

SWIFT issues RFI... [View this email in your browser](#)



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Forward

Canada's largest, publicly funded, regional broadband project prepares for construction & seeks information from TSPs and WISPs

In its latest step forward toward building #broadbandforeveryone, SouthWestern Integrated Fibre Technology Inc. (SWIFT) has released a Request for Information (RFI) directed at Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to collect Broadband Access Network Location Data. In keeping with SWIFT's Guiding Principles to avoid overbuild (funding projects in areas with adequate service coverage, regardless of connection type) SWIFT is requesting that all TSPs within the SWIFT Region submit data that indicates the location and characteristics of all incumbent service areas.

Additionally, later in June, SWIFT has plans to release a second RFI directed at WISPs for the purpose of collecting tower location data. Prior to the issuance of this RFI SWIFT will be hosting Town Hall meetings for WISPs to attend, via Skype, June 18 – 20, 2018 to explain why SWIFT needs this data and the potential benefits to WISPs when providing this data.

The Broadband Access Network Location Data Collection RFI can be accessed through SWIFT's Bonfire portal or by clicking <https://swiftnetwork.bonfirehub.ca/opportunities/15404>

The RFI closes June 29, 2018 at 2:00:00 pm. WISPs who have not received an invitation to attend SWIFT's Town Hall Meetings may contact the contact noted below for RFP Process Enquiries for details to attend one of the meetings.

Background

In May 2017, SWIFT issued a Request for Prequalification (RFPQ) whereby twenty-eight (28) Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) were prequalified and became eligible, as potential proponents, to participate in the SWIFT RFP processes. The final list of prequalified TSPs was released in July 2017. In January 2018, an RFP was issued to all 28 prequalified TSPs. SWIFT anticipates selecting the Preferred Proponent(s) later this summer, with construction of the network commencing in late 2018. In order to participate in the RFP, interested respondents must have been prequalified through the RFPQ process. Providers, who did not participate or were unsuccessful in the RFPQ process, yet have an interest in contributing to the RFP submission are encouraged to partner with one of the prequalified TSPs to participate further in this RFP process. These TSPs are also encouraged to respond to the RFI to help SWIFT ensure appropriate investment and support is delivered with minimum overbuild of existing service.

About the SWIFT Initiative

SWIFT is a not-for-profit, collective broadband initiative that is funding the construction of an affordable, open-access, ultra high-speed fibre-optic regional broadband network for everyone in Southwestern Ontario, Caledon and the Niagara Region. Investment in SWIFT's fibre-optic network will also support better wired and wireless services across the region. To overcome our region's longstanding broadband infrastructure gaps, SWIFT has developed a long-term plan to help more than 3.5 million Ontarians to connect and keep pace in a changing digital world. SWIFT membership is open to any community or organization in southwestern Ontario that needs connectivity to any of its locations. Members benefit from SWIFT's significant procurement expertise, including aggregated demand, negotiated rates, and support in preparing RFPs for broadband services. As a buying group, SWIFT also ensures greater competition between telecom service providers which will lead to better services at lower prices in member communities.

Help SWIFT build "broadband for everyone" by completing an Internet usage survey:

www.swiftnetwork.ca/survey.

For more information about SWIFT, please contact:

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