Executive Summary

Alpha Technology Group, Inc., recognizing the industry's demand for trained and certified Broadband Cabling Installation Technicians, as well as the need for a more comprehensive approach to the delivery of cost-effective, hands-on instruction in the telecommunications systems and broadband cabling arenas; will offer a host job skills training, educational and recreational courses. There are numerous product specific 'overview' seminars, which are typically geared for the experienced cable technicians. However, there are few programs that provide comprehensive, hands-on training for individuals without any experience; particularly in support of the vulnerable populations. Already the demand for trained and certified cabling technicians is high. A greater emphasis is being placed not only the skills of the technicians, but having 'certifications', as well. Many Government and Commercial cabling infrastructure requirements are now requiring the contractor's technicians to be 'certified'. The Broadband Stimulus Program's numerous Infrastructure awards in Round 1 and the additional expected Infrastructure awards in Round 2, while certainly enhance the need for trained and certified broadband cabling professionals. Our request for funding involves the creation of sustainable avenues for individuals and technicians of all levels to obtain detailed and extensive job preparation, job maintenance and career development skills; along with high-demand technician training. Directly tackling one of the Recovery Acts overall purposes of preserving and creating jobs, our programs will lay the foundation, not just for a job, but for long-term careers in the broadband and other industries. Our programs will give vulnerable populations (e.g. low income, unemployed, minorities, veterans) a cost-effective and viable opportunity to obtain high-paying jobs and participate in the enhancement of broadband services in their own 'neighborhoods', and/or around the globe. We are collaborating with Prince George's Community College, Prince George's Workforce Services Corporation, Knowledge Learning Solutions, LLC and Technology Alliance, LLC, to establish two broadband technician training centers and a public computer center. Via our collaboration efforts, we will provide access to career, professional, workforce development and recreational courses; via on-site and on-line seminars. The use of broadband technology helps facilitate a broad spectrum of training opportunities. Providing low-cost access to our services will expand the level of expertise and readiness of the target vulnerable populations for obtaining and/or sustaining critical jobs. Our funding request includes eighty (80) free 'vulnerable population' cable technician training slots - immediately stimulating job opportunities for them. We will work with Prince George's Community College, Prince George's Workforce Service Corporation and other agencies throughout the Region in identifying 'vulnerable population' candidates for the 'free' slots. The Community College is providing space for one of the training facilities and funding a minimum of 200 students per year through our program. Funds will be used to obtain space; acquire the tools and
equipment to set-up the second BiCsi-certified training facility; and to hire and certify additional instructors. ATG's corporate staff has extensive experience in the telecommunication systems and cable infrastructure design, installation, operation, maintenance and training arenas. Funds will also be used to set-up a PCC, not just for public access to high-speed internet access, but to support access to numerous on-site and on-line training courses, as well. Members of our management team have already been involved with the establishment and success of a similar cable technician training and certification facility. Our Lead Instructor for this effort has over 25 years of industry experience, is a BICSI-certified Trainer and has taught numerous industry-specific courses. We are using the BICS certification as our platform to our Broadband Technician Certification Program; since they have already shown that their cable training and certification courses and facility certification process is replicable and scalable. Integrating the College's existing computer courses and our cabling technician courses, we intend to broaden the skills of both the computer and cable technicians' leading to the establishment of a Broadband Technician Certification Program. Our e-learning programs, career development courses, and our technician training, certification and upgrade skills programs will help over 400 people begin and/or sustain careers in the broadband technology arena each year. The overall costs of our proposed project is $1,261,620.00.