

Residence Hall Cable TV Service RFP# 74052 – Questions & Answers – 3/12/08

1. **Question:** On page 13 of the RFP, you request pricing for service delivered to 1810 outlets, which includes the residence halls and academic locations. Please delineate which of the 1810 outlets are residential and which are academic or administrative.

Answer: The vast majority of the cable service outlets are in the residence halls. The non-residence hall outlets are located in the following locations:

Nelson Hall Main Lobby
Morris Hall Main Lobby
Centennial Student Union – Lower Level TV Lounge
Otto Arena – Campus Recreation Center – 48 Work Out Stations
Meyers Field House – Sandellas Dining Area

The actual number for the 2008-2009 academic year is being revised based upon the results of remodeling. There will be approximately 1,830 outlets in student rooms. Suites, and apartments and approximately 8 in other public areas of the residence halls, as well as 52 outlets in other areas of campus for an approximate campus total of 1,890 outlets.

This number may vary in future years, as stated in the RFP to take into account areas that are being remodeled, demolished, or added to the campus housing stock based upon new building or purchase.

2. **Question:** Of the residential outlets, how many outlets are within suites or apartments. Ideally, the university can provide a breakdown of each residence hall and how many total rooms, apartments or suites are in each hall. Within each room, suite or apartment, please indicate how many outlets are within each. Please include the new Julia Sears hall as well.

Answer: Residence hall cable TV jacks are located, one per room, as follows:

Crawford Center:	393
McElroy Center:	515
Gage Center:	590
Julia A. Sears Residence Hall:	341

Please note that for the 2008-2009 academic year the number of rooms in Crawford will be reduced by 99 each semester due to remodeling.

In public areas of the residence halls, the cable TV jacks are located as follows:

Crawford Lobby
McElroy Lobby
Carkoski Commons Dining Hall
Carkoski Commons Health Center
Carkoski Commons Student Leadership Office
Gage Welcome Lounge
Gage Dining Hall
Julia A. Sears Dining Area Lounge

3. **Question:** Of the 200 summer outlets, how many are residential and how many are academic/administrative? Of the residential, please indicate which of the residence halls are occupied during the summer.

Answer: All of the non-student room areas remain the same in the summer as during the academic year. So, the vast majority of the jacks used during the summer as in residence hall student rooms. Based upon past use, although we plan for using 200 jacks, in reality the use has been considerably less than that. However, our summer use is likely to rise when Julia A. Sears Residence Hall is opened and will be used during the summer of 2009.

4. **Question:** On top of page 11, you refer to \"several additional locations on campus in academic buildings\". For confirmation, please provide a complete list of residential, academic and administrative buildings/locations that will need service.

Answer: The locations on campus outside of the residence halls are outlined in # 2 above.

5. **Question:** Per page 12 of the RFP, please indicate which three locations the university would want as origination points.

Answer: At this time we do not have any campus origination programming. However, for future possible use, we do want to have that capability available. If used, the programming will originate on campus. We have no immediate plans to implement such service, but may in the future.

6. **Question:** Please verify that the university understands that channels 12, 13, 14, 21 and 98 are only able to be provided by Charter. These are Government Access, Public Access, Charter Channel, Educational Access and Charter Special Programs respectively.

Answer: The University understands where these channels originate. There would be no expectation that any of the Charter produced programming be carried if Charter is not the contractor, except that it is expected that the MSU sports events that are available in Mankato such as Maverick Hockey, is carried on the system in the residence halls. This was clearly spelled out in the RFP document. It is also expected that the system carry the public access channel per the RFP document.

7. **Question:** How important are QVC, Home Shopping Network and Shop NBC for the mandatory lineup, if we can recommend more popular channels in those spots?

Answer: There is no requirement to carry these specific shopping channels. Alternative channels may be proposed, so long as there are comparable shopping channels provided on the system.

8. **Question:** Will the university entertain longer contract terms?

Answer: No. We are only able to offer the contract length that have been outlined in the RFP document.

9. **Question:** Please provide prints for telecom (including fiber optic), tunnels, electrical and buildings covered by this RFP.

Answer: There is a PDF of the campus tunnel system that will be posted on the web site along with the responses to the questions that have been submitted. There are no prints available for the electrical system, telecommunications, cable TV, etc. A firm may schedule a follow-up visit to campus to tour the tunnels and do further inspections. In order to do so, contact:

Richard Wheeler at: richard.wheeler@mnsu.edu or 507-389-1011

10. **Question:** Please state the University's position on franchise issues.

Answer: If the contract is to be established with a firm that is providing a traditional cable TV type service, then the City of Mankato cable TV franchise ordinance must be followed. But, if it is in the best interest of the University to go with an alternative TV distribution system, the contractor is only obligated to follow the City of Mankato cable TV franchise ordinance as required by law.

11. **Question:** Is there a climate controlled room that can house a head end (10'x12')?

Answer: Depending upon the proposed need as outlined in the RFP response, there is a possibility that the University can provide space for the needed equipment. However, it may be necessary for the contractor to pay to expand the room and provide additional air conditioning equipment.

12. **Question:** Are there any maps that you can send me of the campus that detail either outside conduit runs or outside single-mode fiber and coaxial cabling runs that may be used for the delivery of Cable or Satellite TV service to the campus from the head end room?

Answer: MSU does not own the current cable distribution system as noted in the RFP document, except for in the new Julia A. Sears Residence Hall.

In the Julia A. Sears Residence Hall the construction contractor is providing the wiring from the communications room on each floor to each room jack. The contractor that will provide cable TV service on campus will need to wire the building to each floor communications room. Information in the wiring from the floor communications rooms to the room jacks is available from MSU Facilities Planning at: Lawrence.kohanek@mnsu.edu

13. **Question:** Do you have floor plans of the buildings on campus that will be connected to the network from the head end room?

Answer: All university floor plans are available at this web site:

<http://www.mnsu.edu/maps/university/buildings/>

14. Question: Approximately how many residence hall rooms are on campus and is there a listing of the number of rooms in each building?

Answer: See the answer to question # 2.

15. Question: What is your current cable budget? Is the current cable contract available for review?

Answer: This information is public information and is available from MSU via the Request for Public Data process which can be found at this MSU web site:

<http://www.mnsu.edu/supersite/administration/privacy/public.html>

16. Question: Is there any chance that I could meet with you or your facilities group to review the above requested documents if there are not copies available to vendors?

Answer: See the answer to the previous question # 5.

17. Question: When does the university's high speed internet contract expire and will there be an opportunity to expand the delivery of these services on the cable system in the future?

Answer: The current contract for the residence hall internet service with Charter Communications expires on July 31, 2009. In that contract the University may offer up to two 1 year extensions beyond July 31, 2009. At this time no decision has been made on what will happen when the July 31, 2009 date arrives. That decision will be made in the Fall of 2008.

There is no intention to combine the residence hall internet and cable TV service contracts.

Please note that the internet service on campus outside of the residence hall is owned and managed by MSU IT.

18. Question: Based on info from my insurance agent, since there would be no capital or install cost we would not need a bid bond. My question to you would be do we need a bid bond based on no investment or installation charges on the bid for video for MSU?

Answer: Yes, the RFP states that a corporate surety bond is required or a certified check for 5% of the total cost of the project for the first year of service.

19. Question: Please state the University's position on franchise issues.

Answer: See the reply to the question # 10.