Executive Summary

a) Opportunity The Delaware Digital Connection project seeks to address the lack of access to affordable broadband services for the underserved citizens of the state of Delaware by leveraging the existing broadband infrastructure of the DTI-managed state network in such a way that offers substantially upgraded service to community anchor institutions, incorporates a public-private partnership, reaches economically distressed areas, community colleges, and public safety entities. DTI's 2005-2007 Strategic Plan lists IT availability & Reliability and Collaborative solutions as the state's top technology priorities. DTI is charged with 'continuously improving the delivery of excellent services.' DTI continues to build, maintain and improve these statewide mission critical services, and extend their reach to benefit the public. DTI is also charged with the promotion and facilitation of the sharing of IT resources and practices. DTI was designated by Governor Markell as the representative for the state in the NTIA State Broadband Data and Development program, and was awarded $1.6 million. The project is currently underway, in full compliance, and on target to meet NTIA delivery requirements. DTI also submitted two applications in NOFA Round 1. DTI has legislated limits to how it delivers services to the public.

Specifically, Title 29 of Delaware State Code established the Department of Technology and Information to, among other duties, "Implement statewide and interagency technology solutions, policies, standards and guidelines as recommended by the Technology Investment Council on an ongoing basis and the CIO, including, but not limited to, statewide technology and information architectures, statewide information technology plans, development life cycle methodologies, transport facilities, communications protocols, data and information sharing considerations, the technique of obtaining grants involving the State's informational resources and the overall coordination of information technology efforts undertaken by and between the various State agencies; (3) Provide operations and production support to ensure the efficient and reliable operation of the State's computer and telecommunications network." (Title 29, '9004C (2)), and as amended on April 2, 2003: "The General Assembly finds and declares that the growth of private enterprise is essential to the health, welfare and prosperity of the State of Delaware and that government, in certain instances, can compete with the private sector in providing goods and services to the public. It is the intent of the General Assembly and the purpose of this Act to promote economic opportunities for private industry and to prevent unfair competition by State government and enhance the provision of public goods and services by capitalizing on expertise in the deployment of information technology." Under these guidelines, DTI does not have the option to offer broadband service connections to citizens or businesses that compete with service offerings from private sector carriers. Given this limitation, this project seeks to extend the public-accessible services available on the state network into the areas that were not otherwise feasible without federal assistance. As noted, the
existing network encompasses state and state-related facilities. This project would provide access to
every resident in Delaware to the video services proposed over this broadband network. b) Service areas
This project encompasses three Proposed Funded Service Areas across all three Delaware counties (New
Castle, Kent, and Sussex). Each PFSA was formed by aggregating contiguous Census Tracts around one of
more of the 19 Service Locations, each accessible by the public and within a reasonable distance. The 19
locations consist of 13 libraries, 2 schools, 1 public housing facility, 1 community center, 1 state service
center, and 1 historically black university. c) Number of households and businesses The primary purpose
of this project is to leverage the existing state network to the benefit of the households in the proximate
area of the defined Service Locations. The 19 Service Locations are in state or state-related buildings
from which this project will offer public services based primarily on video connectivity. In aggregate, the
project includes 123 Census Tracts, 205,621 households, and a population of 546,340. d) Number of
community anchor institutions, etc. The project directly involves 19 locations consisting of 13 libraries, 2
schools, 1 public housing facility, 1 community center, 1 state service center, and 1 historically black
university. More broadly, the state-managed network includes video-enabled services at many locations
where high-volume usage offsets travel costs and improves personnel productivity. These locations
include state offices, libraries, public safety organizations, and Delaware's Emergency Operations
Center. For example, the Department of Labor provides computers for public use to aid job seekers and
with unemployment insurance needs. The Delaware Division of Libraries provides public use computers
for general web access. A related BTOP application (EGID #4843, Delaware Library Job/Learning Labs)
has been filed by the Delaware Division of Libraries under the Public Computing Center category to
expand the number of computers available for public use. Lastly, the video gateway services provide the
capability to connect outside the state network to other organizations such as health care, local police,
etc., including expanding the capability of public safety organizations to coordinate efforts during large
incidents or emergencies. e) Proposed services and applications This project will extend the video
network to locations in order to provide access to broadband-based services to more Delaware citizens,
especially those facing challenges in connecting from their homes. In addition to extending the reach to
those areas, the core infrastructure will be upgraded to allow greater inter-connectivity inside and
outside the state network. The combination will deliver a valuable capability that will benefit the state
directly and indirectly. A total of 33 room-sized video conferencing units will be installed at 19 locations,
and a total of 123 E-20 desktop video units at 14 locations. The E-20 units are equipped with special
features for use by the deaf, and 110 of them will be installed at the Sterck School for the Deaf. All of
the units can be employed for 1-to-1, 1-to-many, or many-to-many communications. The gateway
equipment will provide for multi-party video conferencing. f) Nondiscrimination and interconnection
obligations There are no new network interconnections or new middle mile or last mile infrastructure
added. This project will fully comply with the nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations
required under the BTOP program. g) Type of broadband system The state’s existing broadband network
is fiber based using both state-owned fiber and Verizon's Transparent LAN Services network. The video
equipment used IP transmission protocols. h) Qualifications of the applicant DTI, the state's central IT
organization, has successfully managed the entire state network for over 10 years, and completed a
major upgrade from a T-1 Frame Relay to the fiber TLS network over the past 5 years. DTI provides
technology leadership to enable its customers to communicate, exchange information and provide
services to the citizens of the State of Delaware securely and efficiently. DTI continuously evaluates
emerging technologies and implements those services which will benefit our customers and in turn their customers. DTI currently manages the state's existing video-conferencing network successfully. This project is an extension of that network. i) Overall infrastructure cost The project exploits the existing state broadband network; therefore, there will be minimal change in the carrier-related cost of the broadband system. Similarly, the core and premise networking switching equipment will have minimal change. The core video gateway equipment upgrades and new end-point equipment will be procured under existing competitively bid state contracts. The costs consist of hardware, software, and professional implementation services. j) Overall expected subscriber projections Because the project leverages the state's existing broadband network, and there is no middle mile or last mile infrastructure for public access, there will be no expected subscriber changes. k) Number of jobs estimated to be created or saved Project-related job-year estimates for DTI are ___ and for Tandberg are ___. Job-year estimates for out-year support are ___ and ___, respectively. Based on the Council of Economic Advisors methodology, indirect job-year estimates are ____ and induced job-year estimates are ____.