This project is being proposed by Dedicated Fiber Systems, Inc. ("DFS"). Over the past fifteen years, DFS has earned a strong reputation as the premier carriers' carrier. This reputation has been built on integrity and customer satisfaction. Today, with over 100 miles of installed base fiber optic cable in the greater Jacksonville metropolitan area, DFS is the largest Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) in Northeast Florida providing dark fiber services to both carriers and end users. Customers have come to trust DFS's capabilities in providing cost-effective wholesale and retail fiber solutions to help them succeed in today's competitive marketplace. For fifteen years DFS has been providing premier middle and last mile fiber services to Inter-Exchange Carriers, Wireless Carriers, CLECs, LECs, ISPs, ESPs, Wi-Max and Wi-Fi Providers, Content Providers, and Cable companies. DFS has installed a resilient, diverse network consisting of three major rings which span across the major metropolitan areas of Northeast Florida. Our business relationships with other network partners enable us to serve our customers with even greater reach. Additionally, DFS provides complete middle and last mile construction services for major carriers in the Northeast Florida market. Through these services we manage projects to create the right network for our customers, regularly customizing diversity and redundancy into the right fiber solution for our customers' business needs. Our construction division provides project support from initial consultation through implementation and we pride ourselves on providing superior customer support through on-time, on-budget delivery of fiber installations. Throughout our history, customers have come to trust our resilient networks, on-time service delivery and our focus on customer satisfaction. DFS continues to strengthen our network in an effort to meet the overall growth demands of the market. Our network infrastructure includes: 'Fiber Optic Infrastructure extends over 105 miles all owned by DFS' 'Point-to-Point circuits' 'Rings with separate entrance and egress at carrier hotels' '100+ building entrances' 'Within lateral distance of 500+ businesses' 'Access for six colleges and 21 libraries' 'Service capabilities at six major hospitals' The purpose of this project and the associated grant request is to expand high bandwidth middle mile connectivity on new fiber-optic routes in Northeast Florida, to add interconnection points on existing DFS fiber-optic routes and to upgrade fiber counts on existing DFS rings. It is anticipated that construction will initially consist of installing 288 strains of dark fiber as well as overbuilding existing fiber runs in order to provide a ubiquitous network of 288 available dark fibers. The new fiber rings will interconnect with exiting rings in a concentric topography so as to enable multiple ring configurations will still maintaining the integrity of a redundant network for customers. Two of the proposed rings will service economically disadvantaged urban areas while another ring will complete an existing access provided for a rural telecommunications provider. The interconnection points will be equipped with optical monitoring technology to provide failsafe services.
to community anchor institutions as well as connection to last mile projects in those areas. The new facilities are capable of providing up to ten gigabit Ethernet Wavelength services that are highly adaptable to the needs of business and public anchor institutions requiring very large symmetric bandwidth capacity. DFS adheres to the FCC guidelines for non-discrimination in the provision of interconnection to its network and access provided to information providers. On our network, consumers are entitled to run applications and use services of their choice, subject to the needs of law enforcement. DFS represents the only ubiquitous dark fiber CLEC in Northeast Florida and as such DFS does not favor any Internet applications over another. In fact, the DFS network enables customers an extremely flexible capability when interconnecting with Long Distance Voice and Data Carriers and with Internet Providers. The DFS network allows consumers to connect to our fiber via their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network. We believe consumers are entitled to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers. DFS has an established process for negotiating interconnection at our collocation sites and currently connects with other carriers throughout our network. We believe the proposed project will have a significant positive economic impact on the areas served. Dark Fiber enables provision of high bandwidth services which are adaptable to numerous public institution applications such as distance learning, telemedicine, hospitals, schools, libraries and higher education. The capacity and flexibility of the DFS network is also ideal for serving carrier customers such as wireless providers as well as WiMax and wireline last mile projects. At an estimated cost of approximately $16.2 million, we anticipate this project will also provide substantial benefits through job creation both as a result of the infrastructure build-out, enhanced access to hosting facilities driving demand for jobs needing technical and network skills and expansion of DFS support and Network Operations staff.