Executive Summary

IT&E seeks funding to provide greater access to broadband services by directly meeting the needs of education, health, public safety and local government administrative agencies in the Marianas region. The Marianas is home to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), two territories of the United States of America. As will be demonstrated, the Marianas region must deal with unique challenges that arise out of our isolation. The proposed fiber-optic network will ensure reliable broadband capacity to support technologies necessary for our public safety agencies to execute their duties and responsibilities for preparing and responding to emergency situations, such as natural disasters and situation of public distress. The region has fallen victim to some of nature's most destructive forces. Typhoons, earthquakes and ensuing tsunamis have devastating impacts on growth and advancement within the communities representing the Marianas. Guam and the CNMI are geographically isolated from the United States which hinders economic, education and communication growth. Each island territory relies on a limited base of constituents to fund social services, such as education, restricting investments in technology. Limited technological advancements are evident in education, health and public safety. This serves to continually intensify a disparity in-between what these communities require to become self-sufficient and what is currently available for technological support. The demands upon education, health care and public safety organizations remain unfulfilled. Organizations serving these needs require a robust, interoperable, broadband network tailored for and dedicated to educators, health care professionals, first responders and other government administrative agencies. These organizations are restricted by networks that: are not operable; do not offer a variety of access capabilities; are not capable of providing simultaneous voice, video and data services; are not capable of managing high levels of traffic and cannot provide priority access to public safety when ultimately necessary. The Proposed Funded Service Areas (PFSAs) for this project include the insular areas of Guam and the CNMI, which represent the Mariana Islands. The islands are located in the Micronesian area of the Oceania within the North Pacific Ocean. There are more than thirty communities within Guam (19) and Saipan (21) that will be impacted through the proposed plan. The two PFSAs have experienced downturns in their respective economies through multiple factors impacting top industries. Higher than average poverty levels further compound the economic woes of these areas. Based on multiple data sets both Guam and the CNMI qualify as Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones) by the Small Business Administration. Statistics from the 2000 U.S. Census counted these totals for Guam which will all be included in through network coverage: 154,805 Total Population, 38,769 Households, 3,143 Businesses (provided in 2005 Economic Survey), and 224 Institutions. Statistics from the 2000 U.S. Census counted these totals for the CNMI which will all be
included in through network coverage: 62,392 Total Population, 12,507 Households, 1,191 Businesses (provided in 2005 Economic Survey), and 81 Institutions. The purpose of this project is to provide a typhoon-proof, survivable, self-healing fiber optic middle-mile broadband backbone with an LTE wireless overlay for some last mile service, serving community anchor institutions in underserved and economically disadvantaged areas of Guam and the CNMI. Specifically, the project will provide the capability to implement private and public metropolitan networks to 274 existing anchor institutions and service providers within the Mariana Islands using multiple types of broadband transport technology operating on buried fiber optic cable. The 274 existing anchor institutions include schools, both public and private, minority-serving community colleges and universities, libraries, hospitals and healthcare providers, community service organizations, youth centers, public safety organizations including law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and airport and port security organizations, and organizations that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to vulnerable populations including the aged, unemployed, and low-income sectors of the population. Additionally, in order to promote broadband services and demand IT&E will continue to abide by non-discrimination and interconnection obligations as covered within the Network Openness portion of the application. IT&E follows the open standards as described by the FCC. IT&E was acquired by PTI Pacifica in 2008. Combining operations provided a great chance to serve the markets of Guam and the CNMI, under the consolidated brand of IT&E. IT&E and PTI Pacifica have been long time providers of quality services to the Mariana Islands. IT&E combined to form a premier provider within the region and is an employer of choice. IT&E actively seek out opportunities to keep residents of these insular communities connected. Recently, IT&E collaborated with network providers in more than 230 countries to offer customers a worldwide network for their cellular services. This is a first amongst the service providers within the Marianas. Because of economic declines and lingering uncertainties it can be easy to overlook the opportunities to serve local needs that help people stay connected. IT&E leads initiatives to offer quality services and reinvest in the community through job creation, training programs promoting career development, and key sponsorships to community organizations. IT&E now seeks to leverage this funding opportunity to serve the public. IT&E is ready to implement a targeted plan based on understanding the needs and goals of residents, the experience in providing supportive services, and a proven track record of project coordination matching needs with solutions. IT&E has assemble a very strong team to execute this project, led by its contracting partner Raytheon Company. Raytheon is a technology and innovation leader specializing in defense, homeland security and other government markets throughout the world. They have a proven track record of implementing multi-agency communications and information systems and large construction projects for the FAA, DoD, Public Safety, government IT agencies and other customers. Raytheon is using a solid team of subcontractors to execute the program. For the civil works Parsons and Dick Pacific both are among the top construction and management firms in the country. Ericsson is a leader in LTE and optical network implementation. This team consists of best in breed providers focused in key areas of expertise to ensure successful project execution. A total of subscriber projection of 35753 is estimated with 29186 on Guam and 6567 on Saipan. The project impacts a total of 1,476 jobs. A total of 531 induced jobs, 75 direct jobs, and 870 indirect jobs are affected. This application meets all 7 key objectives of NOFA 2. The project implementation cost consists of a grant request for $89,687,079, in-kind and cash match of $46,131,967 for a total project value of $135,819,049.