

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Contract Amendment for Broadband Connectivity

Request: The State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve an amendment to the Broadband Connectivity contract with MCNC to replace the video services application, Movi-Jabber, with a new video services application, Cisco Meeting App, increase the cost ceiling for Client Network Engineering (CNE) services from \$400,000 to \$2,000,000, change the “not to exceed” amount of 3000 hours to a minimum of 2000 hours, and extend the contract for an additional five years for an amount not to exceed \$18,750,000.

Background: In 2011, the State Board initiated a 1-year contract with MCNC to provide all community college main campuses with broadband data service and video services. The contract provided two 1-year renewal options, ending on June 30, 2014. In November of 2013, the contract was extended for one year with the option to renew for two additional one year periods with a 5% reduction in cost per year and enhancements to the services previously offered. The contract was again amended in January 2017 for an additional 4-year period with enhancements to existing services at a reduced cost. The proposed amendment extends the contract for an additional 5-year period without an increase in annual cost.

MCNC is an independent non-profit organization that operates the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN). NCREN provides broadband data and video services to the UNC System, the NC Public Schools, the NC Community College System, many private colleges and universities, government organizations and other non-profit organizations. Broadband, in this context, can be defined as the continuous connection of colleges’ main campuses to a high-speed network that supports data communications, including video services.

Rationale: MCNC, through its operation of NCREN, provides a minimum of 100Mbps committed capacity for the main campus at each NC Community College, burstable to 1Gbps with a guaranteed availability of 99.95% uptime, latency of less than 25ms, and a mean response time for repairs of 3 hours or less for all outages. Up to 10 colleges will be provided with bandwidth up to 1.5Gb, as needed. MCNC provides and manages routers on all main campuses, unlimited commodity Internet access and Internet2 access, a Network Operations Center with 24-hour access to support and provides college access to a secure portal for network performance monitoring and support.

MCNC also provides unlimited video conference services including standard definition and high definition for all community colleges, for high schools with an associated community college Early College program, and the System Office. On or before December 31, 2019, MCNC will discontinue providing the video service application Movi-Jabber and replace it with Cisco Meeting App at no additional cost. MCNC will coordinate the transition with any college using Movi-Jabber. MCNC provides up to 58 MediaSite EX Server and Storage services for video storage and streaming. Video technical support is available Monday through Friday 7:30AM to 9:30PM.

MCNC provides up to 3,000 hours of Client Network Engineering (CNE) services per year, available to all community colleges. CNE time can be utilized by each college or by the System Office in support of the colleges. Services include network design, network assessments, general technical guidance and advice, training, recommended practices and assistance resolving complex network problems. Increasing the current caps on hours and dollar amounts will allow our rural colleges to employ CNE services to become “cloud-ready”.

MCNC provides an advocate, monitoring the internal performance and needs of all community colleges.

Method of Procurement: In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, approval is being sought by outside purchasing authorities. Approval of the Amendment by the State Board is contingent upon approval by the State DIT Procurement Office.

Contract Amount and Time Period: The contract amount will not exceed \$18,750,000 for the period January 3, 2021 through January 2, 2026.

Description	Qty/Hrs	Quote	Total
Amendment 4 Year 1	12 months	3,750,000	3,750,000
Amendment 4 Year 2	12 months	3,750,000	7,500,000
Amendment 4 Year 3	12 months	3,750,000	11,250,000
Amendment 4 Year 4	12 months	3,750,000	15,000,000
Amendment 4 Year 5	12 months	3,750,000	18,750,000

NOTES:

1. Current contract Amendment 3 through January 2, 2021 is \$15,000,000.
2. The use of CNE services for the rural colleges may increase a total annual contract value by up to \$1,600,000.

Fund Source and Availability: Funding is contingent upon the availability of General Fund appropriations.

Contact(s)

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