

PRESS RELEASE

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AEA Launches Cook Inlet PowerLink Submarine Cable Procurement Process

PQ/RFI seeks input from experienced HVDC submarine cable suppliers and installers

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) has released a Prequalification (PQ) and Request for Information (RFI) package for submarine cable suppliers and installers interested in participating in the Cook Inlet PowerLink (CIPLink) project. The release marks another milestone in developing Alaska's first high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission connection across Cook Inlet.

The PQ/RFI will identify qualified firms for future procurement and gather industry information to inform project planning and cost estimates.

"CIPLink is an investment in the long-term reliability and resilience of Alaska's Railbelt system," **said AEA CEO and Executive Director Curtis W. Thayer.** "Engaging industry early will help us refine project planning, improve cost estimates, and make informed decisions to advance the project toward construction."

CIPLink will establish a new transmission connection between the northern and southern regions of the Railbelt grid, improving reliability and providing greater flexibility in delivering power between utilities. The proposed project includes an approximately 40-mile submarine cable crossing between the Beluga area and the Kenai Peninsula, with converter stations in Beluga and Soldotna. The initial 100-megawatt system would accommodate future expansion to 200 megawatts.

The release follows AEA's initiation of marine surveys in Cook Inlet. Information collected during these investigations will help refine the proposed cable route and support subsequent engineering and procurement activities.

The prequalification process will establish a pool of qualified suppliers and installers eligible for future procurement opportunities. The accompanying RFI will gather nonbinding technical and budgetary information, including considerations related to Build America Buy America requirements.

AEA anticipates initiating a subsequent competitive submarine cable procurement in mid-2027, subject to project development and funding. CIPLink has an estimated cost of \$413 million, of which \$269 million has been secured to date, leaving approximately \$142 million still to be identified. The project targets an in-service date of 2031, with federally funded project completion required by August 2032.

Interested organizations with demonstrated experience in the design, manufacture, supply, transportation, installation, testing, and commissioning of HVDC submarine cable systems can access the PQ/RFI package through [AEA's procurement website](#). A virtual pre-response conference is scheduled for **Nov. 4, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to noon**, and responses are due **Dec. 15, 2026, at 2 p.m. Alaska time**. Questions must be submitted in accordance with the RFI instructions.

For more information about CIPLink, please visit akenergyauthority.org/CIPLink.

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About the Alaska Energy Authority

The Alaska Energy Authority is a public corporation of the state. Its mission is advancing affordable, reliable energy in Alaska. AEA leads the development of critical energy infrastructure, strengthens resilience, reliability, and redundancy across Alaska's energy systems, and supports statewide economic growth by enabling secure, long-term energy solutions for communities, utilities, and industry. To learn more, visit akenergyauthority.org.