

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Rapid Systems, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Hardee County Broadband Project

Submitter: VistaNet Ventures, Inc.

Comment: VistaNet Ventures, Inc. has been faithfully servicing the Florida Heartland Counties of Highlands, Hardee, and DeSoto with broadband internet access since May of 2005. Our principal means of service delivery is fixed wireless broadband. VistaNet currently operates a continuous coverage fixed wireless network that spans over 3600 square miles throughout the region. We service over 5700 residential, business and public institution subscribers in Highlands, Hardee and DeSoto counties. Our service is a performance oriented fixed wireless providing download speeds of up to 10 MB. Our business has been 100% privately financed and is located in a Florida HUB Zone and Rural Area of Economic Concern.

Submitter: The Home Town Network Inc

Comment: The Home Town Network Inc. (HTN) was founded in 1997 and has focused on providing Internet Access for Highlands County. We have evolved from Dial-up to DSL resale to Facilities based Fixed Wireless Service. In January of 2005 we began providing Fixed Wireless service and have steadily expanded our network to cover most of Highlands County with the exception of the extreme North and South (See service area map provided). We are an S corporation registered in the State of Florida and have not received outside funding. All of our towers are currently capable of providing 3Mbps internet service to the end user and several towers are capable of end user speeds of 10Mbps. Our tower locations are densely located to provide almost 100% coverage. In addition we can provide custom solutions to meet the special needs of almost any organization or end user. Most internet customers in Highlands County have multiple choices for Broadband Internet service providers. The following is a list of other service providers who have significant coverage areas in Highlands County: Vistanet Wireless, Embarq DSL, Comcast Cable, and Several Cellular Providers. Collectively these providers including HTN have almost complete coverage to Highlands County residents and businesses. Highlands County has a large population of seasonal residents.

Submitter: CenturyLink

Comment: CenturyLink has an extensive broadband footprint today, and has committed to extend that service even further. As part of its merger commitments to the Federal Communications Commission, CenturyLink committed to offer retail broadband Internet access service to 100% of its broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2012. Consequently, virtually no areas served by CenturyTel or Embarq local operating companies, in any state, will be underserved or unserved at the end of three years.

CenturyLink also agreed to meet targets for minimum download speeds. CenturyLink will ensure availability of retail broadband Internet access service with a download speed of 1.5 Mbps to 87% of the broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2011. It will ensure availability with a download speed of 3 Mbps to 75% of broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2010, to 78% of broadband eligible lines by July 1, 2011, and to 80% of broadband eligible lines within 3 years of the close date. Nationwide, our average tele-density is 23 customers per square mile. This commitment ensures availability of broadband even to very rural consumers.

The agency should consider the importance of this commitment, as CenturyLink's continuing investment inevitably will make applications that overlap CenturyLink service areas less viable. CenturyLink has proven, industry-leading experience in deploying broadband networks and services using both wireline and wireless technology, and a strong commitment and focus on rural areas. Today, it serves 7 million access lines and 2.1 million broadband customers in 33 states.