InLine appreciates the opportunity to present a proposal to deliver fiber-based broadband services and infrastructure to dramatically expand the opportunities for educational excellence, public safety, job growth, and economic development in the underserved areas of southern and central Mississippi. We share the FCC's perspective that universal access to broadband Internet is as critical to the future of a community as telephone service, or electric service was to previous generations. InLine believes that due to the severely depressed and historically overlooked nature of this region, containing one of the highest percentages of minorities in the country, it is imperative that investments be made to improve the viability of this region if the cycle of poverty and inequality is to be broken. InLine's will demonstrate that our proposal comprehensively meets 6 of the 7 CCI priorities for middle mile infrastructure. By designing our network with 157 K-12 schools and community colleges as the anchor sites of our network within the service region and constructing our own new fiber, we provide new facilities and 12+ strands of dark fiber connectivity into those communities. This will dramatically expand the bandwidth available to last mile providers over simply leasing existing fiber or using lit fiber services from incumbent carriers. Perhaps more importantly, tying K-12 schools into this infrastructure can provide significant benefits to tens of thousands of students in a state that consistently ranks 45th or worse on most educational metrics. This network will serve one of the most economically distressed regions of what the U.S. Census Bureau has characterized as the poorest state in the nation. In an economically challenged area such as Mississippi, long-term investments in infrastructure are critical but the return on those investments can take decades to be realized. To date, this has prevented the private sector from building out the infrastructure this region so desperately needs. The cities and towns InLine has proposed to serve have few incentives to offer new industrial development or to retain existing jobs. This infrastructure can breathe new life into the economic development efforts of a region that desperately needs it. At a time when manufacturing is increasingly locating in the Deep South, but only where the required infrastructure is present, broadband access is one of the key factors in creating jobs and economic prosperity. Through our partnerships with SCMCEED, MDOT, and others, we establish public-private partnerships that enable those entities to deliver services they would otherwise be unable to deliver today. From distance learning that expands educational opportunity to intelligent traffic systems that save lives and make our roads more efficient, this project will dramatically change the region through these cooperative efforts. InLine's project has the support of several community colleges who have already demonstrated their confidence in InLine with successful past projects. InLine will provide much needed new bandwidth to both these facilities and the communities they serve. This is why our project has letters of support not only from these entities, but also from the South Central Mississippi
Consortium for Educational Excellence and Development associated with the University of Southern Mississippi and representing 31 districts. The proposed network will have a broad public safety impact, from connecting local first responders to the deployment of supporting infrastructure for ITS in support of MDOT. We have committed to providing both special pricing for connectivity for these local government entities as well as special provisions for inter-entity connectivity to support applications such as remote video surveillance and fire monitoring. While not a direct part of this grant, InLine has already begun discussing using this network to bring to the region its proven experience with mobile wireless data for first responders from projects such as ITS America’s 2008 'Best of Show in ITS Innovation' award ITS project on the Highway 90 corridor in coastal Mississippi. InLine's commitment to dark fiber availability, number of POI, and our policies regarding splice points have already gleaned the support of several entities to provide last mile service using the proposed network. InLine's proposed network is made up of a broad service area extending along the I-20 corridor through Mississippi in Leake, Newton, and Lauderdale counties as the northern border, South along I-55 nearly to the Louisiana state line, and east to Jones and Forrest counties. This will provide 635 miles of new fiber covering 16 counties, with an approximate population of 778,000 and 56,000 businesses. In addition, our network will provide broadband connectivity to 170 K-12 schools and community colleges, 6 hospitals, and 5 public safety agencies, allowing them to improve the functioning of their mission. Having examined the options for serving this broad rural area, with its limited existing infrastructure, InLine has determined that the first priority for the region is the development of a core infrastructure of multi-gigabit fiber arteries and laterals interconnecting critical facilities within the communities. This fiber infrastructure will create 228 potential POI, enabling our last-mile partners to provide access to unserved portions of the area and improve access to underserved areas as well. We will initially deploy 4 GBps backbone links but with only changes in the electronics we will be able to scale this to 400 GBps today and even more as technology advances. This validates one of the key values to building our own fiber infrastructure. InLine will provide multiple service tiers across the network with access speeds ranging from 10 to 1000 MBps. Because of InLine's extensive datacenter and managed services experience, we intend to offer a wide variety of value added services over the network on a single bill and contract period. These services include such items as managed e-mail with anti-spam, web hosting, cloud desktop and server services, managed backup and disaster recovery, and technology management services. InLine has extensive experience deploying video over IP technologies as one of the largest providers of distance learning in Alabama and Mississippi for the last 5 years. We will assist public sector clients to use the network to deliver services such as distance learning, video arraignment, telemedicine, live web streaming and many others. InLine's network will be designed to provide for interconnection with competitive providers. The proposed network is designed in such a way that additional strands of dark fiber will exist and allow potential competitors to buy access to our infrastructure and provide access to last-mile service providers for improved quality and speed of service throughout the region. InLine's network management practices comply fully with the nondiscrimination and network openness obligations as outlined in the Notice of Funding Availability. InLine has designed its proposed network with an expected construction cost of $25,906,278, and we project a total subscriber count within 36 months of rollout of 202 K-12 sites, community colleges, and other key community anchor institutions, including local government, public safety agencies, and hospitals. The construction of the proposed network is expected to create 91 direct job-years and 194 indirect or induced job years. InLine is a
licensed CLEC and minority-owned small business based in Birmingham, AL with regional offices in Montgomery, AL and Jackson, MS in the PSA. InLine has a facilities based network. Founded in 1992 as a professional services firm, InLine has a 17 year record of growth as the leading Total Solutions Provider (TSP) in Alabama and Mississippi, offering Internet services, information technology products, and end-to-end solutions to small, medium, and large businesses and government agencies. InLine maintains a presence in over a dozen Central Offices and Co-Location facilities across both states delivering and supporting thousands of voice and data circuits using a variety of broadband technologies. InLine also manages thousands of local and wide area networks for nearly a thousand customers. InLine also maintains interconnection agreements with CLECs and ILECs that let it provide service across the entire region. InLine has constructed multiple wired and wireless networks, with speeds up to 4000 Mbps, using its own middle and last mile infrastructure that cover over 1200 square miles in AL, MS and TN. We believe this experience clearly demonstrates our readiness to deliver this project in a professional and sustainable fashion.