



NetWork BC - Notice To Vendors **November 19, 2004**

On October 14, 2004, The Ministry of Management Services published a NetWork BC Notice to Vendors - Potential for Contract Extensions/Deferral of JSP Process (see: Notice To Vendors, October 14 at www.network.gov.bc.ca). In that document there was a commitment to report back to vendors with our decision as to whether to enter into negotiations with existing vendors or alternatively, proceed with the Joint Solution Procurement as previously announced.

A decision has been made to enter into direct negotiations. The Province intends to extend the existing NetWork BC tactical plan, currently ending December 31, 2006, by up to an additional two years in order to separate the task of building infrastructure into remote communities from a long term contractual commitment for the Province's voice, data and mobility services.

The Province will ascertain how the CRTC directs use of the deferral accounts for the connection of unserved and underserved communities while leveraging existing contracts with existing vendors during the two year extension.

The Province will also explore alternatives in conjunction with contract extensions that will result in the completion of the infrastructure required for broadband services in unserved and underserved areas of the province before the end of 2006, while at the same time enhancing the environment for future competitions for public sector data, voice and mobility services.

Some services will be competed as soon as possible where there is an opportunity to do so (e.g. see BCBid opportunities for cellular, PLNet 5).

If the negotiations do not bear the desired results of high speed, affordable connections being put in place to all provincial communities, open access points of presence being made available to communities and bringing lower costs to network users, the Province may, at its sole discretion, end the negotiations and issue the JSRFP.

The Province plans to proceed to competitive procurement for voice, data and mobility services prior to the end date of any potential extension period.

For further information please visit our website at www.network.gov.bc.ca or contact us directly at: DDivide@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca

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