



**Summary of The Quilt's CIS RFP  
Question and Answer Sessions  
January 8, 2008 & January 11, 2008**

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Below you will find a summary of last week's Quilt RFP Q&A sessions. Additional questions related to The Quilt's commodity internet RFP or optional RFI's may be submitted to Jen Leasure at [jen@thequilt.net](mailto:jen@thequilt.net) or Steve Petko at [petko@psc.edu](mailto:petko@psc.edu) for response up until the posted submission date deadlines.

- 1) Q: Will The Quilt provide written clarification on its RFP requirement to submit of a copy of CALEA Form 445?  
  
A: Details on this RFP requirement have been posted to The Quilt's RFP page at <http://www.thequilt.net/proj-cis/2008RFP/2008CISRFPHome.html>
  
- 2) Q: Is The Quilt willing to sign an NDA for vendor information submitted for the RFP and RFI requests?  
  
A: No - For practicality reasons, The Quilt has not historically signed NDA's for its RFP process. Please reference The Quilt's RFP page for additional information on this topic.  
  
<http://www.thequilt.net/proj-cis/2008RFP/2008CISRFPHome.html>
  
- 3) Q: Will the scope of the Authorized Quilt Buyers List expand beyond the reach of the current list with the majority of institutions being advanced research and higher education institutions?  
  
A: No – By nature of The Quilt's mission and its member organization missions, it is unlikely that the Authorized Quilt Buyers List will expand to include a number of organizations outside of advanced research and higher education institutions. The Authorized Quilt Buyers list is controlled by Quilt member

organizations with updates forwarded to The Quilt for list management and subsequent distribution of updates to Authorized Quilt Vendors.

4) Q: Is Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) deemed outside the scope of RFP responses?

A: Yes, CPE is deemed outside the scope of the CIS RFP and is the responsibility of the purchasing member institution to provide.

5) Q: In The Quilt's RFP Essay Document under item 2D, please clarify what is being asked in the following question: "Will you allow a customer's CIR to be spread over many physical connections to your backbone? That is, Quilt member C purchases 500 Mb from you and turns up three physical links. Would you bill on the sum of the bandwidth transmitted over the three links and allow the CIR to be less than the sum of the three minimums? Do additional port costs apply?"

A: For example, if a vendor requires a minimum committed bandwidth rate of 200 megs on a GigE connection and a member institution wishes to aggregate its traffic across three GigE connections from a single vendor, then in total, that member institution has a committed bandwidth rate of 600 megs across the 3 connections if purchasing at the minimum rate. If the member institution utilizes 700 megs of bandwidth in a month, The Quilt's desire is that this 700 megs count toward the aggregate bandwidth requirement of 600 megs rather than the individual GigE connection of 200 megs. The purchasing institution will still be subject to individual port charges for the GigE connections.

6) Q: What is The Quilt's expectation on Technical Support from an Authorized Quilt Vendor?

A: The Quilt's members expect to have access to support resources beyond Tier 1 troubleshooting. Quilt member institutions are very experienced technical resources that expect similar competency from a vendor's resources. The Quilt's members are historically early adopters of technology and we are looking to foster a collaborative relationship with an Authorized Quilt Vendor that would mutually benefit both organizations.

7) Q: Could you please clarify what is meant by a non-restrictive AUP?

A: The Quilt is looking for vendor partners who are able to provide a reasonable, non-restrictive Acceptable Use Policy that understands authorized Quilt buyers have network uses outside of what may be found in a typical commercial environment. A reasonable AUP would read that the purchasing agent would get notification from the vendor of any network issues and would receive a reasonable amount of time to resolve the problem before further action is taken by the vendor organization. The Quilt does not expect carriers to

accept improper or malicious traffic on its network. We only expect reasonable communication on such matters along with a reasonable amount of time to correct the issue before further action is taken.

8) Q: Please indicate what is The Quilt's desired pricing structure for an CIS RFP response?

A: It is a requirement that any CIS response contain a Quilt aggregate pricing model. Other pricing options are just that, optional and The Quilt is eager to review alternate pricing structures. Of particular interest are alternative pricing models that present options to capture an aggregate pricing model focused on the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile bandwidth usage versus the committed bandwidth rates in the required pricing model.

9) Q: Does The Quilt expect a pricing model that incorporates all the listed connection types in the RFP?

A: Yes, it is our desire that all port speeds are included in an RFP response.

10) Q: Could you provide any additional information on type of response you are looking for in the two optional RFI's?

A: Since the optional RFI's are services that are new ground for a formal Quilt program, we are seeking to explore ideas and services with vendors through the RFI responses. The guidelines for responses to the optional RFI's are by no means restrictive to information vendors can and should submit for programs to meet the needs of Quilt participants as outlined in the VoIP and lambda RFI's.

11) Q: Will The Quilt provide additional floor and suite information for the five locations listed in its RFP Essay Document – Item C.

A: Yes, this information has been posted to The Quilt's RFP page at

<http://www.thequilt.net/proj-cis/2008RFP/2008CISRFPHome.html>