

Media Release

Request for Proposal (RFP) to be issued for Design and Construction – Fibre Access Network

23 June 2010

NBN Co today announced it will ask 21 key Australian companies including six utility companies to tender for the progressive rollout of the Fibre Access Network.

NBN Co issued a Request for Capability Statement (RCS) for the Design and Construction of the Fibre Access Network in March which saw 45 companies start their formal engagement process with the company.

The companies invited to take part in the formal RFP as a result of the RCS are:

Baulderstone Pty Ltd; Bovis Lend Lease; Communications & Fibre; Connect X (AbiGroup/UGL Joint Venture); Downer EDI; Ergon Energy; ETSA Utilities; Jemena Asset Management; John Holland / Bilfinger Berger Services; Laing O'Rourke; McConnell Dowell; Monadelphous Inabensa Joint Venture; Powercor Network Services; Service Stream; Silcar; SP AusNet; Telstra; Tenix; Transfield Services; Visionstream Australia; and Western Power.

Today's announcement to go to the next stage and issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to a shortlist of key industry companies follows an extremely rigorous and thorough evaluation of submissions to the company over the past eight weeks.

NBN Co Head of Construction, Patrick Flannigan, said the companies shortlisted for engagement in the next stage had the specialisation and the capability to undertake work of significant size and complexity and the ability to progressively ramp up activities nationally.

He said NBN Co would be encouraging mid tier and smaller contractors who engaged with the company during the RCS process to offer their services to the lead contractors.

"This is a great opportunity for all players in the market. The lead contractors will need all the resources and skills available to them to realise this project," he said.

NBN Co expects the Design and Construction RFP to be complete towards the end of the year.

Mr Flannigan said companies shortlisted for the next stage had core values of maintaining safe work environments, maximising Australian content, and driving for innovation and training.

He said all companies eventually engaged by NBN Co must comply with all the necessary Federal, State and Local government obligations and requirements and they must also be aware

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of the Industry Capability Network which helps small to medium business to get work from major Government projects.

Mr Flannigan said planned physical construction would involve a staged approach which would eventually pass more than ten million premises over eight years and require laying more than 200,000 kilometres of fibre cable.

For further information
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