



March 3, 2014

**Letter – Expression of Interest
VIA ECFS**

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Jonathan Chambers
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW 20554
Washington, DC

**Re: Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Experiments
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners, and Mr. Chambers,

This letter is to express RFC Broadband, Incorporated’s interest in receiving funding from the Rural Broadband Experiments announced at the January 30th FCC Open Meeting.

Background

Company Name: RFC Broadband, Inc.

Location: Dickson, Tennessee

History: RFC Broadband is proud to be a part of the WDKN 1260 AM and 101.5 FM family. Locally owned and operated by R & F Communications, Inc., a certified minority owned company; our focus is on connecting our business community and connecting people. We are committed to Dickson County and surrounding communities and delivering high quality broadband internet service. Why give your money to a giant corporation owned elsewhere when your dollars can stay at home and help the local economy? With our state-of-the-art broadband equipment, we can provide broadband Internet access to those who may not have previously been able to get it. Now, with RFC Broadband, the people of Dickson County, including those in rural areas, have a way to get high speed, broadband Internet access at an affordable price. Our goal is to serve our neighbors who need high speed internet access and have no viable options.

Services: Broadband Wi-Fi internet with expansion to offer Telecommunications Service in the future.

Number of subscribers: We have established a pre-order system and currently have over 50 pre-orders for our March 2014 launch time.

Goals for the future: The company goal is to provide broadband services to include surrounding counties. Our services will expand to become an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the future. Due to the lack of access to broadband in our target area, our company believes it’s beneficial to begin by building its broadband services to Dickson County and surrounding counties.

Community Partners: Our community partners include The City of White Bluff Tennessee, City of Van Leer Tennessee, and Dickson County School System.



Geographic Territory

RFC Broadband, Inc. is targeting the areas listed below for broadband and Telecommunication services offered by the company.

- "TN", "47043", "Dickson", "47043060100", 866, 11, 255524.95
- "TN", "47043", "Dickson", "47043060200", 494, 4, 130120.54
- "TN", "47043", "Dickson", "47043060300", 68, 6, 18055.33
- "TN", "47043", "Dickson", "47043060401", 30, 5, 18274.3
- "TN", "47043", "Dickson", "47043060402", 165, 1, 51659.96
- "TN", "47043", "Dickson", "47043060501", 35, 0, 12340.43
- "TN", "47043", "Dickson", "47043060502", 12, 0, 5112.71
- "TN", "47043", "Dickson", "47043060601", 35, 1, 10326.42
- "TN", "47043", "Dickson", "47043060602", 162, 2, 60701.4
- "TN", "47043", "Dickson", "47043060700", 272, 10, 79071.06
- "TN", "47081", "Hickman", "47081950100", 706, 13, 255731.99
- "TN", "47081", "Hickman", "47081950200", 282, 8, 99084.6
- "TN", "47081", "Hickman", "47081950301", 642, 52, 260201.21
- "TN", "47081", "Hickman", "47081950302", 323, 6, 132722.13
- "TN", "47081", "Hickman", "47081950400", 717, 85, 308540.48
- "TN", "47081", "Hickman", "47081950500", 554, 49, 240663.77
- "TN", "47083", "Houston", "47083120100", 133, 8, 135510.85
- "TN", "47085", "Humphreys", "47085130100", 804, 26, 296182.13
- "TN", "47085", "Humphreys", "47085130200", 507, 56, 182022.93
- "TN", "47085", "Humphreys", "47085130300", 123, 3, 38289.55
- "TN", "47085", "Humphreys", "47085130400", 1149, 67, 458644.76

Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Status.

RFC Broadband, Inc. is diligently working with our consultant to identify potential partners who currently have ETC status.

List of Anchor Institutions

RFC will be working with the following anchor institutions to establish connectivity in our communities. Those listed are our early commitments for this project; we will also be working with volunteer fire departments and other local organizations.

Schools: Dickson County School System

City offices: City of White Bluff Town Hall, City of Van Leer Town Hall

Proposed technology

RFC Broadband will be using Fixed 4G Wireless WiMAX Service Technologies.

Residential

3 Mbps Download

1 Mbps Upload

Residential Subscribers cost: \$49.95

Commercial

6 Mbps Download

3 Mbps Upload

Commercial Subscribers cost: \$79.95

Existing Providers

According to our research and confirmation through Connected Nations Broadband Mapping of Tennessee the majority of these counties are un-served by any provider. The research indicates that 50% of these counties are completely un-served and 20% are underserved.



Project Timeline

This project will take 24 to 30 months for completion to provide coverage across the designed service areas. The investigative phase of the project is underway at present time.

Scalability

During the initial roll out we will be relying on our wireless backhaul between towers/facilities allowing RFC Broadband to launch services into remote areas more effectively. Additionally we will be using fiber optic backhaul strategically where appropriate and available as the network grows to meet the needs of the customer growth. With the technology used we will establish services through our combination network of wireless and fiber optic that will allow us to scale hard to reach locations in each of the respective counties of service.

Total Business Investment

To launch this project RFC Broadband will look at an estimated \$7 million dollars to address the four county areas with a roll out that is strategically designed to take 24 to 30 months.

Investment Needed

The initial funding will provide for the network roll-out across the four counties but the recurring funding will offset the cost for low income customers and make it more affordable for the entire community. This is the ultimate goal of the company to provide affordable broadband wi-fi services to all members of the community regardless of their financial status. Therefore we are requesting at least 80% or \$5.6 million of the funding from the Rural Broadband Trials experiment.

Leveraging Funds

At this time we are exploring the opportunity to coordinate with other projects and leverage funds.

Total Project Cost

The total cost of the project launch is projected to be \$7 million of which 80% or \$5.6 million is being requesting. Additionally, we are requesting recurring funding of \$850,000 per year ongoing to offer subsidized service to verified low income residents.

Thank you for considering our expression of interest in your decision regarding the amount of funding that will be allocated in the Rural Broadband Experiments. We commend the FCC in this effort to connect rural communities and are ready to help you close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Forte

Kenneth W. Forte

President

RFC Broadband, Inc.