



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION
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FEBRUARY 19, 2026

MASTER CONTROL SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Questions may be edited for clarity.

Q1. How many streams does the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority (“NJPBA”) expect the Master Control vendor to manage? Please provide a list of all the channel titles and subchannels and clarify whether each channel is fully managed or pass-through.

A1. The NJPBA is seeking Master Control services for one (1) managed stream (currently branded as NJ PBS).

Q2. Are the listed technical requirements intended for the Master Control NOC or for equipment located at NJPBA?

A2. The listed technical requirements are a combination of the respondent’s preferred infrastructure, interconnection requirements, and monitoring capabilities.

Q3. Should disaster recovery be provided via satellite backup, or is on-premises playback equipment required? Can one disaster recovery solution cover all sites?

A3. NJPBA is interested in a minimal disaster recovery scheme that can be provided to NJPBA in the shortest amount of time. A backup IP link to NJPBA’s Trenton Operations Center (“TOC”) is preferred over an on-premises playback.

Q4. Does NJPBA currently have on premise DASDEC equipment?

A4. Yes, with EAS Net.

Q5. Will NJPBA be utilizing the ProTrack Myers PSIP module?

A5. It is preferred that the respondent offer PSIP origination services. Additional options can be discussed.

Q6. Section 2.2 references a “common traffic database with shared access to national content across participating stations.” Does this reference a shared Media Asset Management (MAM) system, shared media storage, or both?

A6. Respondents can offer their shared asset solution for consideration. Shared content is not considered part of the local content described in A7 below.

Q7. Is the Master Control services provider expected to store station-produced media for up to six months? If so, please provide codec, file format, audio/video data rates, and the average hours of media uploaded per month.

A7. Storage criteria can be negotiated, but the provider is not expected to keep content longer than six months. The service provider should expect about 30 hours/month at 50Mb/s 4:2:2 XDCAM.

Q8. Please clarify what “real-time BXF messaging for automation control” refers to in Section 2.3. Specifically, does this pertain to live log updates or automatic list appends following the upload of a new traffic log?

A8. This refers to real-time or live updates to the As-Run log.

Q9. Please clarify whether the “log modification capability” referenced in Section 2.3 refers to modification of the on-air automation playout system log, the traffic system log, or both.

A9. NJPBA can negotiate system requirements to expedite last-minute programming changes with the selected bidder.

Q10. Is there any flexibility with the 30-hour minimum log submission time, or is this a strict requirement of the NJPBA?

A10. This requirement is negotiable.

Q11. Please provide additional details regarding the archive services in Section 2.4. Specifically, what are the total hours of content to be archived, the average file size, and the minimum file retrieval time requirements?

A11. See A7 above. The NJPBA anticipates the stored content will represent approximately 24GB/hour. Retrieval time is negotiable. Long-term storage solutions are acceptable.

Q12. Is the Master Control services provider permitted to install hardware on-site for Starlink or similar backup connectivity services?

A12. Yes, the NJPBA has roof and cableway access throughout our facilities.

Q13. Does the 90-day implementation timeline begin after contract execution or during the contract negotiation/signing process?

A13. The implementation timeline will begin after a contract is executed.

Q14. How many simultaneous low latency studio encode feeds are required?

A14. One (1) feed is required.

Q15. Please provide the names and total count of the PBS-aligned streaming platforms (Amazon, Hulu, YouTube TV, other).

A15. NJPBA programming is carried on all PBS-negotiated streaming platforms: Amazon, DirecTV, Hulu, and YouTube TV, plus PBS's own Passport, for a total of five (5).

Q16. Do the PBS aligned streaming platforms require two (geo-redundant) or four (primary and backup geo-redundant) streams?

A16. Respondents may offer data redundancy options in their responses for consideration.

Q17. Is connectivity for delivery and low latency backhaul to/from NJPBA's TOC or the individual transmitter sites?

A17. The preferred location is TOC located at 25 S. Stockton Street, Trenton, New Jersey, 08608. However, the NJPBA has several locations throughout the state with redundant connectivity between sites.

Q18. Do all transmit sites require unique Nielsen codes? What about translator sites?

A18. No, only one (1) Nielsen SID is currently required.

Q19. Will the off-air confidence monitoring be provided as an aggregated IP signal or will equipment need to be deployed at the transmit sites?

A19. NJPBA's existing monitoring feeds can be provided to the vendor via IP.

Q20. Is WNET 13 included in the master control solution ?

A20. Stations operated by The WNET Group are not included.

Q21. How many ATSC muxes need to be delivered? Are they delivered to the individual transmit sites or to TOC?

A21. One (1) program feed delivered via IP to NJPBA TOC is required.

Q22. Do each of the stations run independent schedules for the channels?

A22. All four stations carry the same programming schedule.

Q23. How often do the schedules differ between the stations? Is it just promos, or is there localized interstitial programming as well?

A23. One (1) program feed (including interstitials) is sent to all stations from NJPBA's TOC.

Q24. Is there any special integration for graphics and crawls that need to be considered (e.g., key fill from 3rd party system)?

A24. Respondents should include graphics solutions in their responses. All solutions must incorporate Emergency Alert System messages.

Q25. Will the live low latency backhaul content be closed captioned or does the master control services provider need to plan for live captioning? If captions are provided in the master control solution, can the captions be AI generated, or is there a requirement for a live captioner to be used?

A25. Closed captioning is generally provided by the content producers. In rare circumstances, live captioning solutions may be required. The respondent should offer a live captioning or auto-generated option in their proposal.