SECTION A. Project Title: FY-19 Nokia BSC and BTS Hardware and Software Upgrade

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

To meet the demands of the Contractor’s customers, periodic upgrades are performed to improve system performance and add additional feature functionality to the Network(s). The latest upgrade requirement is to address the “End of Life” Milestone status of the Wireless Test Beds (WTBs) GSM Base Station Controller (BSC) HW and SW, and the GSM Base Transceiver Station (BTS) HW and SW. The existing BSC3i HW, and SW Release RG-40, have reached End of Life and shall no longer be supported by Nokia’s Care Program and will no longer be compatible with the newer Releases of Nokia SW. The BSC HW will be upgraded to the Airscale BSC Platform and SW Release 19. The Nokia Ultra Sight BTS HW, with SW Release RG-40, has also reached the End of Life Milestone. The BTS HW shall be upgraded to the Flexi BTS HW Platform, and the SW upgraded to SW Release 19. In addition to addressing the End of Life, the new Version of HW (Airscale) and SW (Rel. 19) shall enable Internet Protocol (IP) functionality for the BSC to BTS ABIS interface and the BSC to MGW A interface, mirroring the latest features and functionality of a typical commercial GSM Network.

During the implementation of the new Airscale BSC HW, the subcontractor shall physically relocate the BSC from the existing location in CFA at Building 609 Room 200 to the new location at Gate 1, Shelter 3. The connectivity between the BSC and the open Media Gateway shall be reconfigured by the Contractor to facilitate the configuration change. The GSM Airscale BSC SW shall have new features and licenses activated, and a new datafill shall be created and implemented in order to support the Airscale BSC functionality. The new Flexi-BTS’s shall be pre-installed at the designated locations and must be cut over in conjunction with the new Airscale BSC.

SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

This project may affect historic property on the INL. A cultural resource review (CRR) may be required prior to work beginning as described in the Scope of Work. See the conditions section for additional details and guidance.

Generating and Managing Waste

This work is expected to generate small amounts of common trash and construction-related waste such as scrap metal. All scrap metal will be recycled to the extent practicable.

All existing hardware and cabling from the Nokia Upgrade as well as the backhaul network would first be offered to other WTB Test Customers for reuse. It will be excessed if no future use is identified.

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Packaging Material from shipment (Cardboard, Plastic wrap)

SECTION D. Determine Recommended Level of Environmental Review, Identify Reference(s), and State Justification: Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

For Categorical Exclusions (CXs), the proposed action must not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, or similar requirements of Department of Energy (DOE) or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources (see 10 CFR 1021). In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist that would affect the significance of the action. In addition, the action is not “connected” to other action actions (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1608.27(b)(7)).

References: 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B1.7 "Electronic equipment" and B1.31 "Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment."

Justification: Project activities are consistent with 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D, B1.7 "Acquisition, installation, operation, modification, and removal of electricity transmission control and monitoring devices for grid demand and response, communication systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment" and

B1.31 "Installation or relocation and operation of machinery and equipment (including, but not limited to, laboratory equipment, electronic hardware, manufacturing machinery, maintenance equipment, and health and safety equipment), provided that uses of the installed or relocated items are consistent with the general missions of the receiving structure. Covered actions include modifications to an existing building, within or contiguous to a previously
disturbed or developed area, that are necessary for equipment installation and relocation. Such modifications would not appreciably increase the footprint or height of the existing building or have the potential to cause significant changes to the type and magnitude of environmental impacts.

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)  

☐ Yes  ☒ No

Approved by Jason Sturm, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 9/23/2019