This project proposes to use the federal stimulus funding to build and complete an optical broadband infrastructure to deliver high capacity Internet and traditional SONET services from the major metropolitan areas of the Phoenix and Tucson metropoles to the rural communities in the southeastern region of Arizona. Eighteen rural communities and towns including, Superior, Miami, Globe, Fort Thomas, Pima, Thatcher, Wilcox, Benson, Oracle, San Manuel, Mammoth, Hayden, Winklemann, Kearny, Florence, and the San Carlos Apache Reservation communities of San Carlos, Peridot, and Bylas are expected to receive the benefits of this from this project. These communities are located in Maricopa, Pinal, Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Pima counties of southeastern Arizona. The network infrastructure will pass 22,487 households, 1,948 businesses, and be capable of serving over 92 community anchor intuitions. The network infrastructure will provide greatly needed middle-mile transport of Internet and traditional SONET services to the rural communities, the mining industry, health care, education, and government agencies, offering high-capacity access to Internet service providers and voice carriers where current services are inadequate, unreliable, or non-existent, qualifying these rural areas as unserved or underserved areas. The equipment and access points for the network will be placed in existing building facilities and new pre-fabricated huts along the fiber routes. Last mile service providers will have an opportunity to access the network infrastructure at the equipment access points where demarcation equipment will also be placed. The broadband infrastructure project will deploy a standards based dense wave division optical multiplexing (DWDM) / reconfigurable optical add-drop multiplexer (ROADM) equipment to provide broadband transport services. The equipment systems will have the day one capacity of 400 Gbps through forty separate optical wavelength channels at 10 Gbps per channel, through a RODAM using multi degree optical phasing and amplification between the network nodes. Triplet Mountain Communications, Inc. (TMCI), the operating entity for the project, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of San Carlos Apache Telecommunication Utility, Inc. (SCATUI). SCATUI is the independent local operating company for the San Carlos Apache Reservation, east of Globe, Arizona, established in 1984 that provides Internet, voice, and video services to their subscribers. TMCI operates as a competitive local exchange carrier, established in 2004 and provides broadband Internet, video, voice and transport services outside the boundaries of the San Carlos Apache Reservation. The broadband infrastructure project in tales leasing dark fibers along existing routes and the construction of new buried fiber plant to create a diverse path protected fiber ring network connecting the rural communities. The overall costs of the project is expected to be $22,844,460 and will serve approximately 69,463 Southeastern Arizona residents.
creating an estimated 144 new jobs due to the construction and operation of the broadband infrastructure network.