

From: [City of Ocala - Contracting Officer](#)
To: [William Hughes](#); [Lourdes Ramos](#)
Subject: Your policy exception has been approved.
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:53:17 PM

Your policy exception has been **approved**.

Approval Comments: This PROCUREMENT exception is approved for best value/approached based upon the attachments and the information garnered from my telephone call with Kenneth Jamerson and William Hughes on April 13, 2023. Based on that call, the City of Ocala is in need of a fourth diverse path of internet service. This diverse path will allow the City to continue to provide internet service to customers in the event of construction or other failures in the paths we currently hold from Centurylink, GRUCom, and Level 3. OFN and Procurement staff have attempted to secure quotes from Hurricane Electric and Spectrum for the last several months to no avail. Cogent is a Tier 1 provider and their reputation has been vetted by OFN. ONCE RECEIVED, PLEASE SUBMIT A FORMAL CONTRACT REQUEST SO THAT THE MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT AND ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS CAN BE REVIEWED BY CONTRACTING AND THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. BE SURE TO ATTACH THIS PROCUREMENT EXCEPTION APPROVAL TO THAT REQUEST. THE VALUE OF THIS PROCUREMENT EXCEEDS THE THRESHOLD SO IT WILL NEED TO BE PLACED ON AN UPCOMING COUNCIL AGENDA FOR FORMAL APPROVAL AND EXECUTION.



Procurement/Contract/P-Card Exception

Select exception type:

Procurement

Reason for procurement exception:

Department Cannot Obtain 3 Quotes

Enter a brief description of your exception request:

OFN REQUIRES A 4TH LEG PROVIDER OFFERING ADDITIONAL BANDWIDTH AND TRAVERSING A DIFFERENT PHYSICAL PATH THAN THE CURRENT THREE (3) PROVIDERS (CENTURYLINK, LEVEL 3 AND GRU). CURRENTLY, LEVEL 3 PROVIDES SERVICE FROM THE SOUTH, GRU FROM THE NORTH (GAINESVILLE) AND CENTURYLINK. OFN HAS REQUESTED QUOTES FROM THREE (3) ALTERNATE PROVIDERS (HURRICANE ELECTRIC/SPECTRUM/COGENT). ALL THREE RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST, HOWEVER, COGENT IS THE ONLY RESPONDENT WHO PROVIDED A QUOTE FROM A DIVERSE

LOCATION, ATLANTA. THIS WILL PROVIDE REDUNDANCY IN CASE OF FAILURE ON ANY OTHER LEGS; AS WELL AS PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BANDWIDTH (20 GIG). THIS ALIGNS WITH OFN'S STRATEGIC GOAL OF OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE.

Attach all documents related to the exception that can assist the Contracting Officer's decision.

[Ocala Fiber Network - DIA and IPV - FIRM QUOTE.pdf](#)
[RE_ Follow Up - Hurricane Electric IP Transit AS30444 - Ocala Electric Utility.pdf](#)
[Re_ Spectrum Enterprise.pdf](#)

Department

(OFN) FIBER NETWORK

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Who authorized requesting this exception?

KENNETH JAMERSON