Applicant Name: MIDDLEBURGH TELEPHONE COMPANY, THE

Project Title: ION - MIDTEL - Rural ILEC Middle Mile and Last Mile, Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Plan

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

_______________________ Executive Summary ____________________

The ION - MIDTEL - Rural ILEC Middle Mile and Last Mile, Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Plan is the next step in the development of Broadband in New York State. When ION wrote its Round 1 BTOP application for the opportunity to bring a new vision for revitalization into Upstate New York, we were excited to just be part of that historic process. With the success of that application has come a responsibility for ION to be a leader in this effort and this natural role for ION is what is driving this new joint application. Three of the rural ILEC’s in New York; MIDTEL, MTC CABLE and WESTELCOM have brought forth a plan built on best practices and 100"s of years of experience, for their area communities to utilize the foundation of the Round 1 middle mile ION award. It is projects like the one spelled out in this proposal that take every opportunity and use every resource to truly build something that will change these communities forever. This comprehensive broadband expansion initiative will connect nearly 600 anchor institutions and 50 communities to the ION - MIDTEL - Rural Partners Infrastructure, with the development of an exciting replicable model "last mile" plan and key "middle mile" projects. For the first time in a long time, NY State is poised for significant economic growth that will offer the state a chance to thrive in the 21st century. No longer can we depend on large companies to drive the entire economic process in our communities and states; we instead need every company to drive our country"s economic growth. The mass layoffs in the last economic downturn and the fact that jobs continue to move overseas for economic reasons has taken a visible and economic toll on our nation, especially in the areas where these companies are located and their employees live. However, we have an amazing entrepreneurial country, with small business quietly driving the economy throughout most of our states, and NY is a perfect example of this. Small business is the biggest economy in the state and we have to do whatever we can to support their existence and survival. We have the opportunity to connect companies and critical community facilities to a world of resources, employees, products, and information, to help sustain and grow them. Today, and in the future, even our most rural communities need to be global. The key to our country"s success is connecting ourselves to each other via vast broadband pipes and using our nation"s resources to develop this highway of fiber. The "middle mile" expansion and significant outreach in the "last mile" components of this project will bring; 30 K-12 schools, 15 colleges, 9 libraries, 50 public safety, 10 public housing entities, 175 healthcare institutions, 126 Community support organizations, and 162 Government facilities broadband services of a quality that has never been available to them, and it will be served in an affordable and reliable way. An immediate benefit of this expanded transport capacity is enabling public broadband access to economically disadvantaged individuals and families. This project and the partners involved have the
skill and organizational experience to deliver a significant change in community climates. Because of strong community partnerships and the dedication of these partner companies to serve rural communities, the success of this project will mean more than incremental change. This expanded network will reach several economically depressed areas and the provision of broadband access to these communities offers opportunities that can help address existing conditions of academic deficiency, economic hardship and in many cases rural isolation. The partners intend to leverage the BTOP Round 1 investment into ION to build out "last mile" projects covering every home along the way and to further develop the "middle mile" infrastructure deeper into the most rural parts of upstate New York. ION and its partners want to be the catalyst for bringing the ARRA's mission and vision to fruition in NY, and the intent of this proposal is to go beyond the expectation of the Round 1 award and use it to bring critical infrastructure to a firm reality. The expectation of the stimulus bill is to create new jobs, save existing ones, and spur economic activity and growth. This proposal will assist in the creation of more than 9400 jobs, and will bring broadband infrastructure into regions that are ready to use it. The infrastructure, combined with incorporating its robust use in the rural communities we serve, is an investment in long-term growth. To honor the terms of the grant and the future of the people we serve, this will be done with total accountability in all our efforts. As an extraordinary case in point in this partnership project, ION will serve the Luther Forest Technology Campus (LFTC), the linchpin in an economic development strategy that is helping to transform upstate New York into a global technology hub. As GlobalFoundries builds its new $4.2B chip development and manufacturing facility at the campus, the entire region is benefiting through the creation of thousands of high-value tech jobs and billions of dollars of new capital investment in the state. The technology infrastructure that will be built with these broadband funds is essential to allow GlobalFoundries and other tenants at the campus to connect with their regional and global partners. The project directly improves the ability for the NY to attract companies from around the world. The Global Foundries component of the LFTC project has 1700 direct or induced construction jobs, over 1000 equipment facility supplier jobs, 1465 high paying high-tech jobs, and 4395 induced jobs. In addition to the LFTC, the ION middle mile construction will also benefit numerous companies, educational institutions, and research organizations throughout upstate NY; organizations like NYSERNet, the College of Nanoscale Science, Rensselaer Polytechnic Technology Institute and their Computational Center for Nanotechnology Innovation, NYSERDA's STEP Park, IBM Research, and Sematech. Additional connections are being made to 7 more Bassett Healthcare sites located in rural areas of the state. The Bassett Healthcare system, employs 260 physicians, 3,000 staff, and provides critical services in rural communities to over 750,000 people. In an unprecedented move, two of the partners, MIDTEL and MTC Cable are crossing traditional boundaries and working together to build out 100% of Schoharie County, strategically situated in the bottom tier of NYS Tech Valley region with tremendous potential for true economic growth. The FFTP project's high speed capabilities will attract individuals and families to the county in support of the jobs the tech industry is creating. This industry is blossoming under the leadership of the LFTC, and the 1000"s of new high tech jobs, which brings an opportunity to move New York into the future with cutting edge technology industry. Counties such as this, that have good schools, excellent healthcare, (Bassett Healthcare system), and great quality of life, are poised for the opportunity to flourish again. Westelcom, situated as the northern most tier of Tech Valley, will build middle mile networks to allow further growth into the North Country region, and will connect and serve some of the most rural regions within the state. The whole project will connect these
areas of the state together and create a powerful economic project tied to thousands of jobs. While not receiving funding as part of this project, NYSERNet (NYS Educational & Research Network), a non-profit entity chartered to bring robust connectivity to the colleges and research institutes throughout the state, will utilize ION's newly constructed infrastructure to connect to LFTC and NYSERDA, as well as all of the colleges served in this application. For a quarter century NYSERNet has provided advanced network services to many anchor institutions in the state. With 224 letters of support, from the congressional delegation, local-regional-state political delegation, local-regional-state development agencies, workforce improvement councils, private and public colleges, healthcare providers, last mile service providers, equipment and construction vendors, and many more, attest to their belief in the impact that this project will have on the State and our citizens. New York leaders and economic development advocates have worked hard to build a new state economy that is based on knowledge, technology and innovation. The ION - MIDTEL - Rural ILEC Middle Mile and Last Mile, Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Plan broadband network will be a valuable asset in continuing that effort and will attract additional high-tech companies to the state and will help drive economic growth throughout the entire project areas.