

§ 1.21002

bidding shall be identified in a public notice.

§ 1.21002 Prohibition of certain communications during the competitive bidding process.

(a) *Definition of Applicant.* For purposes of this paragraph, the term “applicant” shall include any applicant, each party capable of controlling the applicant, and each party that may be controlled by the applicant or by a party capable of controlling the applicant.

(b) *Certain Communications Prohibited.* After the deadline for submitting applications to participate, an applicant is prohibited from cooperating or collaborating with any other applicant with respect to its own, or one another’s, or any other competing applicant’s bids or bidding strategies, and is prohibited from communicating with any other applicant in any manner the substance of its own, or one another’s, or any other competing applicant’s bids or bidding strategies, until after the post-auction deadline for winning bidders to submit applications for support, unless such applicants are members of a joint bidding arrangement identified on the application pursuant to § 1.21001(b)(4).

(c) *Duty To Report Potentially Prohibited Communications.* An applicant that makes or receives communications that may be prohibited pursuant to this paragraph shall report such communications to the Commission staff immediately, and in any case no later than 5 business days after the communication occurs. An applicant’s obligation to make such a report continues until the report has been made.

(d) *Procedures for Reporting Potentially Prohibited Communications.* Particular procedures for parties to report communications that may be prohibited under this rule may be established by public notice. If no such procedures are established by public notice, the party making the report shall do so in writing to the Chief of the Auctions and Spectrum Access Division by the most expeditious means available, including electronic transmission such as email.

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§ 1.21003 Competitive bidding process.

(a) *Public Notice of Competitive Bidding Procedures.* Detailed competitive bidding procedures shall be established by public notice prior to the commencement of competitive bidding any time competitive bidding is conducted pursuant to this subpart.

(b) *Competitive Bidding Procedures.* The public notice detailing competitive bidding procedures may establish any of the following:

(1) Limits on the public availability of information regarding applicants, applications, and bids during a period of time covering the competitive bidding process, as well as procedures for parties to report the receipt of such non-public information during such periods;

(2) The way in which support may be made available for multiple identified areas by competitive bidding, e.g., simultaneously or sequentially, and if the latter, in what grouping, if any, and order;

(3) The acceptable form for bids, including whether and how bids will be accepted on individual items and/or for combinations or packages of items;

(4) Reserve prices, either for discrete items or combinations or packages of items, as well as whether the reserve prices will be public or non-public during the competitive bidding process;

(5) The methods and times for submission of bids, whether remotely, by telephonic or electronic transmission, or in person;

(6) The number of rounds during which bids may be submitted, e.g., one or more, and procedures for ending the bidding;

(7) Measurements of bidding activity in the aggregate or by individual applicants, together with requirements for minimum levels of bidding activity;

(8) Acceptable bid amounts at the opening of and over the course of bidding;

(9) Consistent with the public interest objectives of the competitive bidding, the process for reviewing bids and determining the winning bidders and the amount(s) of universal service support that each winning bidder may apply for, pursuant to applicable post-auction procedures;