a) This project seeks to address the following opportunities: 1. To strengthen communications services to emergency service providers by creating a wireless backhaul extending the entire length of the Florida Keys that is able to operate despite line cuts in a region with a single fixed line fiber route. 2. To provide High-Speed Internet via WiMAX services to an unaccounted for vulnerable population of more than 10,000 people living in boats, RV’s, or cars, who without wireless communications, would not have communications access to these emergency services in times of inclement weather. 3. To build a middle mile backbone that directly and immediately serves the populations of Monroe county that are most in need, as WiMAX equipment will be installed in community support organization facilities in exchange for free or discounted services. Engage Communications, by way of deploying a wireless broadband middle mile network throughout the Florida Keys, will cost effectively bridge the digital divide correlated to the economic discrepancies in our county. This bridge will in effect level the field for access to educational, public safety, health, and community services for those currently disadvantaged by social and economic barriers. Furthermore, as residents of the Florida Keys are by and large a vulnerable population due to the threat of natural disasters, there is a constant need for redundancy in communications services for our emergency responders. b) The Florida Keys in Monroe County reside in a State designated area of critical concern due to their vulnerability to inclement weather and geographic isolation to the mainland United States. They are an elongated, arching chain of 96 habitable islands, over 120 miles in length, 43 of them connected by a single Overseas Highway, U.S. 1. Given these characteristics, every county service must recur repeatedly to effectively serve its residents. According to the latest cost of living index provided by our county government, Monroe County had the highest cost of living in Florida in 2004, and the County seat, Key West, ranked as the fourth most expensive housing market in America. In sharp contrast, Monroe County also rated first in the state food stamp benefits per recipient and is in the middle of state rankings for persons at and below the poverty level. Taking aside the impact of the housing market collapse in a region with drastically inflated real estate prices, these demographics suggest a great divide between upper and lower economic status. c) Households passed: 51,617 Businesses passed: 13,385 d) Number of community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations involved with this project: 61 e) Wireless access via WiMAX cell sites will be provided at 61 community support organization facilities at speeds greater than what they currently receive. Service upgrades will be offered at competitive rates. These services will also be marketed to businesses, households, and all manners of public, private, for profit, and nonprofit entities. Our network will offer the necessary bandwidth are required by all public safety and partnering organizations in our network when emergency services are required. The need for emergency services
may be caused by force majeure or otherwise. f) Engage Communications will exceed the minimum requirements for the nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations as required in the NOFA. In accordance with the FCC Policy Statement FCC 05-151, we will not knowingly hinder consumer’s access to lawful Internet content contained on systems or networks that it manages directly. In addition, we will not knowingly prevent the execution or usage of any lawful applications across networks that we manage, and we will not intentionally prevent the connection of legal, Internet-enabled devices to networks that we manage. Furthermore, we will not knowingly prevent the introduction of competitive legal applications or services onto networks that we manage. Our network is and always will be multi-use, multi-sectoral, non-discriminatory and open. We do not favor any lawful Internet applications or content over others. We always display and notify customers of network management practices such as those that allocate capacity; differentiate among applications, providers, or sources; limit usage; and manage or block access to illegal or harmful content. The Engage Communications network is available, where technically feasible, with reasonable rates and terms to be negotiated with requesting parties. g) Type of broadband system that will be deployed (network type and technology standard) WiMax technologies will be used. A multi site network has been designed to accomplish this goal. It will utilize 3.65GHz frequencies with a backhaul network using 11 GHZ and/or 18GHz frequencies which will be interconnected into existing wireline systems as necessary. We are able to access all existing wireline points of the Florida Keys due to our interconnection agreement with Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers. h) Engage Communications has deployed a wireline system throughout the Lower Florida Keys. Collectively, our team has some 150 years of experience serving the communications sector. Engage Communications is a State of Florida Certified Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) headquartered in Key West, Florida, primarily servicing the Florida Keys in Monroe County. For details on our qualifications, please refer to our uploaded Management Team Resumes i) Overall infrastructure cost of the broadband system: $4,851,164.00 j) Overall expected subscriber projections for the project: 9000 k) Number of jobs estimated to be created or saved as a result of this project: 53 job years