

Sole Source Justification Form

Bulletin Reference Number

27-448DOIT-TELEC-B-54238

Requesting Agency/University

Department of Innovation and Technology

Sole Source Justification Form - Part I

Section I - General Information

Department/Bureau/Section:

DoIT/ICN

Need Identified Date:

Sep 9, 2026

Supply/Service Need By Date:

Dec 31, 2026

Project Title:

ISI MREN/Internet 2 Subscription

Vendor:

ISI Communications Inc.

Provide a description of the supplies or services required:

Yearly Membership fees for DoIT/ICN 100 Gbps Internet 2 connection to the Metropolitan Research and Education Network (MREN) Starlight Facility located at 750 North Lake Shore Dr., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60611 and pay our yearly SEGP Internet 2 Association fee. Under the SEGP program, the State's public and private elementary, middle and high schools, as well as public and private colleges and universities, libraries and museums can connect to the Abilene Research Network. Without this program many of the ICN constituents would be ineligible to access Internet2 due to the size of their institution or the costs associated with the individual access.

Value:

Actual

Value of Initial Term, this Change Order or Amendment:

549,000

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 Source

Section II - Proposed Term

☐ One-Time Purchase ☒ Term Contract

Estimated Contract Begin Date:

Jan 1, 2027

Estimated Contract End Date:

12/31/2031

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 Department of Innovation and Technology has been doing annual sole sources with the Metropolitan Research and Education Network (MREN) for over 30 years, with a one time 3yr sole source. MREN is the only source for Internet 2. Internet 2 (I2) is a collaborative effort to develop advanced Internet technology and applications vital to the research and education missions of higher education. The Agency seeks to do a 5-year sole source due to the nature and continuous need for the subscription.

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

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

Organizational Memberships (Dues, Fees, Conference Charges Including Mandated Travel and Related Expenses)

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

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	1/1/2024	12/31/2026	329,000	annual service/membership fee	CIT4040560/ R-19930	Sole Source
2	7/1/2022	6/30/2023	109,800	annual service/membership fee	R-130868	Sole Source
3	7/1/2021	6/30/2022	109,800	annual service/membership fee	P-28193	Sole Source
4	7/1/2020	6/30/2021	109,800	annual service/membership fee	P-18883	Sole Source
5	7/1/2019	6/30/2020	109,800	annual service/membership fee	B-4998	Sole Source
6	7/1/2018	6/30/2019	109,800	annual service/membership fee	PBC 109156/B-354	Sole Source
7	7/1/2017	6/30/2018	109,800	annual service/membership fee	PBC 104147	Sole Source
8	7/1/2016	6/30/2017	109,800	annual service/membership fee	PBC 96225	Sole Source
9	7/1/2015	6/30/2016	109,800	annual service/membership fee	PBC 90420	Sole Source
10	7/1/2014	6/30/2015	106,800	annual service/membership fee	PBC 86181	Sole Source

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

7/1/2013 thru 6/30/2014 PBC 78109 value \$106,800
FY13 July 1, 2012 thru 6/30/13 PBC 70516 value \$38,800
FY12 7/1/2011 thru 6/30/2012 - PBC 60635 value \$28000
Y11 7/1/10 thru 6/30/11 PBC 50232 value \$28,000
FY10 7/1/09 thru 6/30/10 PBC 45179 \$28,000
FY09 7/1/08 thru 6/30/09 was procured on PBC 34072 with a value of \$28,800
FY08 7/1/07 thru 6/30/08 was procured on PBC 26829 with a value of \$28,000
FY07 7/1/06 thru 6/30/07 was procured on PBC 17239 with a value of \$28,800
FY06 7/1/05 thru 6/30/06 was procured on PBC 08271 with value of \$28,800
FY05 and prior were done as sole source contracts when ICN had its own procurement authority and they were not entered in to Remedy so there are no PBC's or contract numbers

There are no discounts offered for multiple years. Fee's are applicable to all entities and are only offered on a per year basis.

Section VI - Business Rationale

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

This is needed to provide access to Internet 2 access to qualified ICN customers. The fees associated to this procurement allow ICN access to Internet 2 which is not available to the public. The ICN connects to Internet 2 through a 100 Gbps connections sponsored by the Metropolitan Research and Education Network (MREN) at its Chicago GigaPOP, StarLight Facility. The ICN provides the access point for qualified educational and research entities in Illinois that are connected to the DoIT/ICN network. As ICN is an educational network, it provides access to ICN customers at the Starlight facility. Internet 2 (I2) is a collaborative effort to develop advanced Internet technology and applications vital to the research and education missions of higher education. Over 150 U.S. universities, working together with partners in industry and government, are leading the Internet 2 project. Internet 2 is working to enable applications, such as telemedicine, digital libraries and virtual laboratories that are not possible with the technology underlying today's Internet. As a project of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID), the Internet 2 project is not a single separate network, but rather joins member network application and engineering development efforts together with many advanced campus, regional, and national networks.

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

DoIT/ICN needs to renew our 100 Gbps Internet 2 connection to the Metropolitan Research and Education Network (MREN) Starlight Facility located at 750 North Lake Shore Dr., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60611 and pay our yearly SEGP Internet 2 Association fee

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?

MREN is the only connection point in the midwest to Internet 2. The yearly SEGP related fees must be paid in order to keep our port operational. Under the SEGP program, the State's public and private elementary, middle and high schools, as well as public and private colleges and universities, libraries and museums can connect to the Abilene Research Network. Without this program many of the ICN constituents would be ineligible to access Internet2 due to the size of their institution or the costs associated with the individual access.

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:

MREN is the only connection point in the Midwest to Internet 2. DoIT/ICN has approval from the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID) to provide the connection necessary to allow all ICN primary constituents to access the Internet2 Abilene Research Network. The ICN is the 20th statewide network to become a Sponsored Education Group Participant (SEGP). The fact that ICN is able to provide access to Internet 2 to it's approved/qualified customers makes this a unique and needed service to serve this customer base.

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

5a. If no, why weren't alternatives evaluated?

MREN, and this physical location, is the only connection point to Internet 2 in the midwest

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?

The fees are the same for all entities and there is no negotiations. To connect to Internet 2 you must pay these fees and connect at this location, there are no other options. Base fee, per year, for 100GB Internet 2 Connection Association Fee connection to Metropolitan Research and Education Network (MREN) Starlight Facility Located at 710 N. Lakeshore Drive, Chicago, IL 600611for \$28,800.00 is consistent with previous years. Annual Subscription Pricing of \$10,000.00 for 100Gbps connection. Annual Sponsored Education Group Participants (SEGP) Membership Association Fee at \$109,800.00 per year. All members connecting to the StarLight facility (at 100 Gbps) pay the identical fee, which is standard member pricing for connectivity.

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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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?

Many of the entities that are eligible to use Internet 2 would not be able to afford the yearly membership fees associated with this program. ICN (as part of DoIT) provides this access to serve the educational research community as a service to the state. There would be a financial impact to the entities that currently get to I2 via ICN as they would have to apply on their own for access and pay the fees. This connection/membership is supported by the state as a way to serve the I2 qualified community.

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

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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: 2026.09.22 12:41:00 -05'00'

Phone Number

217-557-7303

Date

Sep 22, 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: 2026.09.23 16:22:53
-05'00'

Phone Number

217-524-7057

Date

Sep 23, 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

Joshua Sergent

Digitally signed by Joshua Sergent
Date: 2026.09.24 11:09:10 -05'00'

Phone Number

217-685-9312

Date

Sep 24, 2026

Printed Name

Joshua Sergent

E-mail Address

joshua.sergent@illinois.gov

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Sole Source Justification Form - Part II

Section I - General Information

Project Title

Vendor

Initial Date of Procurement Bulletin Posting

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

CPO Phone

Printed Name

Date

CPO E-mail