

Utah Telecommunication Open  
Infrastructure Agency



Request for Proposal for  
FCC Contract Field Engineering  
RFP # 2025ENG-001

**May 12, 2025**

The Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency (UTOPIA Fiber) invites you to submit a proposal to provide Contract Field Engineering support for the FCC Rip and Replace program for UTOPIA Fiber in our member cities.

This RFP outlines the requirements for your proposal.

All proposals must be received by **5:00 P.M. Mountain Time on June 6, 2025 via email** to Jeff Erwin ([jerwin@utopiafiber.com](mailto:jerwin@utopiafiber.com)). **PROPOSALS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

Please use email to direct all questions to Jeff Erwin ([jerwin@utopiafiber.com](mailto:jerwin@utopiafiber.com)). Any questions received will be answered and provided to other respondents.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Timmerman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Timmerman  
Executive Director  
UTOPIA Fiber

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## 1. Introduction and Background

### 1.1. UTOPIA Fiber

UTOPIA Fiber, also known as the Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency, is an open-access fiber-optic network founded by 11 Utah cities in 2004 with the mission to bring high-speed fiber-optic connection to every resident and business in their communities. Since its inception, UTOPIA Fiber has expanded to include 20 Utah cities and 3 operational partners so far.

### 1.2. Philosophy and Goals

The member communities of UTOPIA have taken the initiative to assure world-class digital connectivity for their residents based on the following principles:

#### 1.2.1. Open Access

Like a public airport, the UTOPIA network has been designed for use by several service and content providers. We believe that a single open network allows more providers to competitively offer more services at lower cost.

#### 1.2.2. Standards Based Architecture

The network is dependent, from a technical standpoint, on an open, standards-based architecture for broadband content services. This assures flexibility of service, modularity, and interoperability in access, interconnection, and transport. Although the special needs of service providers can be accommodated, the principle of open standards must be preserved.

#### 1.2.3. Scalability

UTOPIA's fiber optic network can deliver much higher bandwidth than the networks of incumbent last mile carriers. Its architecture has the inherent flexibility to accommodate future bandwidth demands of residential, business, educational, governmental, and other customers without major re-design or construction.

#### 1.2.4. Carrier Class Reliability

UTOPIA's network offers carrier class reliability enabling service providers to offer products that can compete with those available from incumbent carriers. All contracts with system operators and service providers must support this commitment.

### 1.3. The Network

#### 1.3.1. Physical Description

UTOPIA is continuing the process of constructing a wholesale advanced communications

network. The Network uses fiber optic technology, which provides transmission of voice, data and video at speeds that are significantly faster than existing copper, cable, or satellite systems. The fiber optic cable is installed both underground and overhead aerial. Other elements of the Network include conduits, inner ducts, fiber cables, splices, switches, transmitters, terminals, internal power sources and all other items necessary to operate the Network.

The Network is divided into footprints (neighborhood service areas) and interconnecting rings with design and construction partially complete in eleven Members cities.

UTOPIA currently operates a 100 percent fiber-based network. It is an active ethernet topology with no GPON systems within the network. Network equipment is placed in climate-controlled environments constantly monitored by our Network Operations Team.

### 1.3.2. Service Delivery

UTOPIA currently delivers services on a wholesale model in an open-access environment. When a Service Provider customer signs up for a fiber connection to UTOPIA, we provision a layer 2 transport circuit from the customer back to the Service Provider NNI. Each customer/circuit is configured as a point-to-point circuit. UTOPIA uses Ethernet based switches with a one-customer to one-switch port ratio.

### 1.4. FCC Rip and Replace Program

In October 2021, the Federal Communications Commission opened applications for telecommunications organizations to participate in the Supply Chain Reimbursement program, also known as Rip and Replace, to provide financial assistance for the removal, replacement, and disposal of communications equipment provided by Huawei Technologies Company (Huawei) or ZTE Corporation (ZTE).

The program requires participants to report yearly on any Huawei or ZTE equipment used on their network, what they are being replaced with, and the process of replacing and disposing of them within one year of approval of their application.

In July 2022, the FCC announced approved applications, however the number of applications was higher than expected and the initial funding was not enough to cover 100% of the costs for all participants. UTOPIA Fiber chose not to proceed with participating in the program at that time.

In April 2025, the FCC announced additional funding had been secured to cover all remaining applications and would move forward with the program. Participants were notified that they would receive a disbursement of \$1 in the near future which will mark the start of the window for replacing all devices within one year.

## 2. Purpose / RFP Overview

This RFP is soliciting proposals to provide personnel support to assist with UTOPIA Fiber

participating in the FCC Rip and Replace program. Both contractors and individuals interested in this position are encouraged to apply. UTOPIA Fiber is looking to fill two full-time equivalent positions to assist with the Rip and Replace program.

### 2.1. Award Period

UTOPIA Fiber intends to award a fixed-time contract to one or more individuals or contractors.

### 2.2. RFP Schedule

Below is the schedule and timeframe for this RFP. Questions about the RFP should be directed to Jeff Erwin and are due before 5:00pm MT on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Questions and responses to those questions will be posted publicly for all respondents shortly after the deadline for questions. UTOPIA Fiber will not be able to respond to any questions received after the deadline for questions has passed.

<b>RFP Process</b>	<b>Date</b>
Posting first available for RFP	5/12/2025
Deadline for questions	5/30/2025
Responses to questions posted	6/4/2025
Final submissions for RFP due	6/6/2025
UTOPIA Fiber award date	6/11/2025

### 2.3. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be based on the following criteria. The contract should be awarded to the highest scoring, responsive, and reasonable offeror(s), meeting the stated RFP requirements.

- Experience with network engineering
- Familiarity with Open Access Networks
- Pricing (as laid out section 4)
- Proposal (as laid out in section 3.6-3.7)

### 2.4. Submission requirements

Proposals must be submitted before 5:00pm MT on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. All proposals must be submitted electronically to [jerwin@utopiafiber.com](mailto:jerwin@utopiafiber.com) and be in either PDF or Microsoft Word format.

### 2.5. Contact Information

Please submit all questions to Jeff Erwin. All questions must be submitted before the deadline of 5:00pm MT on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Questions submitted after the deadline, even about the RFP process, will not be answered.

Jeff Erwin, Chief Operating Officer  
[jerwin@utopiafiber.com](mailto:jerwin@utopiafiber.com)

## 2.6. Proposal Duration

UTOPIA Fiber is looking to award a contract for two full-time-equivalent positions for twelve (12) months for work on the Rip and Replace program, with the option to extend an additional 2 months in 1 month increments if necessary.

## 2.7. Partnering/Subcontracting

UTOPIA Fiber will communicate with a single primary respondent for each proposal. If you propose a multi-respondent or subcontracted approach, clearly identify the responsibilities of each party and the assurances of performance you offer and indicate which company will serve as the primary contractor. The primary contractor will be responsible and must take responsibility for the entire contract performance whether or not subcontractors are used.

In contractor/subcontractor arrangements involving more than one firm, it does not matter to UTOPIA Fiber which firm assumes the lead role. However, the primary contractor must assume full responsibility for the performance of all products and services contracted for, for integration between and among all products and services, and for implementation, ongoing maintenance, and support as delineated in the contract to be negotiated with UTOPIA Fiber.

Unless provided for in the contract negotiated and entered into in connection with this RFP, no contract may be made by the contractor with any other party for furnishing any of the work or services requested in this RFP without the prior consent, guidance and approval of UTOPIA Fiber. Any subcontract entered into in connection with this RFP subsequent to the execution of the contract with the primary contractor must be annotated "approved" by UTOPIA Fiber.

If the use of subcontractors is planned, your proposal must include specific designation of the tasks that the subcontractor is to perform. Failure to provide information for subcontractors will disqualify the proposal. Under this RFP, UTOPIA Fiber retains the right to approve all subcontractors. Once a contract has been executed, subcontractors may not be added, substituted, replaced, or eliminated without the written approval of UTOPIA Fiber.

UTOPIA Fiber retains the right to require the removal of any subcontractor at their discretion; examples include but are not limited to safety and permit violations, poor work quality and practices, and unacceptable community interactions. The primary contractor will be responsible for all costs associated with removal and replacement of said subcontractor.

The contractor will be required to provide a payment bond with a surety company acceptable to UTOPIA Fiber to ensure payment of all subcontracts and taxes including, but not limited to, unemployment insurance taxes.

Subcontractors may participate in more than one proposal submitted in connection with this RFP.

### 2.8. Confidentiality

All information provided in the proposal will be treated as confidential. Information will only be disclosed to relevant parties involved in the evaluation process.

## 3. Proposal Scope

UTOPIA Fiber will be filling two full-time positions for the Contract Field Engineer. This position will involve after-hours work as well as the ability to drive company vehicles to field locations. This is not a remote position.

### 3.1. Job Description

The Contract Field Engineer works with the Network Operations Center (NOC), Field Services Group (FSG), and Network Engineering Team (NetEng) to upgrade network equipment. The contract period will be 12 months with options to extend. The role will involve equipment preparation and onsite after-hours maintenance windows.

Performs additional duties as assigned by their supervisor.

### 3.2. Education and Experience

The Contract Field Engineer should have the following:

- One to two years of experience in a Network Operations Center or as a Network Engineer
- An equivalent combination of education or experience

### 3.3. Supervisor

The Contract Field Engineer will report to the Network Engineering Manager.

### 3.4. Skill Set

The Contract Field Engineer should have the following skill set:

- Understand the UTOPIA open access model and network design
- Possess an understanding of the OSI troubleshooting model as it relates to Layers 1-3
- Know the applications of optical transceivers and fiber optic cables used on the UTOPIA Network
- Have the ability to configure UTOPIA edge devices from out-of-the-box to production-ready
- Have an understanding of outside plant equipment installation standards

### 3.5. Work Environment

The Contract Field Engineer will be working in a typical office setting with typical climate controls. Periodic exposure to seasonal elements when local and regional travel is required to work at hut and cabinet locations. Tasks require a variety of physical activities



such as walking, standing, stooping, sitting, reaching, which do not generally require muscular strain. Extensive sitting and keyboard functions create various degrees of eyestrain and muscle tension. Job functions normally require talking, hearing and seeing. Common eye, hand, and finger dexterity required for most essential functions. Mental application utilizes memory for details, verbal instructions, emotional stability, discriminating thinking and guided problem solving.

The Contract Field Engineer will be required to have a valid driver's license.

The Contract Field Engineer is unable to work remotely, and work must be done onsite.

### 3.6. Application as an Individual

If you are applying as an individual, please send all below items by email to [jerwin@utopiafiber.com](mailto:jerwin@utopiafiber.com) with "Contract Field Engineer" included the subject line.

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- Pricing proposal based on section 4 below

### 3.7. Application as a contractor

If you are applying as a contractor to fill both full-time positions at once, please provide the following information:

- Resumes of both employees who will fill the position
- A brief description of the company, its strengths, relevant experience, and any competitive advantage you possess (no more than 2 pages)
- A copy of the business license
- Pricing proposal based on section 4 below

## 4. Pricing

UTOPIA Fiber is open to all pricing proposals, however if respondents do not have a specific format they favor, we do recommend respondents provide pricing based on the following format:

- A bid for compensation per switch replaced
- A bonus for on-time/ahead of time completion

Below is the count of devices broken out by model number. UTOPIA has additional tracking information (such as specific geographic location and serial number) which will be available for the winning participant(s).

<b>Huawei Technologies Company</b>	<b>Count</b>
S5720-50X-EI-46S-AC	252
S5720-50X-EI-46S-DC	34
S5720-56C-EI-48S-AC	36
S5720-56C-EI-48S-DC	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>

## **5. Terms and Conditions**

This RFP does not commit UTOPIA Fiber to proceed with any respondent. Proposals will be considered valid for a period of 90 days after the submission deadline. The issuance of this RFP does not constitute an assurance by UTOPIA Fiber that any contract will be entered into by UTOPIA Fiber, and expressly reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel or reissue the RFP, or adjust or extend any due dates in the RFP process without advance warning.

## **6. Conclusion**

We look forward to receiving your proposals and exploring how we can collaboratively meet Rip and Replace requirements. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of a fast-paced and transformative project in high-speed internet services.