

November 30, 2021

## **Ontario Connects: Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) Procurement Process**

Infrastructure Ontario (IO) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to qualified Internet Service Providers (ISPs) on November 30, 2021. The RFP process consists of four phases through to spring 2022.

### **1. Pre-Auction Submission Phase:**

Proponents are required to prepare a pre-auction submission, which will include financial documents, a declaration of the geographic region(s) of the province (referred to as “lots” or “service areas”) that the proponent intends to bid on through the reverse auction events and associated process, and the proponent’s team member information.

### **2. Auction Phase:**

Proponents that meet the requirements established for the pre-auction submission phase will be invited to participate in the reverse auction events and associated process. Through the auctions, proponents will bid for opportunities to deliver high-speed internet access to geographic lots/service areas of the province, comprising underserved and unserved communities.

### **3. Post-Auction Due Diligence and Validation Phase:**

Following the reverse auction events and associated process, the proponents will be required to provide additional technical details associated with their proposals to ensure that they meet the defined coverage and deployment requirements for each geographic lot/service area at the most competitive price.

### **4. Commercial Close Phase:**

Subject to the outcomes of the post-auction due diligence and validation phase and government approvals, contracts will be awarded to, and executed with, the successful proponents at Commercial Close.

IO is managing the RFP process on behalf of the Province, ensuring that the principles of a fair, transparent and competitive procurement process are upheld. A fairness monitor is overseeing the entire procurement process.