Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:**  JKM CONSULTING, INC.

**Project Title:**  Project BEAR (Broadband for East Alabama Region)

**Project Type:**  Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

_______________________ Executive Summary _______________________

M2 (M Squared) Connections, a division of JKM Consulting, Inc was established in 1998. M2 Connections provides process and project management of telecommunications services, specializing in fiber optic facilities. We understand the need for modernizing infrastructure as a necessary part of the foundation for long term economic stability and prosperity. Therefore we respectfully submit the following broadband infrastructure program, 'Project BEAR' (Broadband for East Alabama Region) in order to expand a partner network as a composite of fiber optic facilities and wireless base stations. This project's efforts will ensure that the greatest broadband speed is provided to the greatest population of users at affordable rates, as set forth in the Recovery Act. The broadband infrastructure for Project BEAR is multi-county and identifiable in eight service areas. The areas served by this project contain a minimum of 52,612 households, 3,707 businesses and 91 strategic institutions. In alignment with the Recovery Act, Project BEAR will connect five medical facilities with managed broadband services for health information technology to improve the quality and coordination of health care in east Alabama. Six libraries, one located in a high-risk community, will increase current capacity to 100Mbps enhancing the opportunities for community awareness and training as well as after-school programs. Each library facility has additional goals for this broadband enhancement. Project BEAR will help supply comprehensive, modernized technology to several educational institutions, thus providing teachers, parents and students with resources needed to support academic achievement and growth. One example of the innovative educational opportunities will be provided through the infrastructure connection to the Anniston Museum of Natural History and the Berman Museum. Through collaborative efforts, vulnerable populations will have access to extended learning options during classroom time. This will include similar programs for after school and community service facilities. Project BEAR’s focus on educational technology services will help to ensure long-term success by training the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers. The infrastructure will deliver broadband to six community centers, increasing the quality of after-school and homework programs for students and parents in vulnerable, areas. Current law enforcement programs in the service areas have limited access to broadband data networks. Incorporating wireless base stations will allow access to broadband in rural areas for city and county law enforcement and other emergency responders. In Clay County, the new system will provide mobile broadband access to all public safety entities of this rural community. The fiber infrastructure will connect educational institutions such as the Success Academy and Jacksonville State University (JSU) into the local network. JSU's connection will expand the potential for educational advancement to all county and city schools on the network, including the juvenile education facilities of Coosa Valley Youth Services. JSU's connection will also facilitate the establishment of a regional hub for the statewide
ACCESS network, reducing access costs and allowing additional schools to connect at higher speeds. Talladega College, Alabama’s oldest historically black, Liberal Arts College in the historic district of downtown Talladega will be an additional educational institution as the network extends into Talladega County, along with Central Alabama Community College campus in Talladega. In the rural area of Randolph County, Southern Union State Community College will contribute space in their computer center and connect to Project BEAR for increased bandwidth capacity. M2 Connections is committed to following Nondiscrimination and Interconnection Obligations as defined by the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and the principles contained in the FCC’s Internet Policy Statement (FCC 01-151). Information contained herein will be included in network and operations on the company website.

Network architecture includes fifteen Points of Interconnection for connecting with other service providers at reasonable rates. Network best practices will be utilized for the protection of the network. The broadband infrastructure system for Project BEAR will be a composite of 176.8 miles of fiber optic facilities with OC48 optronics to the network and six (6) WiMax base stations. These stations will be strategically positioned to provide broadband access to rural areas currently unserved and underserved in Calhoun and Clay counties. These stations will reach pockets of residents in low-income areas, as well as residents isolated by current and former military facilities, large tracts of national forest and rugged terrain. M2 Connections will implement, manage and operate the broadband infrastructure network through qualified telecommunications personnel, contractors and via wholesale arrangements with established mass market services providers such as MainStreet Broadband and James Cable, LLC. Senior management of M2 Connections have extensive experience building, managing and operating telecommunications companies that encompass CLEC, cellular and PCS networks, as well as, ISP offerings and state of the art data centers throughout the southeastern United States. The overall cost to implement this project is $8,199,737. Utilizing data from the project budget, the expected subscriber projection would include 15% of the residence in the last mile portion. Business projections include 3% of the market share. Anchor Institution projections include 29% of the market share. Utilizing the formula consistent with the CEA (Council of Economic Advisors) guidelines, Project BEAR will be creating or saving an estimated 68 jobs through the infrastructure project for the east Alabama region.