

Request for Proposals (RFP) for Legal Services to GRTI and Subsidiaries

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Request for Proposal is to obtain the services of a highly qualified law firm to serve as outside general counsel to the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. (GRTI). The law firm shall report directly to the GRTI Board of Directors and in conjunction with the Senior Management for GRTI and its five Subsidiaries. A successful firm will meet or exceed the qualifications stated herein and, in general, be accessible to GRTI and Subsidiaries and its staff to provide advice and counsel on a wide range of legal matters.

The attorneys in the firm principally responsible for the representation should have extensive experience practicing in Federal Indian law and commercial transactions located within Indian reservations, with a preference for tribally owned firms, as consistent with the Gila River Indian Community's ("GRIC") preference in hiring for Community owned business or business owned by members of other federally recognized Indian Tribes. In addition, the firm should be committed to rendering sound legal advice with suitable objectivity and professional detachment. If the chosen firm has a contract with the GRIC or other entities of the GRIC, the firm will need to provide a statement that it has no conflicts of interest, perceived conflicts of interest, nor anticipated future conflicts of interest in its representation of GRTI.

2. GRTI and its Subsidiaries

The Gila River Indian Community is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, with a predominantly rural reservation located in Pinal and Maricopa counties of Arizona, bordering the southern part of the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Among other initiatives and programs, the Community, through GRTI, a telecommunications enterprise wholly-owned by the GRIC, has been working to expand broadband and wireless telephone access throughout the Community and in surrounding areas, including other rural areas within Pinal and Maricopa counties.

Native Technology Solutions, Inc. (NTS) is a telecom and cable equipment sales, services and maintenance company, formed in 2006 to provide service to GRIC and off-GRIC businesses. Services include:

- PBX business phone systems
- Structured cabling systems

- Paging systems & sound reinforcement
- Access control & intrusion detection
- Video surveillance

NTS recently added and Outside Plant Construction department performs ariel and underground fiber construction service for the local service providers and tribes. Services include the following:

- Underground Utilities—Installation and replacement of copper communications cable, fiber optic innerduct, and fiber optic cable in underground duct systems.
- Aerial Utilities—Installation and maintenance of all aerial plant systems using the latest state-of-the-art equipment available.
- Fiber Optic Splicing—splicing and maintenance needs for fiber and copper cables, both inside and outside plant.

Gila Local Exchange Carrier, Inc. dba Alluvion Communications (Alluvion), is a competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) serving areas outside of GRIC with non-regulated revenues and expenses. Alluvion offers wholesale and advanced retail services, and a fully redundant, survivable route for the Community’s communications. Its expanded technology is geared to assist business development outside the boundaries of GRIC and into surrounding areas. As of 2018, Alluvion had 313 access lines.

Gila River Broadcasting Corporation (GRBC) is a Community-chartered public benefit corporation formed in 2015 to provide educational, cultural, and informational programming for the Community and to contribute to tribal economic development and support tribal self-governance. GRBC created and operates the first Low Power Television station operating in Indian Country with both English and O’odham language programming.

3. Scope of Services

GRTI is seeking a firm to provide legal counsel to GRTI in the following areas:

1. Contract negotiations.
2. Federal Indian Law and Policy.
3. Non-Profit and charitable organization regulation and policy
4. Cyber-Security
5. Employment and Human Resources
6. GRTI Board Governance
 - Attend monthly Board meetings as needed
7. Organizational policies, bylaws and procedures (e.g. Conflict of Interest Disclosures)
8. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) policies and regulation related to construction, licensing, and operation of LPTV stations

9. Federal Communications Commission policies regarding Rate of Return Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers
10. State of Arizona Regulated Telecommunications regulatory compliance
11. Establishing and maintaining relationships with other Community entities, including the GRIC Law Office

12. Any other items as required

4. References

The law firm shall provide contact information for 3 references. Preference will be provided to candidates who provide references consistent with the scope of work and particular work related to tribal telecommunications entities.

Project Schedule and Deliverables

Submissions shall be electronically submitted to:

Cloudia Dame, HR Manager

Gila River Telecommunications

Humanresources@gilarivertel.com

Please submit any inquiries to the same.

Email: humanresources@gilarivertel.com

Hand Delivery: To GRTI Human Resources Dept. 7065 W. Allison Road, Chandler AZ, 85226

Mailed: GRTI Human Resources Dept. 7065 W. Allison Road, Chandler AZ, 85226

Envelope: If the method of delivery is by envelope, whether mailed or hand-delivered, the envelope should be clearly marked: RFP – Legal Services to GRTI and Subsidiaries

Number of Copies if Mailed or Hand Delivered: 2

Project Timeframe: RFP cutoff by February 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Review of Proposals and Interviews of Firms Date: Review completion by March 31, 2022

Selection of Firm Date: Selection by April 15, 2022.

Top ranking firms will be invited to meet with a Company review team. The selection committee will make their recommendation to the General Manager on or before <date>.