REQUEST FOR INFORMATION # 2020-5G
REGARDING 5G TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY AT CCSU

Overview

This is a Request for Information (RFI) issued by the Central Connecticut State University (hereinafter referred to as the “University” or “CCSU”) seeking information from qualified individuals and organizations regarding 5G technology and connectivity at CCSU.

CCSU is seeking to gather information and professional opinions regarding the feasibility of upgrading our technology to 5G capabilities. Please respond to as many questions as are applicable to your area of expertise. CCSU intends to collect that information from the various responses, review and assemble pertinent information, and discuss and decide how best to proceed, then format that information into a separate RFP based on what is determined to be in the best interests of CCSU.

IMPORTANT: No contract will be awarded based solely on this RFI. Response to this RFI is not a prerequisite for participation in any resulting Request for Proposal (RFP). CCSU is gathering general information ONLY at this point. Responses should NOT include specific or proprietary information about particular hardware or services, nor should it include any language that may be construed as a suggested solution, proposal or “sales pitch”.

Responses may be submitted electronically to Thomas J. Brodeur, C.P.M., CCSU Purchasing Department, at brodeur@ccsu.edu no later than 4:00 p.m. E.S.T., on December 2, 2019.

Responses may be submitted in the body of an email or as an email attachment (Word or pdf file). The subject line of the email containing the response shall be “Response to RFI 2020-5G”

Note that CCSU has a relatively “robust” email spam filter. If you do not receive a reply email within 24 hours acknowledging your response submittal, please call the number below.

Direct all inquiries relative to the conditions and specifications listed herein and any and all other communication related to this RFI to: Thomas J. Brodeur, C.P.M.
Phone: (860) 832-2531
Email: brodeur@ccsu.edu
Scope

CCSU seeks to lessen the physical barrier between students, faculty, and the university through the use of technology. As part of CCSU’s “Connected Campus” initiative, the university would like to provide cutting edge connectivity, speed, and access to education to its students, faculty, and staff.

Specifically, the university is interested in three major initiatives:

1) CCSU is very interested in leveraging 5G technology across campus. The university is seeking to incorporate 5G into our current edge computing strategy and look for situations where private 5G networks combined with network slicing can enable new edge architectures and support new devices and provide greater cellular connectivity across campus and within buildings.

   Questions -
   a. What do we need to know?
   b. Is that goal achievable? If so, how?
   c. What would be a realistic timeframe?
   d. Given the consumerization of 5G modems in cellular devices, what timing is appropriate to begin this initiative?
   e. What external factors would we be reliant on in order to make this work (i.e. availability and/or proximity of network architecture)?
   f. What pitfalls or obstacles should we be aware of and prepare for?
   g. What are associated costs or what programs are available to reduce the campus costs (Federal grants, research programs, etc.)
   h. Is there anything else we should be asking about or considering at this stage?

2) The university recognizes that 5G connectivity will support the next generation of Internet of Things (IoT) created devices. The university seeks to create a “5G” lab on campus to support educational teaching and learning and serve as an architecture and innovation leader for students. As such CCSU may seek to partner with a telecommunications provider and/or carrier to support this initiative by providing lab equipment, engineering services, access to specialists to facilitate the development of academic programming designed to help current and future CCSU students understand this next generation of technology.

   Questions -
   a. Are there certain areas of STEM where 5G can support such innovation needs?
   b. What should CCSU ask for and expect from any long-term collaboration with a service provider?
   c. What do current models of successful partnerships as described above look like?
   d. What do we need to understand about these types of arrangements?
3) The university would like to provide 5G-capable telecommunications end-devices to its population at a discounted rate. Ideally, these devices will be leased to students, faculty, and staff at an annual basis. The university seeks to understand how vendors will charge, support, and protect campus devices delivered through a Mobility as a Service option.

Questions –
   a. What should CCSU ask for and expect from any long-term collaboration with a service provider?
   b. What do current models of successful partnerships as described above look like?
   c. What do we need to understand about these types of arrangements?

Please feel free to add any other pertinent data you feel may be needed to better frame the RFP and why. Again, avoid specific or proprietary services information and sales pitches.