**Executive Summary**

THE HENRY COUNTY, GEORGIA FIBER PROJECT FOR THE PROVISIONING OF ADVANCED BROADBAND SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. The Henry County Fiber Project

A. Quality of Life and Local Infrastructure - In the past, one of the fundamental missions of municipal entities such as Henry County, Georgia (the 'County' or 'Henry County') has been to establish, maintain, and improve local infrastructure to promote the quality of life for local citizens. While the passage of years can sometimes cause many daily conveniences to be taken for granted, municipal officials often determine that the capitalization and deployment or construction of infrastructure to be in the best interest of their community and its citizens. Municipal officials allocate resources to construct and maintain such infrastructure as roads, bridges, sidewalks, and more recently, fiber optic based broadband networks. In each case, decisions to provide these various components of local infrastructure have been generally based upon the desire to serve a public need and/or demand.

B. The Henry County Broadband Alliance - The Henry County Broadband Alliance, representing Henry County, the Henry County Board of Education, Connected Henry, the Henry County Development Authority, the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority, the Henry County Hospital Authority, the Henry County Chamber of Commerce, the City of Hampton, the City of Locust Grove, the City of McDonough, the City of Stockbridge, Central Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, Snapping Shoals Electric Membership Corporation, and Rural Broadband, LLC (collectively the 'Broadband Alliance') has been formed to address the broadband services needs of Henry County and to facilitate the provisioning of advanced broadband services through the development of a state-of-the-art fiber optic network.

C. The Henry County Fiber Project - In cooperation with the Henry County Broadband Alliance, Rural Broadband, LLC ("Rural Broadband") has developed this broadband service provision plan to assist in the process of converting the advent of technological advancements and regulatory freedoms into financially sound decisions and policies designed to enhance the local infrastructure and quality of life for the citizens of Henry County. To enable Rural Broadband to accomplish its objectives while protecting core services and resources, Rural Broadband has provided information necessary to support the development of a technically advanced fiber optic broadband network (the 'Broadband Network') that is both cost effective and capable of satisfying market demand (the 'Henry County Fiber Project'). This plan incorporates information associated with facility-based broadband services provisioning opportunities and represents a significant step in the progressive efforts undertaken by the Henry County Broadband Alliance to enhance the local infrastructure in the Henry County Service Area to allow for the provisioning of advanced broadband services to government agencies and commercial consumers.

II. The Broadband Services Opportunity

A. The Commercial Broadband Services Opportunity - Rural Broadband has the
opportunity to assist the Henry County Broadband Alliance in achieving stated long-term objectives of enhancing local infrastructure while keeping service fees reinvested locally and improving the quality of life for local residents in the Henry County Service Area through supporting the development of a broadband services platform to accommodate the internal needs of members of the Henry County Broadband Alliance while serving commercial customers and establishing a platform for the ubiquitous provisioning of services through the establishment of backhaul to facilitate the deployment of 700 MHz based longer term evolution (‘LTE’) wireless services. To allow these services to be provided, the Henry County Broadband Alliance intends to develop a Broadband Network which will be capable of meeting the needs of the governmental, educational, medical, and commercial sector for advanced high-speed data and other services in the Henry County Service Area. B. Operating Expenses, Revenues, and Efficiencies - Investing in its own infrastructure and bringing new broadband service options to Henry County will: (a) allow members of the Henry County Broadband Alliance to reduce recurring operating expenses, efficiency and productivity of existing operations; (b) create operating efficiencies which will serve to sustain the long term viability of the Henry County Fiber Project; and (c) create opportunities to derive broadband services based revenues from commercial customers. C. Economic Growth Opportunity - As another primary justification for the Henry County Fiber Project, members of the Henry County Broadband Alliance intends to promote the Broadband Network as a facilitator for commerce and economic growth as existing local businesses and businesses seeking to expand or locate in the Henry County Service Area are provided access to an enhanced fiber optic based broadband infrastructure which can accommodate the specific needs of commercial enterprises. D. The Educational Opportunity - Distant learning global educational resources educational opportunities will be made available to the Henry County Board of Education and other educational facilities and between those facilities in the community through the expanded fiber based communications capabilities through the development of the Henry County Fiber Project. E. Medical Care - The Henry County Fiber Project will enable telemedicine capabilities to be incorporated into the day-to-day operations of Henry County medical facilities to enhance the health care available to the community. III. Project Overview - The broadband services provisioning plan anticipates that the Henry County Broadband Alliance will oversee the capitalization, construction, and operation of a $14,100,000 180+/- mile all optical fiber-to-the-premise (‘FTTP’) network to 270 sites developed over a period of eighteen (18) months to provide the following services in the Henry County Service Area. High Speed Broadband Internet Access Local & Wide Area Telecommunications Networking Fiber Optic Transport Utility Management Wireless Backhaul to 700 MHz LTE Services IV. Broadband Network Architecture - This broadband services provisioning plan incorporates a FTTP passive optical network (‘PON’) Broadband Network architecture. The FTTP architecture refers to an all-optic network with fiber optic cable deployed from the network operations center (‘NOC’) facility directly to the customer premise. The all fiber FTTP network benefits include improved service quality, capacity, reliability, scalability, interactivity, flexibility, lower operating costs, and an extended operational life of the infrastructure. The FTTP approach minimized the need for active electronics and switching. V. Conclusion The Henry County Broadband Alliance feels that it is imperative to the growth and stability of their communities to have access to a technically advanced broadband infrastructure, therefore, they are electing to construct and operate their own infrastructure to meet the needs of their communities. Without pursuing a similar initiative, it is likely that Henry County may not have access to or realize the benefits from a comparable level of fiber optic based
broadband technology and associated services for many years to come. The Henry County Broadband Alliance has been formed to expand the relationships of the entities represented beyond rights-of-way and facilities based arrangements to leverage into new distribution channels for providing broadband services. The Henry County Broadband Alliance includes well established, experienced long standing service providers in the community with existing support infrastructures to provide superior services to government agencies and to end user customers as the foundation for a very strong, sustainable operation that will serve the community for many years to come. The Henry County Broadband Alliance has established relationships with customers through the long standing provisioning of existing services and also owns and has access to the right-of-ways in the community. In addition, members of the Henry County Broadband Alliance have existing office facilities, warehousing, and personnel that will be employed in the development and operations of the Broadband Network. The long term economic impact of this 'community directed' project and investment in the community will be significant.