

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: AccessPlus Communications, Inc.

Project Title: Western Massachusetts

Project Type: Last Mile Non-Remote

Executive Summary

AccessPlus Communications is a Massachusetts corporation which has been doing business in western Massachusetts for over six years. During that period, AccessPlus has developed an extensive network that includes a middle mile fiber optic network which carries both SONET and Ethernet services, a licensed wireless backbone network, multiple ILEC collocations, and residential wireless ISP services. We believe that we currently operate the second largest network in the region behind the Verizon ILEC network. In the spring of 2009, AccessPlus engineered and installed the wireless ISP network for the Town of Warwick and then extended that network into the towns of New Salem and Wendell. This network uses the AccessPlus backhaul from our mountain top radio network to bring Tier 1 Internet bandwidth into these rural towns. Individuals in these towns receive the Internet service over a Motorola Canopy 900Mhz system. As a provider of "Carrier's Carrier" high capacity circuits and end-user Internet services, AccessPlus already has the following components in place:

- A full HP Openview based remote monitoring system with servers in Springfield and Harwich Massachusetts.
- 24/7 call service and remote call-out capability
- Trained technicians
- 4 Wheel drive vehicles for accessing the mountain top locations year round
- A carrier class collocation room in 1 Federal Street, Springfield (this is the primary carrier meet location in all of western MA)
- A OC-48 SONET ring connecting 1 Federal Street to the Global Crossing and Qwest national backbone node in Westfield, MA
- 450Mbps of licensed microwave bandwidth already operating to mountain top locations in western Massachusetts from Springfield, MA
- 300Mbps of licensed microwave bandwidth already operating to the town of Washington (tower) from Pittsfield, MA

AccessPlus proposes to utilize grant funds to expand the existing wireless final mile network to numerous towns in western Massachusetts. The initial towns chosen are either un-served by any carrier or only slightly served by Verizon DSL. This round 1 grant request is consider just the first step in servicing the underserved towns. We feel that the network can be built for the proposed costs and that the number of subscribers is conservative. It is hoped that additional regions can be added with Federal grants as this network becomes profitable. The owners of AccessPlus have a combined 65 years of experience in the wireline and wireless telecommunications.