

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Telecom Capital Group, LLC

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Mountain Valley Broadband

Submitter: TDS Telecom

Comment: TDS Telecom offers 3Mbps broadband service within the applicants proposed service area and provides broadband service to customers pursuant to the NOFA definitions.

Submitter: West Virginia PCS Alliance LC dba NTELOS

Comment: NTELOS herein provides information on its existing broadband services within Applicant's proposed service area to be funded.

Submitter: Comcast Cable

Comment: Attached is a summary of the Comcast Cable homes passed, subscriber and advertising information related to the service areas encompassed by this application.

Submitter: Level 3 EON, LLC

Comment: Level 3 EON, LLC is filing this challenge based on the network services provided by Level 3 Communications, LLC. ("Level 3")

The overlapping service areas are drawn via the mapping tool. Level 3's fiber optic network infrastructure can support low speeds to support today's lower bandwidth needs and can scale to 40G and 100G to meet future bandwidth demands.

Absent some demonstrable cost or technology advantages, government funds should not be used to build along the same routes, and to the same communities, as existing and operating fiber optic networks. In the course of evaluating these projects, the Agencies should determine what other known

network assets are already in place and operating, and should require applicants to take advantage of such networks. Level 3 has identified where its network is capable of delivering all or some significant portion of the connectivity that the applicant proposes to deliver for a fraction of the cost proposed by the applicant.

Applicants should be required to demonstrate that they have exhausted commercial options involving use of existing infrastructure or services. In this regard, Level 3 notes that the Agencies' rules make it clear that a capitalized capacity lease is eligible for funding under BTOP and BIP. The capital costs of deploying fiber is only a fraction of the total network cost. Deploying, operating and maintaining electronic gear makes up the bulk of cost associated with operating a new fiber optic network. Capitalized capacity leases allow multiple last-mile and middle mile providers to share these significant expenses on a flexible, scalable basis.

Using a capitalized capacity lease, a last mile provider could procure precisely the capacity it needs when needed to serve its community. This option scalable and allows service providers to secure smaller amounts of capacity as an initial matter, adding to the capacity only when demands require. It also adds to project sustainability by reducing both operating and maintenance costs. In addition, as long as Level 3's network is in proximity, affordable hybrid fiber-microwave technologies can be used to establish interconnects back to the capitalized capacity leases. Multiple BTOP and BIP applicants can use identified capacity on a specific system, but capture the lower costs associated with the sharing of transport expenses.

Submitter: JetBroadband VA, LLC.

Comment: Since 2005, Jetbroadband VA, LLC has provided full, robust broadband service in its service areas (see service area map). JetBroadband VA, LLC advertises service of speeds above 3 Mbps throughout the identified service area[s]. JetBroadband VA, LLC passes over 50% of households within our service area and together with its existing competitors provide broadband services that combined exceed 40% subscribership penetration. Here is a recap of Jetbroadband's presence in the State:

- Jetbroadband VA, LLC has invested over \$140 million (\$140,000,000) of private capital in the State of Virginia
- Operates out of seven (7) local offices that it owns and or leases

- Employs nearly 100 local residents
- Operates its own Customer Care Call Center out of its Rustburg, VA central office
- Services the local communities with its existing 2,600 miles of cable plant, 63 vehicles and related equipment
- Jetbroadband currently offers last-mile broadband services that includes High Speed Data, Video and Digital Phone (Triple Play offerings),
- Jetbroadband service offerings are available to over 92,000 homes/households
- Serves over 50,000 customers in the State.

The service areas are served and therefore the NTIA/RUS should NOT disburse federal stimulus funds (public taxpayer funds) to applicants that seek to overbuild current service providers and Jetbroadband and compete with the significant private capital that has already been invested in these areas.

Submitter: Suddenlink

Comment: This response conclusively demonstrates that Suddenlink and its competitors already offer robust broadband service within the mapped area of the applicant's proposed funded service area and that this mapped area is neither unserved nor underserved. Additional information is provided in the uploaded document, including (1) sample marketing material; (2) a guide on how to read the data we entered in the "Existing Broadband Subscribers" section of this response; (3) a summary of the vendor and methodology used for estimating competitive-service subscribers in the mapped area; (4) Suddenlink contact information, should one or more federal agencies have questions or require

additional information; and (5) a summary of concerns with the response process and the limitations that process has placed on our ability to provide NTIA/RUS with relevant, timely data.

Submitter: Virginia PCS Alliance, L.C. dba NTELOS

Comment: NTELOS herein provides information on its existing broadband services within Applicant's proposed service area to be funded.

Submitter: NTELOS Network Inc.

Comment: NTELOS Inc., via a wholly-owned subsidiary, NTELOS Network, Inc, provides wholesale TDM and IP services to multiple Carrier and Broadband providers, including Wireless providers, within the applicant's proposed area. NTELOS maintains a fiber backbone of 4,864 route miles, including most of the routes proposed in this application. NTELOS fiber backbone network is depicted in the attached file. The level of wholesale services offered range from DS-3, OC-n, Gigabit wave, and Gigabit Ethernet services. The applicant's proposed route for this middle-mile offering overlaps existing NTELOS fiber and would be a duplication of existing infrastructure. In the main, other carrier backbone networks run along these same routes, as well. While some of the more remote areas in this region lack sufficient access to last mile broadband, ample middle mile capacity and healthy wholesale competition already exists.

Submitter: Shentel

Comment: Shentel has deployed a middle mile, state-of-the art fiber optic backbone providing services in Rockingham County, Shenandoah County, Frederick County, Clarke County, Fauquier County, Loudoun County, and Warren County. This network directly connects to one of the largest Internet POPs in the world located in Ashburn, VA. Current services on this fiber optic network include Ethernet (10Mbps to 10Gbps), and TDM services (T-1 to OC-192). Total capacity of the network is up to 800Gbps. Shentel also offers broadband service in Covington, VA and Allegheny county. In November 2009, Shentel will begin offering broadband service in Augusta County. In the first half of 2010, Allegheny County and Augusta County will be directly connected to Shentel's fiber backbone.