No individual or legal entity may participate in multiple teams. Related entities—those with financial or operational control over one another—are also prohibited from participating separately.
- Participants bear full responsibility for all costs associated with administrative fees, transportation, and travel related to the preparation and submission of responses. PRITS will not reimburse or separately compensate these costs.
- PRITS shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation, submission, presentation, or revision of responses, nor for any related activities in this RFI process.
- PRITS is not bound by any obligations regarding the project until a written agreement is executed and a formal Notice to Proceed is issued.
- Participants must provide information on services at fair and reasonable pricing (equal to or better than those currently offered to PRITS or Government of Puerto Rico).
- Any pricing information provided in response to this RFI is for informational purposes only and does not create any binding commitment.
- All materials and information submitted in response to this RFI become the property of PRITS and will not be returned.
- PRITS reserves the right to use the submitted materials and information without restriction.
- All individuals, companies, or contractors must fully cooperate with any government investigation related to commercial transactions, contracts, or government incentives they have been involved in or benefited from, either directly or indirectly.

#### Appendix III – FAQs

#### How should the RFI Responses be prepared?

Follow all instructions and requirements in this RFI when preparing Responses. Review all documents carefully and provide complete and accurate responses. Non-compliance may lead to Responses rejection.

This RFI aims to aid PRITS in evaluating and selecting Responses that best serves PRITS & PRHTA interests.

Participants should note that PRITS will not cover any costs related to responding to this RFI. The Participant will bear all such costs. Charging fees for Response preparation or submission are not allowed, regardless of the RFI outcome. PRITS is not liable for any costs, claims, or damages related to the RFI Response process.

#### What format should be used?

Responses should adhere to the specified format guidelines:

- 1. Cover Page: This should clearly state the Responses title and any pertinent information, such as the date or project name.
- 2. Table of Contents: Must include all section titles with corresponding page numbers for easy navigation.
- 3. Font and Size: Use only Times New Roman, Arial, or a similar font at a size of twelve (12).
- 4. **Spacing:** The document should be single-spaced.
- 5. Paper Size and Margins: Utilize an 8.5 by 11-inch paper size and ensure that there is at least a one (1) inch margin on all sides.
- 6. Page Numbering: Ensure that all pages are numbered consecutively throughout the document.
- 7. File Format: Submit the document in PDF format only. Image files are not acceptable.
- 8. Logos: Include only the logos of the responding entities; refrain from incorporating additional logos.

Annexure A – List of Traffic Light Sites