

**Subpart AA—Competitive Bidding
for Universal Service Support**

SOURCE: 76 FR 73851, Nov. 29, 2011, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1.21000 Purpose.

This subpart sets forth procedures for competitive bidding to determine the recipients of universal service support pursuant to part 54 of this chapter and the amount(s) of support that each recipient respectively may receive, subject to post-auction procedures, when the Commission directs that such support shall be determined through competitive bidding.

§ 1.21001 Participation in competitive bidding for support.

(a) *Public Notice of the Application Process.* The dates and procedures for submitting applications to participate in competitive bidding pursuant to this subpart shall be announced by public notice.

(b) *Application Contents.* An applicant to participate in competitive bidding pursuant to this subpart shall provide the following information in an acceptable form:

(1) The identity of the applicant, *i.e.*, the party that seeks support, including any required information regarding parties that have an ownership or other interest in the applicant;

(2) The identities of up to three individuals authorized to make or withdraw a bid on behalf of the applicant;

(3) The identities of all real parties in interest to any agreements relating to the participation of the applicant in the competitive bidding;

(4) Certification that the application discloses all real parties in interest to any agreements involving the applicant's participation in the competitive bidding;

(5) Certification that the applicant and all applicable parties have complied with and will continue to comply with § 1.21002;

(6) Certification that the applicant is in compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements for receiving the universal service support that the applicant seeks;

(7) Certification that the applicant will make any payment that may be required pursuant to § 1.21004;

(8) Certification that the individual submitting the application is authorized to do so on behalf of the applicant; and

(9) Such additional information as may be required.

(c) *Financial Requirements for Participation.* As a prerequisite to participating in competitive bidding, an applicant may be required to post a bond or place funds on deposit with the Commission in an amount based on the default payment that may be required pursuant to § 1.21004. The details of and deadline for posting such a bond or making such a deposit will be announced by public notice. No interest will be paid on any funds placed on deposit.

(d) *Application Processing.* (1) Any timely submitted application will be reviewed by Commission staff for completeness and compliance with the Commission's rules. No untimely applications shall be reviewed or considered.

(2) An applicant will not be permitted to participate in competitive bidding if the application does not identify the applicant as required by the public notice announcing application procedures or does not include all required certifications, as of the deadline for submitting applications.

(3) An applicant will not be permitted to participate in competitive bidding if the applicant has not provided any bond or deposit of funds required pursuant to § 1.21001(c), as of the applicable deadline.

(4) An applicant may not make major modifications to its application after the deadline for submitting the application. An applicant will not be permitted to participate in competitive bidding if Commission staff determines that the application requires major modifications to be made after that deadline. Major modifications include, but are not limited to, any changes in the ownership of the applicant that constitute an assignment or transfer of control, or any changes in the identity of the applicant, or any changes in the required certifications.

(5) An applicant may be permitted to make minor modifications to its application after the deadline for submitting applications. Minor modifications may be subject to a deadline specified by public notice. Minor modifications include correcting typographical errors and supplying non-material information that was inadvertently omitted or was not available at the time the application was submitted.

(6) After receipt and review of the applications, an applicant that will be permitted participate in competitive 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.

§ 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;