



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Atif Chaudhry, Secretary

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**October 16, 2023**

**Procurement Officer's Written Determination  
For Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement  
(COMAR 21.05.09.04)**

Per COMAR 21.05.09.02, as a Primary Procurement Unit, the DGS Office of State Procurement (OSP) may initially sponsor or participate in, renew, modify, or administer an Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (ICPA) on its own behalf or on behalf of another agency when a determination is made under SFP §13-110 and COMAR 21.05.09.04.

The Department of General Services (DGS) intends to use the Michigan Collegiate Telecommunications Association (MiCTA) Master Service Agreement 191AN-MTTISAFBOS2022-0827 to obtain Long Distance (LD) and Toll-Free (TF) telecommunication services through a Participating Addendum (PA) with MCI Communications Services d/b/a Verizon Business Services (Verizon). The purpose of this agreement will be to provide ongoing maintenance and support for these voice telecommunications services to the State of Maryland.

DGS intends to take advantage of the economy of scale established by the MiCTA Agreement. The State joining MiCTA will allow us to take advantage of a pricing scale that would not be available through other forms of competitive bidding. The lack of competition in the telecommunications market has led the State to search all possible resources, and MiCTA is currently the best solution available on the market. The State will also benefit from joining MiCTA by establishing a transparent pricing structure instead of facing unforeseeable pricing fluctuations in the future.

By joining MiCTA the State will also take advantage of an increase in administrative efficiency. The amount of time taken to conduct a standalone procurement would drastically increase and not allow the State to take advantage of the pricing and administrative benefits MiCTA has to offer.

DGS and Verizon Business Network Services Inc., on behalf of MCI Communication Services, Inc., entered into an agreement on May 29, 2020, to provide services to the State. The current contract expires on November 29, 2023. DGS and Verizon have agreed to enter a new contract on November 30, 2023, to coincide with the expiration date of the current MiCTA Master Service Agreement, August 22, 2027.

The new contract is being requested from the Board of Public Works for a total of \$5,000,000. This amount is based on past usage of the current MiCTA contract. The MiCTA Master Service Agreement 191AN-MTTISAFBOS2022-0827 provides the State of Maryland with a favorable pre-determined pricing structure to procure the requested services in a timely manner to meet the above-mentioned mission-critical initiatives of State agencies.

In accordance with COMAR 21.05.09.04, as the Procurement Officer, I have determined that it is in the best interest of the State to participate in this intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement, that doing so will provide cost benefits to the State, promote administrative efficiencies, or promote intergovernmental cooperation, and is not intended as a means to evade the purposes set forth under COMAR 21.01.01.03.

*Tyler Russell*

Oct 27, 2023

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Tyler Russell, Procurement Officer, DGS OSP / Date

*Mike Haifley*

[Mike Haifley \(Oct 30, 2023 16:37 EDT\)](#)

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Oct 30, 2023

Mike Haifley, Acting Chief Procurement Officer / Date

*Atif Chaudhry*

Nov 3, 2023

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Atif Chaudhry, Secretary, DGS / Date

# DGS OSP ICPA POD for Long Distance Services 10.2023

Final Audit Report


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