

Executive Project Summary

For

Proposed 'CR1' Rural Fiber Optic Construction Project

Near Carroll, Iowa

Proposed By

BTC, Inc.

a Subsidiary of

Breda Telephone Corp. d/b/a Western Iowa Networks

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BACKGROUND

Over the past several years, the Telecommunications industry in the United States and Iowa has undergone tremendous change in the regulatory environment, the level of service customers demand from their providers, and the technologies used to provide those services. Due to the demographics in some of Iowa's rural areas, the larger corporate service providers who have served these areas for many years are either unable or unwilling to invest in improvements to their networks. As a result, many of these areas have lagged behind in terms of the broadband services and technologies available. Many refer to this lagging behind the more urban areas of the country as the 'digital divide'. To help bridge this divide, BTC, Inc. d/b/a Western Iowa Networks (or WIN) proposes the construction of a fiber-to-the premise (FTTP) network covering an area between the south-east edge of Carroll, Iowa and the south-west edge of Glidden, Iowa, identified in this application as the 'CR1' project.

WIN is headquartered approximately 18.5 miles away from this area in the City of Breda and is incorporated in the State of Iowa. WIN also has an office a few miles away within the city limits of Carroll. WIN is a Communications Service Provider as defined by Iowa Code chapter 8B. The company is owned by the shareholders of Breda Telephone Corp. and has been in business since 1905. It is the mission of WIN to be the leading communications provider in Iowa.

The WIN management team consists of the following seven individuals:

Jeff Roiland, CEO
Kevin Skinner, CFO
Chris Nieland, Director of Operations
Mike Ludwig, Plant Manager
Amy Hatterman, Accounting Department Manager
Stephanie Thomsen, Human Resources Manager
Wes Treadway, Customer Service/Marketing Manager

WIN's management team has over 110 years combined experience in the telecommunications industry and contributes to numerous industry boards and committees.

WIN provides a wide variety of services to residential and business customers in communities throughout western Iowa, including voice, broadband, television, managed IT, hosted PBX, key systems equipment, email hosting and web hosting.

Over the last 10 years, WIN has deployed a FTTP network in each community it serves. This network, combined with knowledge and expertise, gives WIN a distinct advantage over competitors, allowing it to provide cutting edge service to all customers in the WIN serving area for many years to come. While there are providers with somewhat similar service offerings in WIN's existing markets, none of them provide services over a FTTP network. This advanced, state-of-the-art network deployed by WIN is able to provide reliable high bandwidth and low latency broadband services which the other providers simply cannot match.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The CR1 project includes an area south and southeast of Carroll, Iowa, and extending east to the southwest edge of Glidden, Iowa. This area will be overbuilt with a FTTP network. Within this area, there are 52 targeted service areas (TSAs) covering approximately 11.29 square miles. These TSAs include 61 housing units, 22 business and 4 farm operations, with a population of 205. This area includes the Arthur N. Neu Municipal Airport. With approximately 700 landings per month, this is one of the busiest airports in western Iowa and is an anchor institution for the City of Carroll and the communities in Carroll County and other surrounding Counties. This area also includes the Swan Lake State Park and Campground, the Carroll County Conservation Education Center directly to the south of the lake, and a Carroll County maintenance shed which is to the east of the lake. In addition to providing wireline service on the south side of the lake, the broadband service over the fiber will be utilized to offer fixed wireless service to the entire campgrounds. WIN estimates the project will begin in the spring of 2019 and will be completed by the end of 2019. After construction is completed, WIN plans to aggressively build our customer base in this area through various forms of advertising and promotional offers. As is the case in all of our communities, future plans for this area would include edging our FTTP network out into surrounding areas wherever it is feasible to do so. To that end, the funding being offered through the Connect Every Iowa Broadband Grant Program is critical and necessary.

Based on the size and number of targeted service areas included, WIN has estimated a cost for this project as detailed in Exhibit D of the Core Application. WIN is requesting grant funds equal to 15% of the total projected costs.

CONCLUSION

Through the application and other supporting documentation provided, WIN aims to demonstrate how this project will comply with all the requirements of the Notice of Funding Availability, while effectively bridging the digital divide in this area. WIN has the experience, facilities, equipment, processes, staff, third party relationships and internal systems in place to support the successful completion of this project. The advantages of a FTTP network over other networks are well documented in terms of speed, reliability and long-term utility. Having access to this network will be a valuable tool to help keep residents in this area, draw new residents, and foster economic development for new and existing business. Access to fast and reliable broadband will fill a public safety need at the Municipal Airport and County maintenance shed, and it will also supply a valuable amenity and educational resource to the Conservation Education Center, State Park and Campground at Swan Lake. WIN strongly believes this project will be a very worthwhile investment in the future of Broadband for this area and for all of rural Iowa.