



CES NEWSLETTER

**SPECIAL PROCUREMENT ISSUE

May 2023

FEATURED ARTICLE-ETTES

Brightly Software, Inc. - (Formerly Dude Solutions) contract 2020-12N-AD01-ALL is being acquired by [Siemens Smart Infrastructure \(SI\)](#). With over 800 employees across North

America, EMEA & APAC geographies, we have grown to be world leaders lighting the way to a bright future with smarter assets and sustainable communities. Siemens works with more than 12,000 clients in diverse industries across the globe so they can better manage and optimize their assets and operations through the key phases of the asset lifecycle. Our sophisticated, cloud-based platform leverages more than 20 years of data to deliver predictive insights to help our clients prevent the next flood or leak, avoid a costly power outage or equipment failure, and repair city streets and bridges when they need it most. 4.6M users empowered, 400M work orders addressed, 49M assets logged, \$321B in asset value supported.

Ford Motor Company has released pricing on the 2023 Ford F-150 pickup. The 2023 gas-powered Ford F-150 XL starts at \$33,695 MSRP, an increase of \$2,175 over the 2022-MY XL model. The XLT starts at \$41,800, while the Lariat starts at \$57,480. The 2023 F-150 has eight trim levels in all, with the priciest Raptor starting at \$76,775. Prices do not include destination.

The standard powertrain for the 2023 F-150 is the 2.7L V6 EcoBoost Engine with Auto Start-Stop Technology. Buyers can upgrade to the 5.0L V8 Engine with Flex-Fuel Capability for \$1,140 or the 3.5L V6 EcoBoost for \$1,540. A hybrid powertrain is available for a \$3,300 upcharge.

Changes to F-150 come mostly on the upper trim levels. For fleets, the Lariat trim is no longer available with a Super Cab. The XL and XLT trims are the only ones to have all three cabs — Regular, Super Cab, and SuperCrew — with all other trims available with the SuperCrew only.

CONTENTS:

- Brightly Software
- Vehicle Notifications
- eRate Information
- School Buses



F-150 Lightning Price Increased Again

Ford has increased the price of the all-electric F-150 Lightning yet again, bringing the MSRP to \$55,974, as first reported by Reuters. That price does not include a \$1,895 destination charge.

In October, Ford raised the MSRP to \$51,974 excluding destination charge. That price comes after one announced in August that added \$6,000 to \$8,500 to the initial MSRP of \$39,947 announced last year.

At that time, a Ford spokesperson shared its official statement with AF, which Ford confirms is still valid: "Ford is adjusting the MSRP on the 2023 F-150 Lightning Pro due to ongoing supply chain constraints, rising material costs and other market factors. Current retail order holders awaiting delivery are unaffected by this adjustment. Current commercial and government customers with a scheduled order are unaffected by this adjustment."

Ford added: "We are adding a third crew to build every Lightning possible while expanding the Rouge Electric Vehicle Center so we can increase run rate to 150,000 Lightning pickups per year beginning next fall."

Vehicle Recalls

Stellantis is recalling approximately 1,234,657 2019-2022 Ram 1500, 2500, and 3500 pickup trucks because the tailgate may not latch properly due to misaligned tailgate strikers, which could result in the tailgate opening while driving.

An unintended tailgate opening while driving may result in a loss of unsecured cargo, potentially creating a road hazard and increasing the risk of a crash.

To remedy the matter, dealers will inspect the tailgate striker alignment to the box latch and adjust, if necessary, free of charge. Owner notification letters will be mailed Jan. 27, 2023. Owners can reach Stellantis customer service at (800-853-1403). Stellantis' reference number for this recall is ZB8.

General Motors, LLC (GM) is recalling an estimated 740,108 2022-2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500, GMC Sierra 1500, Cadillac Escalade and Escalade ESV, Suburban, Tahoe, Yukon, and Yukon XL vehicles, as well as 2020-2023 Cadillac CT4 and CT5 and 2021-2023 Buick Envision vehicles for a visibility issue.

Specifically, the daytime running lights (DRLs) may not deactivate when the headlights are on. This scenario is dangerous as lights that don't deactivate cause glare and reduce visibility, which can, in turn, increase the likelihood of a collision.

To fix the problem, the body control module software will be updated by a dealer, or through an over-the-air (OTA) update, free of charge.



Owner notification letters will be mailed Jan. 23, 2023. Owners may contact GMC customer service at (888) 988-7267, Chevrolet customer service at (800) 222-1020, or Cadillac customer service at (800) 458-8006. GM's reference number for this recall is N222386380. This recall expands previous recall number 22V-827.

For CES Educational Members and E-Rate Contract Holders

The FCC released two documents on product and service eligibility last week. One was the final version of the Eligible Services List ("ESL") for FY 2023 ([DA 22-1313](#)) that, as expected, was virtually unchanged from the FY 2022 ESL and last summer's initial draft. The only minor change was a parenthetical reference to the eligibility of Category 1 fixed wireless. The ESL Order specifically declined to address:

- The eligibility of advanced or next-generation firewalls and other network security devices.
- Wi-Fi services for school buses (noting that a Declaratory Ruling on that subject is still in circulation).

More importantly, while not including network security devices in the FY 2023 ESL, the FCC did issue a Public Notice ([DA 22-1315](#)) formally requesting public comment on the use of E-rate funds for advanced or next-generation firewalls and other network security devices. This is the first time that the FCC has addressed — and in a seemingly positive manner — the eligibility of cybersecurity products and services.

E-Rate Funding Year 2023 Application Filing Window Opens January 18, 2023

Dear E-Rate Participant:

The Funding Year (FY) 2023 FCC Form 471 application filing window will open on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 12:00 noon ET and will close on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET. The E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) Administrative Window will close January 16 (see below).

The [E-Rate section of USAC's website](#) provides resources for new applicants or applicants continuing to participate in the program. I recommend that you review these resources, or any others that apply to your situation, as you begin your FY2023 preparations:

- First-time Filers – If you are new to the E-Rate program, you will need a user account in the [E-Rate Productivity Center](#) (EPC), our applicant and service provider portal. For security purposes, you will also need a login and password for One Portal, our multi-factor authentication security system. If you are new to the program, our Customer Service Center (CSC) at (888) 203-8100, can help you set up your organization's EPC profile and your account administrator.



- Update Your EPC Profile During the Administrative Window – Update your EPC profile by January 16, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET to ensure a smoother filing process and more timely review of your applications. You will not be able to amend your EPC profile after that date. View the EPC Administrative Window webinar on the [Webinars](#) page, which includes information about establishing accounts and user rights for EPC, and [view the webinar slides](#).
- Category Two (C2) Budgets – FY2023 is the third year of the new five-year [C2 budget](#) cycle. The budgets are fixed for the five-year cycle and apply at the school district or library system level. If you requested C2 funding in FY2021 or FY2022 and your student counts or library square footage have increased, you can [request a C2 budget recalculation](#). Please view the Category Two Budgets webinar on the [Webinars](#) page for more details about whether you should consider doing this.
- Proceed With Competitive Bidding – If you have not started the [competitive bidding](#) process by filing your [FCC Form 470](#), please begin now. Remember that you must wait at least 28 days after filing the form before entering into an agreement with your selected service provider(s) and filing your FCC Form 471 application(s). View the E-Rate Pre-Commitment Process webinar on the [Webinars](#) page. Go to the [Eligible Services List](#) page for guidance on the eligibility of products and services for FY2023.
- Install Browser Updates – Google Chrome is the recommended browser for EPC, but no matter which browser you use, be sure the latest version is installed on your computer.

USAC remains dedicated to efficient and effective review of your FY2023 applications. We encourage everyone to submit their applications as early in the filing window as possible so USAC can begin the review processes necessary to process your applications and issue timely funding commitment decisions.

While many in the E-Rate community continue to manage through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, USAC is ready to assist applicants and service providers with their E-Rate issues. We wish you a successful FY2023 and, as always, we are here to help. Open a customer service case in EPC or call CSC at (888) 203-8100 on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ET for assistance.

Sincerely,

Craig Davis
Vice President, Schools and Libraries Division



CES E-Rate contract holders for E-Rate Category 2 Products and Services

1. Abba Technologies, Inc. - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
2. A-Com Technologies - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
3. Advanced Network Management Inc - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
4. Ardham Technologies, Inc. - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
5. CamNet - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
6. Converged Networks, LLC - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance
7. ConvergeOne, Inc. - Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
8. Cypress Communication Systems - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
9. High Point Networks LLC - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
10. Iota Networking Inc. - Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
11. Millennium Communications Corp - Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
12. Netsync Network Solutions - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
13. Network Cabling, Inc dba N.C.I. - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products
14. ProVelocity - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
15. Rising Sun Technologies Electrical LLC - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products
16. Valcom Salt Lake City - Lot 1 Network Equipment, Lot 2 Cabling Products, Lot 3 Basic Maintenance, Lot 4 Ineligible Products

E-Rate Systems Consolidation

USAC is merging its E-Rate Legacy applications and forms into the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC). This change leverages existing technology you are familiar with and moves E-Rate invoicing and post-commitment activities into a single platform. E-Rate invoicing related forms (the FCC Form 472, FCC Form 473, and the FCC Form 474) will be moved into EPC as part of this consolidation.

Merging the E-Rate Legacy applications will help USAC improve the user experience and improve internal reviews of invoices and post-commitment



activities. While the interface will look different, the information and documentation to be submitted for these E-Rate transactions will not change.

Consolidation Launch

Implementation will occur after January 29, 2023, which is the FY2021 E-Rate non-recurring services invoice filing deadline. USAC will make a public announcement once we determine the exact date. Before the launch, USAC will also provide training materials and training sessions to assist users through this change.

Preparing for the Change

Once E-Rate invoicing is moved into EPC, invoicing access for applicants will be based on user access rights in EPC instead of the current BEAR PIN process. Access to submit the FCC Form 472 (BEAR) will be determined based on the permissions established in the Applicant Manage User Permissions page using a new "472/BEAR Permissions" column. Access to submit the FCC Form 474 (SPI) will be determined based on the permissions established in the Service Provider Manage User Permissions page.

USAC will migrate existing invoicing permissions before the implementation occurs. USAC will provide more details about this in the future. To prepare, entities should review the EPC account administrators associated with their accounts and update, if needed.

Update Your EPC Account Administrator

Follow these steps if you are the current EPC account administrator.

Applicants:

- Log into EPC. The My Landing Page opens.
- Select the name of the filing entity under My Entities. The Summary page opens.
- Select More Actions (next to Manage Organization) in the upper right-hand corner. Click Modify Account Administrator.
- Review the current Account Administrator and update by placing a check mark beside the desired Account Administrator. Select Continue.
- A summary page showing the current and the newly selected Account Administrator appears. If the information is correct, click Submit.

Service Providers:

- Your account administrator is established in EPC in Block 13 Company Contact for Schools and Libraries on your [FCC Form 498](#).



- To update your account administrator, you must submit an updated FCC Form 498 in the [E-File System](#).

Note: Service providers that submit a new FCC Form 498 or revise their current FCC Form 498 must have an active unique entity identifier (UEI) through SAM.gov. To learn more, [read our latest bulletin](#) and watch the new [Register for a New 498 ID](#) and [Update SAM.gov Unique Entity ID on the FCC Form 498](#) videos.

Establish a New Account Administrator

These steps should be followed if your EPC account administrator is no longer available to make these changes in EPC.

- Contact the E-Rate Customer Service Center at (888) 203-8100, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 8 pm E.T.
- Provide a reference letter of agency from the school/library district on the organization's letterhead (or from the organization's email domain) including the new EPC account administrator's name, title, signature, and contact information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where and when can I get more information on these changes?

The [E-Rate System Consolidation](#) page on the E-Rate website includes updates and information about this consolidation effort. USAC will also add content to its [Announcements](#) page and [Upcoming Dates](#) page, and provide important information in its monthly [E-Rate News Briefs](#), including Special Editions as needed, to keep you aware of key dates and any actions required by E-Rate participants.

Will USAC provide training and resources to assist users submitting invoices?

USAC will provide support surrounding the transition to EPC including learning modules, E-Rate News Brief articles, and webinars. The E-Rate [Announcements](#) page and [Upcoming Dates](#) page will also provide information about training materials and upcoming events related to this consolidation effort. [Subscribe](#) to the [E-Rate News Brief](#) to stay on top of the updates, if you have not done so yet.

I noticed in the videos on the E-Rate Legacy system consolidation page that I will be able to send an attachment when submitting an invoice. Will this be required for all invoice lines in December?

Attachments supporting your invoice will not be required. This is a feature that is being added to be used when additional information will be requested and to help streamline the invoice outreach and review processes. A common example are invoice lines for BMIC (Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections) services.



Additional information is often requested for this type of invoice line during the review and outreach processes.

Will invoicing notifications (such as remittance statements) still be mailed to applicants and service providers through the U.S. Postal Service?

No. All notifications, including remittance statements, will be sent through the EPC platform providing users with a consolidated place to locate and view information on the status of their E-Rate invoice requests.

Where will I be able to see the status of invoice lines submitted after the transition?

The invoice lines and all details about these lines will be available in EPC.

Information on paid invoice lines will continue to be posted in USAC's E-Rate [Open Data](#) tools.

Who should I contact with any questions about this E-Rate Legacy system consolidation?

Please contact the E-Rate Customer Service Center (CSC) by creating a case in EPC or by calling (888) 203-8100, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 8 pm E.T. New users to the E-Rate program should call CSC to set up an EPC user account.

E-Rate USAC E-RATE TIPS:

- Applicants: Update your Account Administrator and User Permissions. USAC recommends reviewing and making changes to your E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) account administrator, if needed, and reviewing all permissions associated with your account. If your AA is not available (e.g., has left your organization), the Customer Service Center (CSC) at 888-203-8100 can help you transfer account administrator rights.
- Each year, USAC updates applicant profiles in EPC using the reviewed and approved profile information from their current year FCC Form 471 application(s). The EPC administrative window, which is currently open, allows applicants to make updates to their profile information to prepare for the upcoming FY2023 application filing window. Visit the [EPC Administrative Window](#) page to learn more about updating your EPC profile information.
- Update your Student Count and NSLP Data for FY2023. As a reminder, applicants should provide updated student enrollment and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) numbers for their FY2023 applications during the EPC Administrative Window as they are no longer permitted to rely on prior years' numbers due to COVID-19.
- USAC updated the [FCC Form 498](#) for all service providers on November 16, 2022 to require service providers to have an active unique entity identifier (UEI) through SAM.gov in order to submit an FCC Form 498. This only applies to service providers that submit a new FCC Form 498 or revise their current FCC Form 498 at this time. To learn more, read our [latest bulletin](#) and watch the new [Register for a New 498 ID](#) and [Update SAM.gov Unique Entity ID on the FCC Form 498](#) videos.



- Visit our recently updated web content on the following pages: [E-Rate System Consolidation](#), the Service Provider page [Step 1: Obtain a SPIN](#), and [Competitive Bidding & FCC Form 470 FAQ](#).

E-Rate Fall 2022 Training - Recordings Available on Demand

Below are on demand recordings and accompanying slides from our Fall webinars.

E-Rate Program Overview (October 18): E-Rate experts provide a high-level overview of the application process from beginning to end and explain basic program concepts for applicants and service providers, followed by a Q&A session.

- Watch a Recording (on the [Webinars](#) page, click Watch)
- [Slide Deck](#)

E-Rate Pre-Commitment Process (October 20): Presenters discuss the E-Rate Pre-Commitment Process (getting started, competitive bidding, applying for support, and Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review), followed by a Q&A session.

- Watch a Recording (on the [Webinars](#) page, click Watch)
- [Slide Deck](#)

Category Two Budgets (October 25): Presenters discuss Category Two (C2) budgets. We provide an overview of C2 budgets and C2 budget guidance for Funding Year (FY) 2023, followed by a Q&A session.

- Watch a Recording (on the [Webinars](#) page, click Watch)
- [Slide Deck](#)

EPC Administrative Window (October 27): Presenters discuss the administrative window – the period during which applicants can make updates to their entity profile information in EPC to prepare for the upcoming FCC Form 471 application filing window for FY2023, followed by a Q&A session.

- Watch a Recording (on the [Webinars](#) page, click Watch)
- [Slide Deck](#)

E-Rate Post-Commitment Process (November 3): Presenters discuss the E-Rate Post-Commitment Process (starting services and invoicing) and other post-commitment activities (service substitutions, appeals, and more), followed by a Q&A session.

- Watch a Recording (on the [Webinars](#) page, click Watch)
- [Slide Deck](#)

CES Member School Bus

EPA for Clean School Bus Program Rebates.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 authorizes EPA to offer rebates to replace existing school buses with clean and zero-emission (ZE) models to



reduce harmful emissions from older, dirtier buses. EPA announced on September 29, 2022, it would nearly double the funding awarded for clean school buses this year following high demand from school districts across the United States that applied for the 2022 Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebates. This is the first round of funding from the EPA Clean School Bus Program, which President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created with a historic \$5 billion investment for low- and zero-emission school buses over the next five years. The rebate application period closed in August with an outstanding response from school districts seeking to purchase electric and low-emission school buses across the country. EPA received around 2,000 applications requesting nearly \$4 billion for over 12,000 buses. The applicant pool includes submissions from all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and federally recognized Tribes. The 2022 rebate program will fund approximately 2,500 school bus replacements. Here is a link to the Awarded Clean School Bus Program Rebates - <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/awarded-clean-school-bus-program-rebates>

The amount of funding that will be disbursed after a school district submits their Payment Request Form may be lower than these maximum amounts because the funds to be disbursed are based on actual bus and charging infrastructure costs, as supported by purchase orders. Applicants are notified of selection via email from cleanschoolbus@epa.gov and must refer to that email notification for their official award details.

Note: EPA will be providing an additional \$1 billion in funding that will be available for fiscal year 2023.

CES School Bus Contract Holders that can supply Electric School Buses:

- Lonestar Freightliner Group LLC - Thomas - 2020-27B-C103-ALL
- Roberts Truck Center – International - 2020-27-C101-ALL
- Tillery Chevrolet - GMC, Inc. – Blue Bird - 2020-27B-C102-ALL

CES Contract Holders that can supply EV Charging System:

- Los Ebanistas, Inc. - 2022-06-C111-ALL
- Positive Energy Solar - 2022-06-C112-ALL
- MANS Construction Co. - 2022-06-C113-ALL
- Carver Electric Company, Inc. - 2022-06-C114-ALL
- Allied Electric Inc. - 2022-06-C115-ALL
- Osceola Inc - 2022-06-C116-ALL
- Eaton Sales & Service LLC - 2022-06-C117-ALL
- PPC Solar (Paradise Power Company, Inc) - 2022-06-C118-ALL
- Wizer Electric LLC. - 2022-06-C119-ALL
- ROSS/WES ELECTRICAL SERVICES, INC. - 2022-06-C1110-ALL
- B&D Industries, Inc. - 2022-06-C1111-ALL
- National Car Charging LLC - 2022-06-C1112-ALL

