

## **EXHIBIT: PROJECT STATUS DESCRIPTION**

### **I. INITIAL STATEMENT**

VTel Wireless, Inc. (the “Carrier”) provides this final Project Status Description of its Mobility Fund Phase I-supported project to provide fourth generation (“4G”) long term evolution (“LTE”) mobile service to unserved or underserved areas in the State of Vermont. The Carrier has completed expansion of its network infrastructure in order to provide 4G LTE mobile voice and data service to Tract T50019951700, study area code 148024, for which it was authorized to receive support March 11, 2016, and received the first disbursement March 31, 2016.<sup>1</sup> Carrier is providing service to 81.91% percent of the road mileage within the awarded SAC, based on Carrier drive test results, meeting the coverage requirement of Section 54.1006(b).<sup>2</sup> USAC is in the process of coordinating its own third party drive-testing to verify Carrier coverage.

### **II. NETWORK DESIGN**

#### **A. Technology**

Carrier is fulfilling its Mobility Fund Phase I service obligations using 4G LTE technology in the awarded census tract. Carrier is providing voice and data services over its network.

#### **B. Network and Network Components**

The foundational network described in Carrier’s Form 680 has been constructed, and consists of wireless sites operating throughout Vermont. As central components of the network Carrier has installed a 4G LTE wireless core that serves all of its licensed areas, along with a VoLTE-IMS core.

Coverage in the awarded census tract is achieved by utilizing a mixture of “macro” cell sites and “micro” cell sites. Carrier has now commercially deployed VoLTE mobile voice service, which required significant investment, as Carrier’s deployment of VoLTE integrated with E911 on a 4G/LTE-only network was an industry first. Incorporating the additional VoLTE drive-testing results, Carrier’s SAC-specific coverage solutions provide an outdoor minimum of 768 kbps of data downstream and 200 kbps of data upstream to handheld mobile devices.

#### **C. Spectrum**

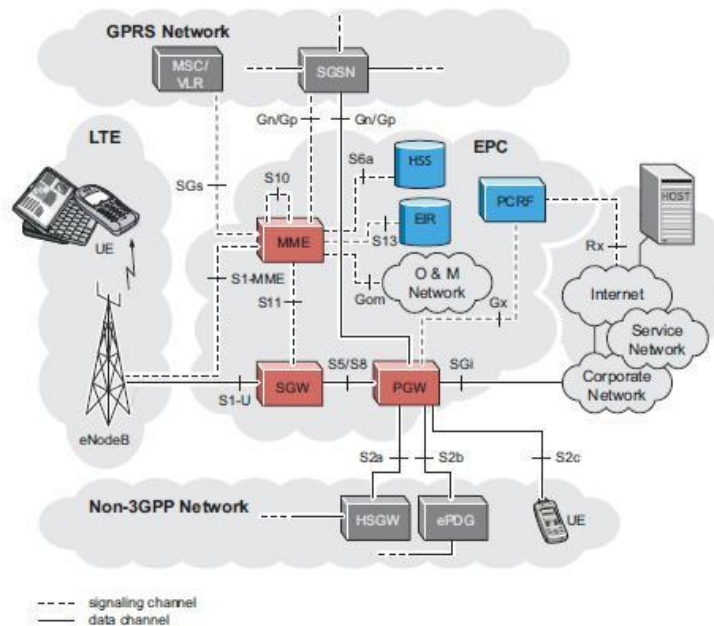
The Spectrum Access Exhibit of Carrier’s Form 680 long-form application detailed the spectrum licenses and the type of spectrum used to deploy 4G LTE service in the authorized census tract. In sum, Carrier provides 4G LTE service to the SAC using 700 MHZ C Block 4G LTE carriers, which employ 5 x 5 MHz of paired spectrum within a 6 x 6 MHz license allocation. Carrier supplements the 700 MHz coverage with AWS spectrum, which provides additional capacity where available and where needed if 700 MHz is not sufficient.

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<sup>1</sup> See Mobility Fund Phase I Support Authorized for 11 Winning Bids, Public Notice, DA 16-215 (rel. March 11, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.1006(b)

**Figure 1: Network Design**



### **III. CONSTRUCTION, DEPLOYMENT, AND MAINTENANCE**

Construction of Carrier's 4G LTE network in the State of Vermont has been completed, as explained above. Carrier has completed drive testing to verify coverage, as detailed in the coverage and performance data attached to the Form 690. Carrier has processes and vendor relationships in place for maintenance of sites and equipment as necessary to serve the authorized tract as part of its overall statewide network maintenance.

### **IV. PROJECT BUDGET**

The total budget for the project is approximately \$75,950 for the SAC, with the SAC-specific budget attached separately in Carrier's Form 690 filing. Because Carrier has leveraged its statewide 4G LTE network to serve the authorized census tract, the Mobility Phase I funds awarded for the tract are sufficient to complete this project. The costs that the Mobility Phase I funds will be used to cover include the RF analysis, engineering, administration, drive-testing, IMS core components, handset research, development, and deployment, equipment licensing and deployment, integration of voice on 4G LTE data, and legal and regulatory compliance costs.

### **V. PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Carrier completed buildout of the project and submitted coverage verification materials to USAC ahead of the March 11, 2016 construction deadline in accordance with the requirements of 47 C.F.R. § 54.1006(b), to provide service within three years after the date on which it was

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authorized to receive support. USAC completed data validation of Carrier coverage materials, and is in the process of coordinating its own third party drive-testing to verify Carrier coverage.