

Bresnan Submitted Executive Summary

The Montana Native American Reservation and Rural Community Middle Mile Broadband Connectivity Project is a partnership between Bresnan, the State of Montana and the tribal governments of Montana's Reservations to develop a statewide middle mile fiber optic network connecting the Blackfeet, Crow, Flathead-Salish and Kootenai, Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, N. Cheyenne and Rocky Boys Reservations as well as unserved and underserved communities along the proposed route.

The development of broadband infrastructure in Montana has been impacted by the high cost of construction in this challenging terrain and the realities of the population density, which has resulted in a middle mile hole that is immediately evident on any national broadband map. The ARRA broadband stimulus funding represents an opportunity to fill that hole and the merits of this application are organized below according to the applications directions.

a) Tribal communities are among the nation's most challenged and vulnerable populations. Montana has seven Reservations where it simply has not been affordable for any entity to build a broadband network. The availability of broadband stimulus funds would allow these communities to connect to the rest of the world, improving the economies and lives of their residents. Bresnan has the full support of seven Reservations as well as the State for this project. The State has identified broadband on the Reservations as a top priority for Montana.

Bresnan will build a fully redundant, carrier class, 96 count fiber middle mile backbone to connect seven Reservations and 25 additional unserved and underserved communities. The Project advances virtually every objective of the broadband provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and will provide affordable broadband services to government, public safety, healthcare, education, corporate, institutional and carrier/service provider customers. The project will create immediate and long term employment and economic growth. The project will also allow for, among other things, distance learning and telemedicine. By significantly enhancing and expanding Montana's limited middle-mile broadband infrastructure, the Project will serve as an important infrastructure and economic development catalyst in the target communities. Because the Reservations within the state are remote, few middle mile access points exist to bring faster internet speeds to those areas.

To bring affordable broadband access to reservations and remote areas first requires the establishment of a middle mile broadband network. This is the first step in the long term plan that will include the establishment of cost effective last mile solutions to be deployed once the fiber network, capable of affordable backhaul, is in place. Furthermore, the project will make transmission and Internet access services available for wholesale purchase by other carriers/service providers, allowing for expansion of advanced services.

b) The Project will create a 1,885 mile fiber optic network connecting seven Reservations, and unserved and underserved communities. The project will pass [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

h) Bresnan has a 25 year history of providing telecommunications and broadband service and has been a leader in broadband deployment in some of the most rural states in the US. The management biographies clearly demonstrate deep expertise in designing and constructing telecommunications networks. Bresnan built extensive long haul fiber networks in the 1990s in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin and was one of the first companies to offer high speed data in the US. Bresnan rebuilt the states of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado in 2004 in order to offer advanced video and data options to residents and businesses and launched digital phone in 2005. The company currently has [REDACTED] basic video subscribers [REDACTED] data subscribers, and [REDACTED] phone subscribers. Bresnan generates [REDACTED] of revenue.

i) The overall cost of the project is \$76.3 million.

k) The project could create [REDACTED] direct jobs, with significantly more indirect jobs over the next few years. Bresnan is majority owned by private equity investors as well as Bresnan management and Comcast Corporation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

