



Comments Directed to:

**National Telecommunications and
Information Administration**

**AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT
OF 2009**

Request for Information

**BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES
PROGRAM**

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(Federal Register/Vol. 74, No. 47 - Ref. pages 10717-10718 #2d;#8e;#4e)

QC Data a national telcom data management and mapping company is pleased to provide comments to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Request for Information (RFI) pertaining to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) . We hope our comments will assist the NTIA in planning for the effective and efficient implementation of the BTOP. Further, we will demonstrate that QC Data possesses the requisite capabilities and willingness to assist the NTIA via any state to achieve the overall expectations of identifying where broadband availability is present and where it is not, provide a recommendation through design engineering of how to best provision broadband services in unserved and underserved areas, instruct citizens in the basic use of the internet, and to provide an easy to use interactive website which will clearly illustrate the appropriate broadband inventory data. Given our Company headquarters in Denver, Colorado we have the resources in place to support making Colorado a model/pilot state for this important program. Implementing a proposed front-end pilot program would ensure the most effective use of tax payer funds, the best methods for measuring this important stimulus initiative and the most efficient means for deploying this initiative nationwide. By measuring the success of this pilot program in the State of Colorado, the NTIA will have the respective confidence to proceed with an aggressive rollout of the full program. The model, fully tested by the pilot, can then be used in comparison with other state pilot projects and with the necessary modifications to confidently provide like services to citizens throughout the United States.

Throughout this document we have provided feedback to a number of your questions along with information in support of QC Data's qualifications and blueprint we would suggest to deliver this critically important, highly visible project in a professional, accurate and timely manner. We sincerely believe our domain expertise and experience uniquely qualify QC Data to provide you with comments and suggestions to this very important stimulus program.

We at QC Data believe the following comments should help the NTIA develop a template for professionally managing the roll out of broadband service as stipulated under the US Government Stimulus BTOP initiative. QC Data has over 30 years of experience in mapping, telco engineering design and support services, data conversion and program management. This experience gives us great confidence and insight for participating in such a major project.

2.0 Comments

2.1 BROADBAND NATIONWIDE INVENTORY MAP

[\(Ref. page 10718 #8b\)](#)

Inventory mapping requires accessing data from various sources including field verification to produce CAD layers with local attributes thereby providing an accurate accounting of what is present and what is not. The most current geographical data, census address data and broadband service areas will need to be collected in order to produce a digital data base indicating the served, underserved, and unserved areas in each state. This information will provide the foundational step and address the Federal Communications Commission's and NTIA's requirement to provide in its plan a user friendly map of each state's existing broadband infrastructure.

2.2 BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

[\(Ref. page 10719 #2a\)](#)

After the existing broadband infrastructure has been collected and geographically identified, then begins the process of planning the most cost effective path, wired or wireless, to address underserved and unserved areas. These plans must be facilitated and coordinated respectively with the appropriate broadband companies for the design, installation, testing and acceptance per the specifications as outlined by the NTIA.

2.3 BROADBAND INTERNET USER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

[\(Ref. page 10720\)](#)

While completing and finalizing the inventory mapping of the unserved and underserved areas, we would then suggest to develop and deliver hands-on user training on the basic skills of computer and internet use for the citizens in the affected areas. All trainers should be required to show proof of satisfactory completion of an accredited college level computer training course and further be certified by an accredited institution to be employed as an instructor to the citizens receiving such training.

2.4 **INTERACTIVE NATIONWIDE INVENTORY MAP WEBSITE**

(Ref. page 10718 #8a)

QC Data through one of its joint venture companies called AltaLIS Ltd. (www.AltalIs.com) acts as the agent for Alberta, Canada's Spatial Data Warehouse Ltd.(SDW). AltaLIS has the responsibility of making all of Alberta's base mapping infrastructure more available, accessible, accurate and affordable. This is done via a website where multiple products such as land deeds, and multiple types of land maps can be downloaded directly from the website.

Since 1998 the AltaLIS team has been performing the continued updating, re-engineering, storage, distribution, value-added redistribution and general management of primary provincial mapping data sets - Urban & Rural Cadastral and Title, Topographic and Small Scale. We would offer the use of this proven model along with the necessary modifications to house and make available the data collected during an inventory mapping of Colorado. This user friendly website will be flexible in its ability to quickly research the reservoir of data and present to the user information in both graphical and audible formats. Per the specifications listed in Title VI, the website will allow any internet user access to the information concerning the availability of broadband services in their geographical areas.

2.5 **JOB CREATION**

(Ref. page 10720 #3a)

The following chart, intended as an example, estimates the number of new jobs we believe would be created in the State of Colorado to support the BTOP initiative during its term of implementation.

	Estimated Persons Employed
BTOP Colorado	
Total Jobs	410
<i>Consisting of:</i>	
Mapping of Services	70
Engineering Planning	50
Jobs Training	60
Internet Use Training	50
Infrastructure Installation	93
Interactive Website Development	54
Website Maintenance	33

3.0 Qualifications

(Ref. page 10719 #15)

QC DATA has over 30 years experience providing GIS Services, much of it involving data collection and conversion where we performed extensive data acceptance testing. We have proven methodologies and systems that have been incorporated into our production processes over the years. Our solutions are designed to integrate technology with human knowledge and domain expertise of the subject matter to provide the customer with quality deliverables. QC DATA is recognized throughout the industry as experts in producing accurate and comprehensive databases for installation on all of the most prominent GIS platforms, with a special emphasis on providing these services to the telecommunication and electric and gas utility industry.

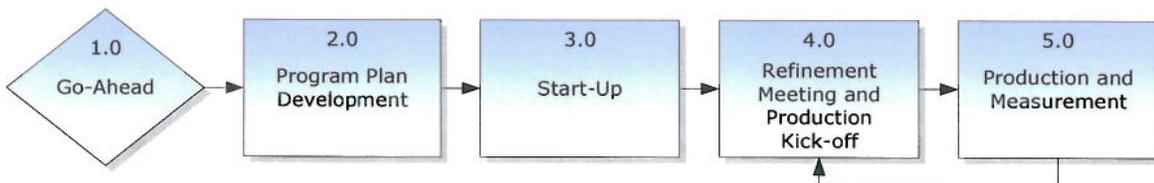
QC DATA has handled high-volume data conversion and acceptance testing projects and has consistently delivered accurate, on-time services to our clients. Our client list represents numerous telcoms and utilities in North America and in Europe. The list includes experience in providing data migration, data conversion, database design services and data acceptance testing using ARC/INFO, ArcGIS, FRAMME, Vision, Smallworld, MicroStation, AutoCAD, and CAD-based products.

3.1 Project Management

(Ref. page 10719 #10)

QC DATA believes that a critical part of any large scale project success is employing formalized methods and procedures that are repeatable and standardized. QC DATA has developed proprietary Methods & Procedures (M&P's) through years of experience and we rely on them as part of our Project Management protocol to quickly achieve steady-state stability in data services projects.

Following is a high level depiction of QC DATA's **Implementation Work Flow Process**:



3.2 Project Communication

(Ref. page 10719 #11)

One of the most critical aspects of good Project Management is a well thought out communication plan that meets the needs of all who are participating in the project.

QC DATA would suggest that communication about the BTOP project be supported through the following avenues:

Start-Up Meeting and Kickoff Workshops	Formal Project Status Reporting/Meetings
Regularly scheduled Conference Calls	Key Performance Indicators
Progress Tracking	Problem Action Tracking and Resolution
Internal Quality Audit (QA) Results	Project Plan and Schedule

Start-Up/Kick-Off Meeting – This meeting is used to establish such items as Critical Success Factors, Program Management Protocols, Program Plans and Communication Standards, to name a few.

Project Status Meeting – QC DATA encourages NTIA during the early stages of BTOP to conduct monthly status meetings to discuss delivery status, data quality, project specifications and contractual issues, and to also discuss possible improvements in processes and procedures.

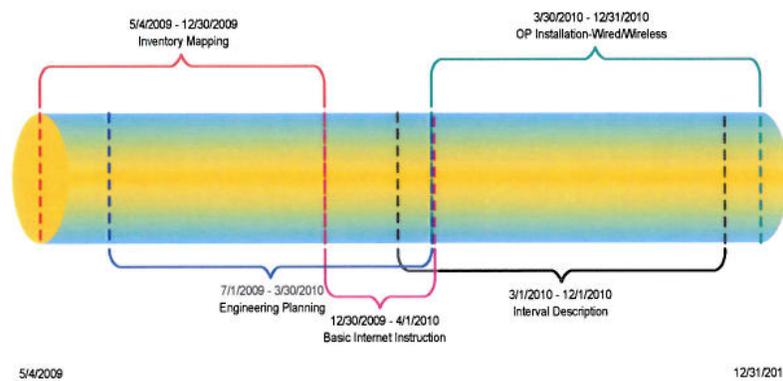
Status Reporting – Early on define and identify what is to be included in status reports. QC DATA uses a template that includes the following items as a base line:

Activities accomplished during the reporting period	Significant Issues Encountered
Activities currently in progress	Percent complete estimates for each task
Activities planned for the next reporting period	

4.0 PROJECT LIFECYCLE

(Ref. page 10719 #10a)

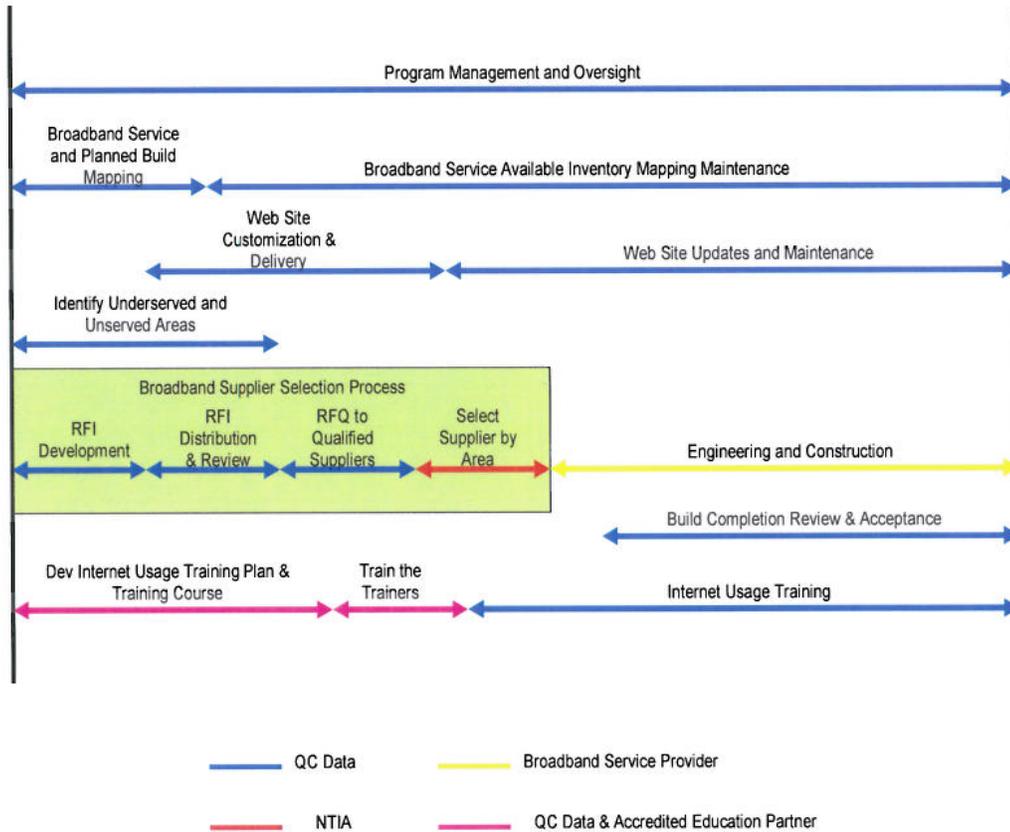
Given the size and complexity of BTOP it should be viewed and managed in terms of a project lifecycle model. The project lifecycle is QC DATA's management framework or "roadmap" from infancy through maturity of a project. The project lifecycle presents a phased or segmented approach to project management. An example is illustrated below:



In addition to the above phases, the overarching guide for project operations is the Program Plan. By segmenting the project into these lifecycle phases, several advantages accrue:

- Training can be more modular and tailored to the task at hand
- Management can be more focused on near-term tasks
- Tools can be more specialized
- Project timelines are more easily developed, and
- Large projects are more easily divided into workable units

Illustrated example of **Program Plan**:



We thank you for the opportunity in providing you with our comments and QC Data stands proud and ready to support such an important National project undertaking.