



Purchasing Use Only:	
Approval#:	1160402

SOLICITATION WAIVER JUSTIFICATION AND REQUEST FORM

ALL FIELDS ARE REQUIRED – INCOMPLETE REQUESTS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE AGENCY

1a	Agency Contact Information - Note: Approved copy will be sent to only the contact(s) listed below:		
	State Agency:	Education	
	Contact Name and Title	Phone Number	Email Address
	Audra Blackwell	775-687-9209	ablackwell@doe.nv.gov
	Kim Vidoni	775.687.5937	kvidoni@hotmail.com

Vendor Information:	
Identify Vendor:	Connected Nation, Inc.
Contact Name:	Brent Legg
Address:	P.O. Box 3448, Bowling Green, KY 42102
Telephone Number:	(202) 340-6446
Email Address:	blegg@connectednation.org

1c	Type of Waiver Requested – Check the appropriate type:	
	Sole or Single Source:	
	Professional Service Exemption:	X

Contract Information:				
1d	Is this a new Contract?	Yes	X	No
	Amendment:	#		
	CETS:	#		

Term:				
1e	One (1) Time Purchase:	X		
	Contract: X	Start Date:	April 18, 2016	End Date:

Funding:		
1f	State Appropriated:	2675-32
	Federal Funds:	
	Grant Funds:	
	Other (Explain):	

1g	Total Estimated Value of this Service Contract, Amendment or Purchase:
	\$25,000

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6	Has the agency purchased this service or commodity in the past? Check One. Note: If your previous purchase(s) was made via solicitation waiver(s), a copy or copies of ALL previous waivers MUST accompany this request.			Yes:		No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	a. <i>If yes, starting with the most recent contract and working backward, for the entire relationship with this vendor, or any other vendor for this service or commodity, please provide the following information:</i>							
	<i>Term Start and End Dates</i>		<i>Value</i>	<i>Short Description</i>			<i>Type of Procurement (RFP, RFQ, Waiver #)</i>	
			\$					
			\$					
			\$					

7	What are the potential consequences to the State if the waiver request is denied and the service or good is competitively bid?
	Nevada needs this valuable knowledge from this well connected vendor to ensure taxpayers dollars are used efficiently and effectively. Connected Nation has already conducted work in Utah that is similar to Nevada in its rural areas and this valuable knowledge will assist Nevada in using its resources to the most efficient manner to help Nevada solve its broadband problem. If this waiver is not approved, Nevada may lose the opportunity to gain valuable insight into ways to solve Nevada's dismal broadband situation.

8	What efforts were made or conducted to substantiate there is no competition for the service or good and to ensure the price for this purchase is fair and reasonable?
	We have spoken with another state organization on the east coast but learned that their services are not comparable to Connected Nation's for the reasons listed above. We have spoken with contacts in Utah, and they affirmed Nevada is getting a fair price for these services. State employees at both New Jersey and Utah do not know of any other organizations that perform these services. Connected Nation is a nationwide organization that at least 10 other states are using their services for similar work.

9	Will this purchase obligate the State to this vendor for future purchases? Check One.	Yes:		No:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	a. <i>If yes, please provide details regarding future obligations or needs.</i>				

2	<p>Provide a description of work/services to be performed or commodity/good to be purchased:</p>
	<p>Connected Nation will conduct a study that looks at Nevada's Federal Erate funding practices and ways in which these practices can be streamlined to make more efficient use of these funds for schools, libraries and other anchor institutions. Additionally, CN will compare Nevada's current Erate funding and broadband delivery model to Utah's. Specifically, they will address the items below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate a uniform comparison of Nevada's return from the E-rate program versus Utah's that include broadband cost and speed analyses. • Make recommendations on a new governance structure for state-owned and state-leased infrastructure and indicate changes Nevada can make to emulate Utah's structure. • Develop and propose new mechanisms for coordinating E-rate applications at the state level, pooling existing school district expenditures for broadband service, and develop a budget for that coordination mechanism similar to Utah's system. • Propose bill language or executive order language that would require Nevada school districts to purchase Internet via a state consortium. • Propose a formal structure for collaboration with Utah Education and Telemedicine Network that would be mutually beneficial and that would, at a minimum, take advantage of their expertise in the RFP/bidding process for rural fiber construction.

3	<p>What are the unique features/qualifications required for this service or good that are not available from any other vendor:</p>
	<p>Connected Nation has been communicating with the Education and Outreach Work Group of the Nevada Broadband Task Force to assist Nevada in developing cost efficient ways to expand broadband capabilities to the rural areas in the state. Nevada is similar to the State of Utah in that there are vast rural areas that need to be served by broadband. Connected Nation has already been working with the State of Utah and has an in-depth understanding of Utah's Education and Telemedicine Network as well as the Erate program. This work will help Nevada to plan its expansion of broadband in the most efficient and effective use of state resources and will help progress with the Nevada Ready 21 Plan. The Governor has stated that it is critical to the state's future to have broadband capabilities throughout the state not only for education in schools, but for public safety, health and human services, and economic diversity.</p>

4	<p>Explain why this service or good cannot be competitively bid and why this purchase is economically only available from a single source:</p>
	<p>Connected Nation conducted a 2015 study that examined the intricacies of the Utah Education and Telemedicine Network and as such, is the only entity in the US with current, in-depth knowledge of UETN. Furthermore, Connected Nation has also conducted studies in other states' Erate systems and carries a unique knowledge base of both UETN and Erate. Connected Nation has worked with several states including Alaska, Minnesota, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. The Education and Outreach Work Group of the Nevada Broadband Task Force supports conducting the study mentioned here.</p>

5	<p>Were alternative services or commodities evaluated? Check One.</p>				Yes:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No:	
	<p>a. <i>If yes, what were they and why were they unacceptable? Please be specific with regard to features, characteristics, requirements, capabilities and compatibility.</i></p>							
	<p>A group out of New Jersey conducted a study of a similar nature for NJ, but NJ's broadband situation is vastly different from Nevada's in that they don't have the same distance and geographical challenges as Nevada. Utah, however, in comparison to NJ, is geographically similar to NV. Therefore, an organization that is familiar with UT and the UETN is much better prepared to deal with Nevada's challenges than an organization that lacks experience with UT.</p>							
<p>b. <i>If not, why were alternatives not evaluated?</i></p>								

By signing below, I know and understand the contents of this Solicitation Waiver Request and Justification and attest that all statements are true and correct.

David J. Brancamp
Agency Representative Initiating Request

David J. Brancamp 3/29/16
Print Name of Agency Representative Initiating Request Date

[Signature]
Signature of Agency Head Authorizing Request

Steve Canavero 3.31.16
Print Name of Agency Head Authorizing Request Date

PLEASE NOTE: In an effort to avoid possible conflict with any equipment, system or process already installed or in place by the State of Nevada or to assist in our due diligence, State Purchasing may solicit a review of your request from another agency or entity. The signature below indicates another agency or entity has reviewed the information you provided. **This signature does not exempt your agency from any other processes that may be required.**

Name of agency or entity who provided information or review:

Representative Providing Review

_____ _____
Print Name of Representative Providing Review Date

Please consider this memo as my approval of your request. This exemption is granted pursuant to NAC 333.150(2)(a)(b)(c), NRS 333.400. This exemption may be rescinded in the event reliable information becomes available upon which the Purchasing Administrator determines that the service or good sought may in fact be contracted for in a more effective manner. Pursuant to NRS 284.173(6), contracts for services do not become effective without the prior approval of the State Board of Examiners (BOE).

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Purchasing Division at 775-684-0170.

Signed:

[Signature] 4-6-2016
Administrator, Purchasing Division or Designee Date