

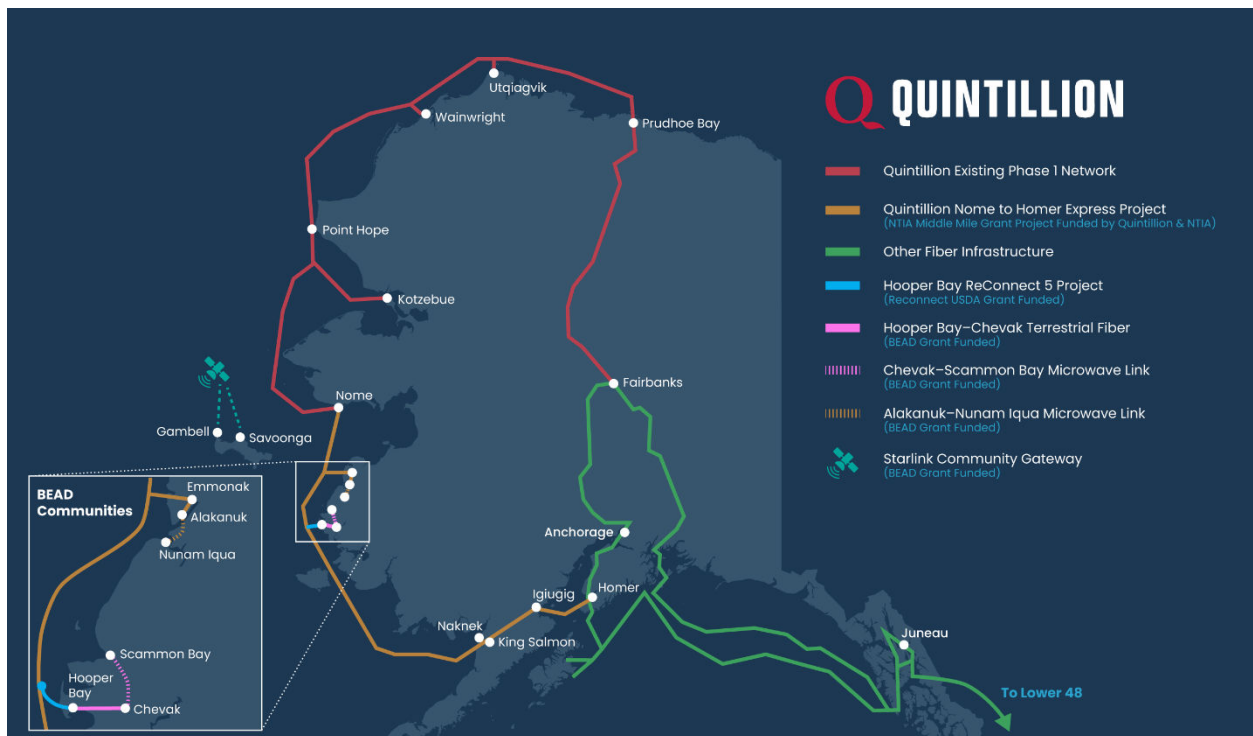


REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) and Permitting Services

NEPA and NHPA Section 106 Compliance Support

Alaska Broadband Grant Program | BEAD Project CM61-BEAD-AK-055 (PDPA 17-01) |
Lower Yukon, Alaska



Quintillion subsea and terrestrial fiber optic network, Alaska.

RFP Number	QSO-BEAD-055-EHP-001
Posting Date	8/5/26
Proposals Due	8/12/26, 6:00 PM AKST

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1. Introduction and Background

Quintillion Subsea Operations, LLC (“Quintillion”) is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from qualified environmental consulting firms to provide Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) and permitting services in support of broadband infrastructure deployment under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

Quintillion operates a subsea and terrestrial fiber optic network in the Alaska Arctic. Under the Alaska Broadband Grant Program, administered by the Alaska Broadband Office (ABO), Quintillion has been selected to receive a BEAD grant award to deploy qualifying broadband service to unserved and underserved locations in the Lower Yukon region of Alaska. The BEAD Program is funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), United States Department of Commerce.

The services procured under this RFP are subject to the federal procurement standards and program requirements described in Section 5. All work must be performed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the federal award, including the BEAD General Terms and Conditions dated 11/18/25.

Federal Award Information

BEAD Project ID	CM61-BEAD-AK-055
Grant Program	Alaska Broadband Grant Program (BEAD)
Grantee and Subgrantee	Quintillion Subsea Operations, LLC
Federal Funder	NTIA and NIST, United States Department of Commerce
State Administering Agency	Alaska Broadband Office (ABO)
Locations Served	637 unserved and underserved locations
Region	Lower Yukon, Alaska

2. Project Description

The Project, identified as CM61-BEAD-AK-055, will extend fiber based broadband service to communities in the Lower Yukon region of western Alaska. Planned construction includes the following activities.

- New cable landing stations and equipped shelters, including power systems, generators, and fuel storage.
- Last-mile outside plant fiber, both aerial and underground, serving Chevak, Scammon Bay, Alakanuk, and Nunam Iqua.
- Microwave backhaul connections between Chevak and Scammon Bay, and between Alakanuk and Nunam Iqua
- Middle-mile ground-laid submarine fiber optic cable extending approximately 18.5 miles across tundra from Hooper Bay to Chevak, and approximately 7.9 miles from Alakanuk to Emmonak.
- Make-ready work on existing utility poles.
- Demolition and removal of abandoned outside plant materials.

The Project area includes wetlands, tundra, riverine and near-shore environments, and areas of cultural and subsistence significance to Alaska Native communities. Construction activities that involve ground disturbance may not begin until all applicable EHP review requirements are complete and NTIA has approved any required decision document. The selected firm's work is central to satisfying these requirements. The Quintillion network is depicted on the cover of this RFP.

3. Purpose and Objective

The purpose of this RFP is to select a qualified firm (the "Consultant") to prepare and support the environmental and historic preservation documentation required for the Project. As a BEAD Subgrantee, Quintillion is required to provide a completed NEPA analysis, prepared by an independent and qualified subject matter expert, to the ABO, which serves as joint lead agency for NEPA under 42 U.S.C. 4336a. The Consultant will prepare the NEPA analysis and supporting documentation, conduct required cultural and biological resource reviews, complete required consultations, and prepare or support the applications for all federal, state, and local permits necessary for the Project.

The Consultant must possess demonstrated NEPA qualifications and experience, including experience with telecommunications or linear infrastructure projects in Alaska and, preferably, in rural and Alaska Native community settings.

4. Scope of Work

The Project involves the construction and operation of broadband telecommunications infrastructure in Alaska. Depending on the final design, Project components may include fiber-optic cable, terrestrial and/or subsea routes, cable landing facilities, network shelters, utility connections, access routes, staging areas, temporary work areas, and related supporting infrastructure.

The Consultant will review the proposed design and identify all areas of potential environmental impact, including the direct, indirect, temporary, and permanent disturbance associated with construction, operation, access, staging, and maintenance.

Quintillion will provide available Project information, including route maps, engineering drawings, site plans, construction descriptions, land and site-control information, prior environmental documentation, and available technical studies.

The Consultant shall perform the services described below. The final scope will be confirmed in the executed contract and may be adjusted based on the environmental review pathway determined for the Project.

4.1 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance

- Prepare project descriptions and information necessary for entry into NTIA's Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT).
- Evaluate the applicability of Categorical Exclusions (CATEX) and complete the Extraordinary Circumstances questionnaire for the Project.

- Confirm and document the consistency of planned activities with the actions analyzed in Volume 1, Chapter 3 (Alaska) of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).
- Where a Categorical Exclusion does not apply, prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or support the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), consistent with NTIA's Smart Start NEPA guidance for BEAD.
- Prepare draft decision documents and finalize all supporting environmental documentation for submission by the ABO to NTIA through ESAPTT.

4.2 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Compliance

- Define the Area of Potential Effects for the Project.
- Conduct cultural and archaeological resource identification, including pre-construction field surveys in culturally sensitive areas and construction monitoring where required.
- Complete Section 106 consultation with the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, acting as the State Historic Preservation Officer, and, where applicable, with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, consistent with the applicable Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) program comments or the rules at 36 CFR Part 800, and other consulting parties
- Support tribal notification and government-to-government consultation coordination and, for any tower construction, support the Federal Communications Commission Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS) process.
- Prepare effect determinations and, if adverse effects are identified, support the development of a Memorandum of Agreement setting forth avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures.

4.3 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation

- Prepare Biological Assessments and supporting analysis.
- Complete ESA Section 7 consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, consistent with NTIA's ESA Section 7 guidance.
- Support the Project through issuance of any required Biological Opinion.
- Address Essential Fish Habitat consultation under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for near-shore and riverine crossings, as applicable.

4.4 Water Resources and Wetlands

- Conduct wetland delineations and prepare delineation reports.
- Prepare and support permit applications to the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and, if applicable, Section 408 for alterations to Corps of Engineers civil works.
- Prepare Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans ("SWPPPs") and support applicable Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and applicable state water quality certifications and stormwater permitting.

4.5 Additional Federal, State, and Local Permits

- Identify and prepare a permit matrix covering all federal, state, and local authorizations required for the Project.
- Prepare and support applications for State of Alaska permits, including, as applicable, Alaska Department of Natural Resources land use authorizations, Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish habitat permits, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation approvals.
- Coordinate with permitting agencies to support timely review consistent with the streamlined permitting expectations of the BEAD Program.

4.6 Consultation, Coordination, Project Management and Reporting

- Prepare a milestone schedule identifying specific deadlines for the completion of consultations, NEPA and Section 106 reviews, and the submission of any EA or EIS, as required under the federal award.
- Document all avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures and best management practices, and support compliance monitoring during construction.
- Coordinate with Quintillion and the ABO throughout the review process and provide timely notice of any consultation notices, requests for supplemental consultation, or notices of noncompliance.

4.7 Deliverables

- A completed NEPA analysis and supporting documentation suitable for submission to the ABO as joint lead agency.
- CATEX documentation and the Extraordinary Circumstances questionnaire, or a completed EA or EIS, as applicable.
- Section 106 documentation, including survey reports, effect determinations, consultation records, and any Memorandum of Agreement.
- ESA Section 7 Biological Assessment and consultation record.
- Wetland delineation report, Corps of Engineers permit applications, and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.
- Permit matrix and completed permit applications.
- Project milestone schedule and periodic progress reports.

Maintain the following management tools:

- Deliverables register;
- Consultation tracker;
- Permit tracker;
- Environmental commitments register;
- Issues and decisions log;
- Risk register; and
- Comment-response tracker.

Consolidate Deliverables

Category	Required Deliverables
Project Management	Draft and final Project description; purpose and need; proposed facilities, routes, construction methods, temporary and permanent disturbance areas, access and staging areas, connected actions, operational requirements, restoration measures, and avoidance and minimization commitments; environmental review area recommendations; Manage environmental/permitting artefacts and resource maps; editable KMZ files and supporting spatial data. Maintain an agency contact and communications log. Document agency guidance, decisions, action items, and unresolved issues.
NEPA	Complete NEPA analysis; ESAPTT-ready Project information and supporting attachments; CATEX applicability analysis and Extraordinary Circumstances questionnaire, or EA/EIS documentation, as applicable; FirstNet PEIS consistency memorandum; environmental-effects and alternatives analysis; environmental commitments and mitigation register; draft decision or environmental-clearance documents; final NEPA administrative record
Section 106	APE recommendations, maps, and technical justification; cultural resource survey and testing plans; survey reports; National Register eligibility evaluations; effect determinations; consultation correspondence and consultation record; Inadvertent Discovery Plan; monitoring plan and reports; MOA, Programmatic Agreement, or other resolution document, if required; final Section 106 compliance record
Biological Resources	Biological resource desktop assessment; species and habitat survey plans and reports; Biological Assessment; ESA Section 7 consultation package and record; Essential Fish Habitat assessment; protected-species avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and seasonal work-window measures; Biological Opinion or concurrence documentation, as applicable
Water Resources	Wetland delineation and aquatic resources report; ordinary high-water mark documentation; aquatic-resource impact calculations and maps; alternatives and avoidance analysis; USACE Sections 404, 10, and 408 application materials, as applicable; Section 401 documentation; floodplain and coastal-resource documentation; SWPPP; restoration and mitigation plan
Other Permits	Permit applicability memorandum; comprehensive federal, state, and local permit and authorization matrix; draft and final permit applications; supporting technical exhibits, maps, and GIS files; agency information-request responses; issued permits and authorizations; consolidated permit-conditions and compliance register
Consultation and Management	Environmental review and permitting work plan; milestone and critical-path schedule; agency and stakeholder coordination plan; Tribal and Alaska Native engagement support materials; agency communications log; meeting materials and summaries; deliverables, consultation, and permit trackers; issues, risks, decisions, and corrective-action log; comment-response matrices; periodic progress reports; final administrative record index

Category	Required Deliverables
Optional Construction Support	Environmental Compliance Plan; environmental requirements for construction specifications and bid documents; training materials and attendance records; inspection and monitoring reports; cultural and biological monitoring records; corrective-action and noncompliance log; permit-required reports; restoration verification documentation; environmental closeout report

5. Federal Procurement Requirements and Program Compliance

This procurement is funded through a federal financial assistance award, the resulting contract and the selected Consultant must comply with the federal requirements set forth below. These requirements are in addition to any requirements stated elsewhere in this RFP, and they will be incorporated into the resulting contract.

5.1 Competitive Procurement

This procurement is conducted through a full and open competitive process, consistent with the procurement standards at 2 CFR 200.317 through 200.327. Quintillion will evaluate all responsive proposals using the evaluation criteria in Section 7. Quintillion will conduct a cost or price analysis in connection with this procurement, as required by 2 CFR 200.324.

5.2 Conflicts of Interest

Consistent with 2 CFR 200.318, each Offeror must disclose in writing any actual or potential organizational or personal conflict of interest related to this procurement or the Project. Quintillion maintains written standards of conduct governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts.

5.3 Suspension and Debarment

Consistent with 2 CFR 200.214 and 2 CFR Part 180, the selected Consultant must not be suspended, debarred, or otherwise excluded from participation in federal assistance programs.

5.4 Domestic Preference and Build America, Buy America

The Build America, Buy America Act (BABA), enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, establishes domestic content procurement preference requirements applicable to the BEAD Program. To the extent the Consultant procures or incorporates any iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials in the performance of the contract, the Consultant must comply with BABA consistent with applicable legal authorities, including 2 CFR 200.322 and 2 CFR Part 184 and OMB Memorandum M-24-02.

5.5 Prohibition on Covered Telecommunications Equipment and Services

Consistent with 2 CFR 200.216, the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1608), and Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, federal funds may not be used to procure or obtain any covered telecommunications equipment or services. The Consultant must comply with this prohibition.

5.6 Reimbursement Basis and No Advance Payment

The federal award is administered on a reimbursement basis. The resulting contract will not provide for advance payment. Payment to the Consultant is contingent on Quintillion's compliance with the terms of the federal award and on the availability of federal funds.

5.7 Whistleblower Protection

The Consultant and its employees are subject to the whistleblower protections of 41 U.S.C. 4712. The Consultant must inform its employees in writing of the rights and remedies provided under this law, in the predominant native language of the workforce.

5.8 Tribal Employment Rights

NTIA recognizes Tribal Employment Rights Ordinances (TEROs), which may provide for preferences in contracting and employment. Where applicable to work performed on or for the benefit of Alaska Native lands and communities, the Consultant must comply with any applicable TERO requirements.

5.9 Record Retention and Access

Consistent with 2 CFR 200.334 and 2 CFR 200.337, the Consultant must retain all records related to the contract for the period required by the federal award, and must provide the United States Department of Commerce, NTIA, the Comptroller General of the United States, the ABO, Quintillion, and their authorized representatives access to such records for audit, examination, and review. Records include but not limited to: Records providing a full description of each activity undertaken; Records demonstrating that each activity undertaken meets the objectives of the Program; Records required to determine the eligibility of activities; Financial records as required by 2 CFR § 200, including records necessary to demonstrate compliance with all applicable procurement requirements; Other records necessary to document compliance with the Agreement, and any other applicable Federal statutes and regulations, and the terms and conditions of ABO's Federal award

5.10 Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity

The Consultant must comply with all applicable federal civil rights and equal opportunity requirements, including the nondiscrimination requirements applicable to recipients of federal financial assistance.

5.11 Required Contract Provisions

The resulting contract will incorporate the contract provisions required by 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix II, and the applicable terms of the BEAD General Terms and Conditions dated 11/18/25, all of which will flow down to the Consultant and any lower tier subcontractors.

5.12 Required Certifications

Each proposal must include the following signed certifications.

- Certification regarding suspension, debarment, and exclusion.
- Disclosure of organizational and personal conflicts of interest.
- Certification regarding covered telecommunications equipment and services.

6. Insurance Requirements

Coverage Type	Minimum Limit
Workers' Compensation	• Minimum required by applicable law, including U.S. Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers Compensation Act and Jones Act as applicable.
Employers' Liability	• \$1,000,000 per occurrence (occurrence-based)
Automobile Liability	• \$1,000,000 per occurrence / aggregate (owned, non-owned, and hired vehicles). MCS-90 endorsement required when transporting hazardous materials.
Commercial General Liability	• \$1,000,000 per occurrence / aggregate. Must include premises and operations, products and completed operations, contractual liability, broad-form property damage, and personal injury.
Professional Liability	• with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence or claim, and 1,000,000 policy aggregate

7. Proposal Requirements

Each proposal must include the following, organized in the order listed.

- **Cover Letter.** Signed by an authorized representative, including the Offeror's legal name, address, Unique Entity Identifier, and primary contact.
- **Firm Qualifications.** A description of the firm's experience with NEPA, NHPA Section 106, and ESA Section 7 compliance, with emphasis on telecommunications and linear infrastructure projects in Alaska and in rural and Alaska Native community settings.
- **Key Personnel.** Identification of the proposed project team and their NEPA, cultural resource, and biological resource qualifications, with resumes.
- **Technical Approach.** A description of the proposed methodology, deliverables, and quality control for each element of the Scope of Work.
- **Project Schedule.** A schedule aligned with the Project milestones and the BEAD environmental review requirements.

- **Cost Proposal.** A detailed, task-based fee structure, including hourly rates by labor category, estimated hours, and any reimbursable expenses.
- **References.** At least three references for comparable projects completed within the past five years.
- **Required Certifications.** The certifications listed in Section 5.12.

8. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the criteria and weights below. Award will be made to the responsible Offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the Project, considering technical merit, qualifications, and cost.

Evaluation Criterion	Basis of Evaluation	Points
Technical Approach and Methodology	Completeness, soundness, and quality of the proposed approach to each element of the Scope of Work.	30
Relevant Experience	Demonstrated experience with NEPA, Section 106, and ESA compliance for telecommunications or linear infrastructure in Alaska and Alaska Native communities.	25
Key Personnel	Qualifications and NEPA experience of the proposed project team.	20
Cost	Reasonableness and completeness of the cost proposal.	15
Schedule and Capacity	Ability to meet the Project schedule and demonstrated capacity to perform.	10
Total Points		100

Where two or more proposals are otherwise substantially equal, Quintillion may give preference consistent with applicable Tribal Employment Rights Ordinances and local hiring considerations.

9. Procurement Schedule

The anticipated schedule for this procurement is set forth below. All times are stated in Alaska Standard Time (AKST).

Milestone	Date
RFP Posting Date	8/5/26
Deadline for Written Questions	8/7/26, 6:00 PM AKST
Responses to Questions Posted	8/10/26
Proposal Submission Deadline	8/12/26, 6:00 PM AKST
Anticipated Notification of Selection	8/17/26
Anticipated Contract Commencement	8/20/26

Quintillion reserves the right to modify this schedule. Any changes will be communicated to all Offerors of record.

10. Submission Instructions

- Proposals must be submitted electronically, in PDF format, to all of the following recipients:
mpeterson@quintillionglobal.com
apaul@quintillionglobal.com
ddean@quintillionglobal.com
amaduakor@quintillionglobal.com
mcuevas@quintillionglobal.com
.
- The email subject line must reference “RFP QSO-BEAD-055-EHP-001, EHP and Permitting Services_Lower Yukon.”
- Proposals must be received no later than the Proposal Submission Deadline stated in Section 8. Late proposals will not be considered.
- All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing, by email, to all of the recipients listed above, by the Deadline for Written Questions. Responses will be provided to all Offerors of record.

11. General Terms and Conditions

- This RFP does not obligate Quintillion to award a contract or to pay any costs incurred by an Offeror in preparing or submitting a proposal.
- Quintillion reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, to waive informalities and minor irregularities, to request clarifications, to negotiate with one or more Offerors, and to cancel this RFP at any time.
- Any award and the resulting contract are contingent on the availability of federal funds and on Quintillion’s execution of its subgrant agreement with the ABO.
- Proposals and related materials may be subject to disclosure as required by law. Offerors should clearly identify any information they consider proprietary or confidential.
- The resulting contract will be governed by the laws of the State of Alaska and by all applicable federal requirements.