Applicant Name: COASTCOM, INC.

Project Title: Coastal Oregon Middle Mile (COMM) Broadband Partnership

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Executive Summary

Problem Statement: Each of the proposed project areas to be served under this grant application have traditionally depended on economies based on farming, fishing, logging, and tourism. Over the last ten years community leaders have recognized that these economies continue to erode based on a number of growing factors such as increased housing prices, loss of jobs, and environmental factors that are diminishing job growth in these natural resource based job markets. 

a) Tillamook Lightwave (TLW), CoastCom, Inc. and LS Networks are submitting an application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for a Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant. This application is being submitted as a Public/Private Partnership, to fund a Middle Mile Infrastructure Project to bring an open access fiber network to the under served rural central Oregon Coast. These Oregon entities listed above have made investments for the benefit of our local communities for over five years. Our partnership created a vision and has demonstrated capabilities to execute and deliver broadband services prior to stimulus funding. The availability of economic stimulus funds now provides the opportunity to accelerate our vision to the benefit of our fellow Oregonians.

Current Network Landscape: CoastCom is a private entity formed in 1999 and became an Oregon CLEC by authorization of Oregon PUC on October 25, 2001, for the purpose of providing high speed telecommunications to communities on the Oregon Coast. Since its inception, CoastCom has been providing ethernet transport and Internet services to key community anchor institutions such as local government, health care, educational, and businesses to coastal communities on the Oregon coast from Astoria to Reedsport.

Future Opportunities: Fifty-seven key government and public entities have been identified as anchor institutions and community support entities for this grant proposal. These entities include community colleges, cities, counties, emergency services, tribal offices and many others. Each of these entities has made a commitment to this project and is ready to make the leap to the future of broadband delivery.

b) Our project will serve eighteen communities located on the rural Oregon Coast within Tillamook and Lincoln County. In each of the communities that this grant will serve, a key strategy is building and supporting technology that expands high wage / high skill jobs, affords access to higher education training (on-line access) for schools and community members, development of innovative economic models, and provides the opportunities of supporting rural health care. The communities that this project will serve are suffering from an average unemployment rate of 10.4% which is currently higher than the national average of 9.7%. The anchor schools listed in this partnership (Nestucca Valley School District) serve students who have a free & reduced lunch count of 69.7%. Current health care providers in the proposed service area lack access to robust health care informational systems. Our health care providers currently have to refer many of their patients into urban centers because of lack of expertise
that could be obtained through the enhanced technology delivery system proposed in this project. The urban centers are a minimum 2-3 hour drive through narrow mountainous roads and can be very hazardous for our patients to travel during the winter months. c) Households: 29,496 Businesses: 5,694 d) Schools (k-12): 1 Libraries: 1 Medical and Healthcare Providers: 6 Public Safety Entities: 17 Community Colleges: 2 Public Housing: 0 Other Institutions of Higher Education: 2 Other Community Support Organization: 8 Other Government Facilities: 20 e) Ethernet transport and Internet access via fiber optics, copper EFM circuits and wireless broadband services (via Vanir Broadband). f) CoastCom manages its network in accordance with the FCC's Internet Policy Statement adopted on August 5, 2005. CoastCom does not discriminate or favor any lawful Internet applications, content, or services where lawfully used and promotes the ability of our customers to freely access and disseminate lawful content in a manner that respects others' use of the network and that complies with the law. CoastCom supports industry practices for safeguarding children, intellectual property rights of others and our customer's privacy and security. CoastCom follows standard best efforts for Internet delivery with respect to allocation of capacity without differentiation among application, providers and sources. Generally accepted technical measures to provide acceptable service levels to all customers will be used by CoastCom, such as application-neutral bandwidth allocation, as well as measures to address service attacks, illegal content and other harmful activities to protect network integrity and reliability. Further, CoastCom supports the following Internet principles of the FCC: To encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet, consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice; to run applications and use services of their choice, subject to the needs of law enforcement; to connect their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network; and are entitled to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers. g) Fiber Optic backbone and laterals utilizing Ethernet IEEE 802.3 h) CoastCom, Inc. and LS Networks are private entities, both Oregon corporations with Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) authority to operate as Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLEC), and both in the business of providing high speed telecommunications to communities in Oregon. LS Networks is a statewide network provider and CoastCom, Inc. provides services on the Oregon Coast. Both companies specialize in providing services to key community anchor institutions, such as local government, health care, educational, and business entities. TLW is an intergovernmental agency comprised of Tillamook County, Port of Tillamook Bay, and Tillamook PUD, who has constructed a fiber network in portions of Tillamook County. In September 2005, CoastCom was awarded the contract to be the network service provider for the TLW Network. TLW's mission is to build fiber optic infrastructure in Tillamook County to promote economic development and bring Tillamook County across the digital divide. This communications infrastructure will enable both the private sector and government entities access to affordable broadband connectivity. All three of the entities have a long-standing good relationship, having been partners for several years. i) $24,270,073 j) Directly Served by Applicant: Community Anchor Institutions: 73 Households: 0 Businesses: 114 Third Party Service Providers: 7 Served by Proposed Network Via Third Party Service Provider: Community Anchor Institutions: 563 Households: 3149 Businesses: 735 k) Direct job-years: 77 Indirect job-years: 92 Induced job-years: 95