

# Questions Answers

## **Unwire Portland Public Workshop July 28, 2005**

*Responses provided by the Unwire Portland Steering Committee.*

*If similar questions were asked we have combined them to give a single response.*

### **1. Will users be able to host websites from home computers like you can with DSL?**

Whether any provider wants to manage static IP addressing will be up to the individual providers on the open network (and allow web hosting on a remote node given the shared bandwidth nature of the Wi-Fi nodes). The network should support end to end addressing.

### **2. Will small businesses in Portland Metro be forced to pay for the service whether or not they want or use it?**

No. They will only pay for services purchased, just like they do today for internet services. It is important to note that the City does not intend to subsidize the network using taxpayers' dollars.

### **3. How will the citizens for the RFP evaluation committee be selected?**

Based on the discussion at the public workshop, the citizen membership has been increased to 3-5. Interested candidates were asked to respond by August 25<sup>th</sup> to 10 questions developed by the steering committee, which were sent out through a variety of local organizations and internet resources. The ideal candidates will have expertise and understanding in two or more of the following: technology background, participation in local neighborhoods and communities, general knowledge of business and wireless technology. In addition, candidates must be willing to commit to at least a few hours per week for the months of September through December. The committee will evaluate each submission and select 3-5 committee members based on responses to the questions and the need to develop a diverse committee that represents the Portland area.

### **4. How can collaboration be encouraged within the unlicensed bands once wireless network density precludes channel separation?**

There are limited numbers of channels available, so cooperation will be important. Generally, it is in the interest of all parties to "play nice" as interference impacts everyone. The process of RF (Radio Frequency) assessments, channel selection, antenna placement and direction can generally achieve an acceptable solution

### **5. Prior to issuing the RFP, will a draft be made available for review? For example, at another meeting like tonight?**

The Steering Committee will draft the proposal and then the Bureau of Technology will approve or make changes to ensure that it contains the standard criteria and language required by the City Bureau of Purchases. The committee is open to additional public comment prior to the completion of the draft RFP. However, to ensure a fair and competitive solicitation process a draft RFP will not be made available for review prior to advertising and issuing the final RFP. Once the RFP has been released it will be posted to the City's Bid Information webpage, and all interested parties may obtain a copy from this site. For further information, visit Unwire Portland's website ([www.pdc.us/unwire](http://www.pdc.us/unwire)).

**6. How about also having a section in the RFP to allow business to sponsor and pay for the service for certain low income communities?**

The RFP will invite proposing vendors to submit proposals with innovative ways to serve low-income Portland communities. While not a requirement, the RFP clearly articulates that proposals including programs or subsidized access options for low income citizens will receive additional points in the scoring process. Requiring this approach could undermine efforts to develop an RFP that is attractive to the broadest number of potential vendors. In fact, a member of the business community voiced concerns about business having to pay for the network even though it wasn't going to use it. The steering committee has developed an RFP that allows for the greatest innovation in infrastructure design, efficient operation and meeting low-income community needs. The RFP does not prevent an individual or organization from organizing a campaign to facilitate business access sponsorship for low-income communities. Once the network is in place a program like this could be developed.

**7. What percentage of wireless traffic is expected for City use vs. the community?**

Overall, the City's use of the wireless network would be small (5% at most, once established more broadly). However, this depends on the success of the network and how broadly it is adopted by businesses and residents in the community.

**8. What is the existing IT telecom budget for city services planned for transition to winning bidder's network?**

This depends on the services that will be made available. There are approximately \$250,000 in data links that could migrate over, plus another \$150,000 (estimated) in communications costs that support the parking meters. In addition, a significant portion of the costs of the Centrex telephone service (of approximately \$400,000) could be shifted to wireless supported VoIP assuming that adequate quality of service support was in the network. This does not include any purchases from TriMet or Portland Public Schools.

**9. What, if any, relationship will the provider have with ComNet on the Inter-Regional Network Enterprise (IRNE)? Specifically, would these organizations be in a position to provide backhaul services?**

Generally we expect this to be independent of both the Institutional Network (I-NET) and the IRNE. IRNE has by policy been limited to supporting other governments and some of the fiber that IRNE uses has restrictions based on how the City acquired the fiber. There may be potential to provide some backhaul capacity from the radio towers on an upgraded microwave system to be installed in 2006.

**10. How can WBE/MBE/ESB expect to compete with Time Warner, ELI, et al, companies that already have huge amounts of infrastructure they might use?**

The City is committed to maximizing M/W/ESB utilization and as such encourages proposers to identify sub-consulting opportunities on this project and to conduct outreach to MWESB firms in these sub-consulting areas. M/W/ESB firms are encouraged to attend the mandatory pre-submittal conference and network with prospective proposers.

**11. Will this network consist of unlicensed spectrum only?**

That is our expectation, although if a provider brings some licensed spectrum to the table it would extend the value of the network, especially in the backhaul area. It is possible that over the years some of the public safety use will migrate to licensed spectrum.

**12. How will independent networks (i.e. Personal Telco) be affected?**

We expect that Personal Telco will be only minimally affected, as the provision of comparable free service is not a major expectation of the RFP.

**13. When will network ownership revert to city?**

There is not a planned reversion to City ownership; only if the network provider failed might the City acquire the assets on our facilities and in the public right of way.

**14. Describe how the franchise agreement will protect the public interest & infrastructure?**

The agreement to allow use of the right of way and of City facilities will provide general protections for the City and for the specific assets, including review and inspection of design and methods of attachment to assets, and include reference to the commitments of the vendor.