

Sole Source Justification Form

Bulletin Reference Number

26-448DOIT-TELEC-B-51674

Requesting Agency/University

DoIT

Sole Source Justification Form - Part I

Section I - General Information

Department/Bureau/Section: ICN-WAN Backbone Services - Network Services - DOIT

Need Identified Date: Mar 1, 2026

Supply/Service Need By Date: Apr 30, 2026

Project Title: i3 Broadband Scott Hall IRU Dark Fiber - No Cost

Vendor: i3 Broadband

Provide a description of the supplies or services required:

Network Backbone services supporting the Champaign/Kankakee/Chicago area POP Sites and ILA sites. This allows for backbone connectivity related to POP to POP and POP to ILA communications. This supports ALL network services to and through the Champaign and Chicago Illinois area.

Value: Actual

Value of Initial Term, this Change Order or Amendment: 461,319.81

Will this Sole Source amend a Professional or Artistic Services contract? ☐ Yes ☒ No

*Sole Source may not be used for amendments for Professional or Artistic Services if the amendment would increase the value by more than 5% of the initial award or extend the term by more than 60 days.

Type: New Sole Economically Feasible Source

Section II - Proposed Term

☐ One-Time Purchase ☒ Term Contract

Estimated Contract Begin Date: 4/30/2026

Estimated Contract End Date: 7/14/2034

Number of Potential Renewals: 0

Length of Each Renewal in Months: 0

Total Value of All Renewals: 0

If a Term Contract, does the term, including renewals, exceed 12 months? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide a detailed justification including any economic benefit received for agreeing to a multi-year term:

The Agency is entering into a reciprocal No Cost agreement with i3 Broadband.

Section III - Funding Source

Select the type of funding to be used (Check all that apply): ☒ State Appropriate Funds ☐ Federal Funds ☐ Other (Explain):

Section IV - Sole Source Justification

This purchase is economically only available from a single source **primarily** because it is: (If "Other" explain in one sentence)

Compatibility of Equipment, Accessories, Replacement Parts or Service

Are there secondary justification(s) for this sole source? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Another justification that this purchase is only available from a sole source is because it is:

This fiber is the only fiber available on the path as described above, this path is also currently operational, representing a significant investment.

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Another justification that this purchase is only available from a sole source is because it is:

Section V - Purchase History

Has the Agency or University Purchased these supplies or services in the past? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Term	Term From	Term To	Value	Description	Contract Number	Type
1	Jul 15, 2014	Jul 14, 2024	515,520	UC2B/IGA /IRU		Sole Source
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

If more than 10, or if other comments, explain:

Section VI - Business Rationale

1. Provide a detailed explanation of the need for the supplies or services:

This allows for backbone connectivity related to POP to POP and POP to ILA communications. This supports ALL network services to and through the Chicago and Champaign Illinois area.

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2. Provide a list and describe in detail the specifications required to satisfy the need:

The Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT), Networks Division, has a critical need for the fiber route services provided by i3 Broadband to ensure continued, reliable network connectivity for State operations and affiliated institutions. These fiber routes are essential for maintaining high-speed, redundant, and secure data transport across key locations, including Champaign/Kankakee/Chicago area POP Sites and ILA sites. The services are required to support government communications infrastructure, facilitate data exchange between State offices.

Pricing Table. Includes reference number from reciprocal contract to determine "cost difference".

Reciprocal Contract Value (DoIT)

Description	Mile	Maintenance	#Fiber	Strand Mile	Fiber Maintenance	Annual Maintenance	Term Cost
I-57 & Olympian to Cermak	136.50	NA	2	273.00	NA	NA	NA
I-57 & Bradley to Cermak	139.65	139.65	2	279.30	\$398.00	\$55,580.70	\$461,319.81
Total						\$55,580.70	\$461,319.81

Contract Value (i3 Broadband - @Scott Hall)

Description	Mile	Maintenance	#Fiber	Strand Mile	Maintenance	Annual Maintenance	Term Cost
I-57 North Ring #1	17.38	17.38	4	69.52	\$459.47	\$7,985.59	\$66,280.39
I-57 & Olympian							
I-74 West Ring #1	17.38	NA	4	69.52	NA	NA	NA
I-57 & Olympian							
I-72 West Ring #2	17.59	17.59	4	70.36	\$459.47	\$8,082.08	\$67,081.24
I-57 & Bradley							
I-57 South Ring #2	17.59	NA	4	70.36	NA	NA	NA
I-57 & Bradley							
I-74 East Ring #6	15.98	15.98	4	63.92	\$459.47	\$7,342.33	\$60,941.34
Rt 150 & High Cross							
Total						\$23,410.00	\$194,302.97

Ancillary Services

Other Services Detail	Quantity	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost	Term Cost
Layer Two Transport to Three Locations (313 Mattis-HCFS), SOS on Bradley, IDOT on Market Street)	3	\$240.00	\$8,640.00	\$69,120.00

Reciprocal Agreement Cost:	\$55,580.70
i3 Broadband Agreement Cost:	\$23,410.00
Cost Difference - i3 Broadband Pays	\$32,170.70

3. Provide detail explaining the justification selected in Section IV to explain why the requested supplies or services are the only ones available that can satisfy the agency or university requirements?

This fiber is the only fiber available on the path as described above. Staff came to this determination based on building review, area review and consulted with fiber operator. As well as in current contract with vendor for other IRU locations, would like all contracts with said vendor to end together.

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4. What are the unique features of the supplies or services that are not available in any other product or by any other vendor? Provide specific quantifiable factors/qualifications:

Fiber infrastructure is existing infrastructure that the state can use to satisfy its data / connectivity needs to Agencies, K12 and Higher Education. The connection points required include the I-57 & Olympia to 350 E Cermak in Chicago. Creating a new path would require 50.95 miles of fiber at a value of \$6,114,000.00 of infrastructure/fiber optic investments based on average cost \$120K per mile for building in a densely populated urban environment.

5. Has the Agency or University considered alternative supplies or services to satisfy their need? ☒ Yes ☐ No

5a. If yes, name the alternative vendors whose supplies or services were evaluated:

In review of fiber routes in Illinois, the Agency has determined that are no vendors available with the same footprint.

5b. If yes, what were the alternatives for each vendor and why were they unacceptable? Be specific with regard to features, characteristics, requirements, capabilities and compatibility:

In review of fiber routes in Illinois, the Agency has determined that are no vendors available with the same footprint.

5c. Explain how the market evaluation was conducted?

**This evaluation is to determine available options within a market. If the evaluation is to determine quality or best suited option, this is not the appropriate source selection. Under no circumstances shall the evaluation consist of testing alternative options. These activities must be conducted in a competitive transparent environment (i.e. IFB or RFP).*

Based on current and past contracts with the State and quotes for similar services (IRU), the Agency determined there are no vendors with the same footprint. The Staff came to this determination based on building review, area review and consulted with fiber operator as well as in current contract with vendor for other IRU locations.

6. Are there resellers or distributors?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

7. What efforts were made to get the best possible price (i.e. did the agency/university negotiate) and how did you determine the price for this purchase is considered fair and reasonable?

Agency used vendors public pricing model including historic pricing in previous and current IRU's, which also matches the State's model for IRU services. The Agency has negotiated a No Cost IRU arrangement with i3 Broadband which resulted in the State saving \$181,646.94.

8. Will this purchase obligate the State to this vendor for future purchases such as maintenance, licensing or continuing need?

☐ Yes ☒ No

9. What will be the financial or other impact to the State if this sole source is not approved and a competitive bid is required?

The most significant impact would be a loss of service in the Champaign/Kankakee/Chicago area POP Sites and ILA sites which would affect the Network services across the State. If the Agency was required to competitively bid this procurement it would cost the State \$869,006.94 as opposed to the No Cost arrangement contained herein.

10. Is there any additional information you would like to add to justify this sole source?

Currently in a 20-year term contract with vendor, and would like to continue this contract with said vendor in order for all contracts to end at the same time as well as maintain the No Cost arrangement within this agreement.

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Section VII

Requesting Department Signature Required

I know and understand the contents of this Sole Source Justification and attest that all statements are true and correct and the fairness and reasonableness of the price was adequately confirmed.

Requesting Department Representative

Patrick Kelleher
Digitally signed by Patrick Kelleher
Date: 2026.04.07 15:49:44 -05'00'

Phone Number

217-557-7303

Date

Apr 7, 2026

Printed Name

Patrick Kelleher

E-mail Address

patrick.kelleher@illinois.gov

State Agency Bureau/Division Head or University Purchasing Director Approval and Signature Required

I know and understand the contents of this Sole Source Justification and attest that all statements are true and correct and the fairness and reasonableness of the price was adequately confirmed. (All prior form fields will lock once this e-signature is completed)

Agency Bureau/Division Head or University
Purchasing Director and Not a Designee

Chris
Brinkmeyer
Digitally signed by Chris
Brinkmeyer
Date: 2026.04.07 16:24:58
-05'00'

Phone Number

217-524-7057

Date

Apr 7, 2026

Printed Name

Chris Brinkmeyer

E-mail Address

christopher.brinkmeyer@illinois.gov

SPO Approval and Signature Required

☒ I have reviewed and understand the contents of this Sole Source Justification and agree with the State Agency or University determination.

☐ I have reviewed and understand the contents of this Sole Source Justification and do not agree with the State Agency or University determination. As a result, the State Agency or University must explore other sourcing methods to satisfy their need.

State Purchasing Officer Signature

David P Papp
Digitally signed by David P Papp
Date: 2026.04.08 08:18:35 -05'00'

Phone Number

217-720-6643

Date

Apr 8, 2026

Printed Name

David Papp

E-mail Address

David.Papp@Illinois.gov

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Sole Source Justification Form - Part II

Section I - General Information

Project Title

i3 Broadband Scott Hall IRU Dark Fiber - No Cost

Vendor

i3 Broadband

Initial Date of Procurement Bulletin Posting

Apr 8, 2026

Was a Sole Source hearing held per 30 ILCS 500/20-25?

☐ Yes - Complete Section II and III below (Section II will only be visible when this option is selected)

☒ No - Section II not required, go to Section III below

Section III - CPO Approval and Signature Required

☒ Based on my review, I authorize the Agency/University to proceed in accordance with the published Notice referenced above.

☐ Based upon my review, I authorize the Agency/University to proceed with the following Changes.

☐ Based on my review, the Agency/University is not authorized to proceed with this sole source as presented and my recommendation is that it be cancelled.

☐ Other

CPO Signature

Ellen Holzman Daley

Digitally signed by Ellen Holzman Daley
Date: 2026.04.22 07:48:31 -05'00'

CPO Phone

217-622-1857

Printed Name

Ellen H. Daley

Date

Apr 22, 2026

CPO E-mail

Ellen.H.Daley@illinois.gov