Recommendation for Selecting a Telecommunications Contractor

UF maintains a list of low voltage contractors that have been approved by the University of Florida Computing and Networking Services. Choosing a contractor from this list ensures that they have the required personnel on staff to fully understand, properly implement, and strictly follow UF Telecommunications Standards. It further ensures that the contractor has performed work similar in scope to that required by the University.

For new construction and major renovation, those on this list are the only contractors that are eligible to receive Request for Proposals (RFQ's). For small jobs on campus, it is recommended that only these contractors be used for low voltage work. An alternative is to have the UF Computing and Networking Services Infrastructure Installation Team coordinate the installation. The UFCNS Installation team, Judy Hulton can be contacted at 352-273-0402.

To be eligible for listing on the approved low-voltage contractor list, a contractor must meet the following requirements:

1. The telecommunications contractor must have a BICSI Registered Communications Distribution Designer (RCDD) on staff.

2. Each cable installation team should consist of BICSI registered cable installers. The team should be lead by a registered cable installer with a "Technician Level" or "RCDD" designation. Non-registered installers are allowed provided they are under the supervision of a "Technician level" installer or "RCDD".

3. The telecommunications contractor must submit for approval, before work begins, copies of all documentation supporting the registration of the RCDD and the installers on the contractor's staff, and at least three (3) letters of references. The letters of reference shall be for work similar in type and scale to this project. All references shall contain the contact name and telephone numbers for verification.

4. A representative of the contractor's firm must meet with the Network Infrastructure Coordinator for Computing and Networking Services. This meeting is simply to ensure the complete understanding of the UF Telecommunications standards. Contractors will receive a copy of the standards and made aware of the major pitfalls contractors have experienced in the past. A meeting can be scheduled by contacting John Madey, Associate Director, at 352-273-1113.

The telecommunications industry and University of Florida have established standards for designing and deploying telecommunications infrastructure. These standards have been developed over time to provide for a safe working environment as well as providing communications facilities that will operate at the highest level of service for the longest possible time. It is required that all telecommunications contractors working for the University of Florida meet or exceed the minimum eligibility requirements.

BICSI
BICSI, a not-for-profit telecommunications association, is a worldwide resource for technical publications, training, conferences, and registration programs for low-voltage cabling distribution design and installation. BICSI is the only nationally recognized organization that offers a vendor independent comprehensive testing and registration program for both installers and designers.

BICSI Registered Communications Distribution Designer (RCDD)
The RCDD designation was established as the foundation program for distribution designers. A distribution designer needs a broad base of knowledge to handle diverse technology needs of customers. All RCDDs are tested based on the contents of the BICSI Telecommunications Distribution Methods Manual.

BICSI Registered Installer
Installer registration is available at three levels: Installer Level 1 (minimum of six months experience), Installer Level 2 (minimum of two years experience) and Installer Technician Level (minimum of five years experience). Written and hands-on examinations must be successfully completed. Registration exams are offered at all levels. The required minimum work experience is necessary to sit for each exam. Successful completion of these exams reinforces and documents that BICSI registered installers have the background, knowledge, and skills needed to work effectively.

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