



Friday March 7, 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 20024
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 Skywire Fiber and InfoWest’s interest in receiving funding from the Rural Broadband Experiments announced at the January 30th FCC Open Meeting. Skywire Fiber and InfoWest are making this proposal as a joint venture.

Background

The team at SkyWire Fiber and InfoWest have been in the ISP business for the last 20 years. We service around 7000 customers from Beaver Utah on the north to Overton Nevada to the South, Ivins to the West to Hurricane to the East. SkyWire Fiber/InfoWest are based in St. George, Utah.

Geographic Territory

Skywire/InfoWest’s plan is to provide Fiber Optic circuits to Springdale, Rockville , and Virgin town in Utah, and possibly other unserved areas in these tracts in Washington County Utah. The tract ID numbers associated with these locations are as follows: 49053270100, 49053270200 and 4953270300 and there are a total of 254 unserved high cost and 52 extremely high cost locations in these tracts. We are in continuing talks with the Governor’s Office for Economic Development and the Utah Broadband Project to identify specific areas of need within these tracts.

Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Status.

Skywire is currently exploring the process of obtaining ETC status in order to gain eligible to receive CAF funding. Skywire representatives have been in contact with Bill Duncan of the Public Service Commission/ Public Utilities



List of Anchor Institutions

Springdale Town Offices, 118 Lion Blvd. Springdale, UT
Rockville Community Center, 43 E. Main, Rockville, Utah.
Virgin Town Hall, 114 South Mill Street, Virgin, Utah
Zion National Park

Proposed technology

Skywire/InfoWest proposes to provide fiber optic based internet connectivity to government, education, commercial and residential locations within the proposed census tracts.

State and/or Local or Tribal Government Participation in and/or Support for Project

See appendix A for an letter of endorsement for such a project from Stan Smith, Mayor of Springdale, UT.

Existing Providers

Century Link (256k DSL)
AWI Networks (Wireless Transmission)
InfoWest (Wireless Transmission)

Project Timeline

The project timeline is as yet undetermined pending further engineering evaluations.

Scalability

The project would include a redundant fiber optic network capable of supporting large population growth if necessary in the listed areas. Our immediate intent is to provide sufficient bandwidth to support all municipal and tourism economy needs in the listed tracts including but not limited to the hospitality services and other commerce designed to support 3,000,00 plus annual visitors to Zion National Park. The fiber optic infrastructure is capable of supporting broadband internet access as well as IP telephony and IP Video for these areas if the demand arises.

Total Business Investment

Project costs are pending in need of further evaluations from our engineering dept.

Investment Needed

Initial project needs would require only a one-time investment to support commercial ventures and municipal needs. Recurring investment may be needed to support additional



services or greater than expected growth in listed areas.

Leveraging Funds

Skywire/Infowest are investigating other projects that would aid the FCC in leveraging any funds made available if an investment were approved. Possible projects would include providing fiber optic circuits to cellular transmission infrastructure in surrounding areas as well as Toquerville UT.

Total Project Cost

Undetermined

Thank you for considering our Expression of Interest in your decision about 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,

Lynn Beecher
Owner Member
Skywire Fiber LLC



Appendix A:

To whom it may concern,

Springdale is nestled in the mouth of Zion National Park. While its full time residents number roughly 550 people it serves almost 3 million guests from all around the world who visit Zion National Park. The local high school is 30 minutes away in Hurricane, Utah. In a lot of ways we are isolated from the major cities and towns. We have one main road through town which is state route 9. Although we are a small community we have many hotels, restaurants, gift shops and two gas stations that all depend on the tourist dollar for their living. One of the items that the town is in sever need is a fast and dependable internet. Currently we have Centurylink as the main provider which uses DSL to connect. AWI has come in with wireless and has helped with better internet but the majority of the residents still have problems getting onto a fast internet. The hotel and bed and breakfast guests that stay in Springdale are always complaining about the slow internet or the dropped connections that they receive while in Springdale. It seems that even when out in the beauty of Zion National Park people "need" their access to the internet. It is no longer an option as amenity for the guest, but rather a requirement for them to stay. Springdale needs fiber optics to stay in communication with the rest of the world. Springdale is in a canyon so line of sight isn't always an option. Fiber optics is at the beginning of the town, but we now need help in getting it into the town itself.

The National Park Service has asked us to keep them informed also. We share borders with Zion and it would be extremely beneficial to the Park to have fiber optics available to them also. In putting fiber optics into the town of Springdale, the residents, the tourists, and the National Park Service could all see a huge benefit. Zion Superintendent Jim Milestone recently reported in park release report that "Zion's visitation generated an estimated \$152,859,400 and 1,854 jobs to the local communities". Springdale is very dependent on tourism and the fiber optic internet would greatly enhance the tourists that visit.

CenturyLink has over sold the internet capabilities in Springdale. If one wanted new service with CenturyLink they are now being told that they are only able to give them 256k speed. Some residents dropped their 4 and 8 meg download because of the poor service only to find that they could not receive the same speed when they tried to reconnect with CenturyLink

There is a great need for fiber optics for the Springdale. I am searching all avenues to try and get it into the town and hope that you will consider our circumstance and help make the dream of having fiber optics a reality. Please contact me for any questions or concerns you have. Thank you for your time to read this letter.

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Stan Smith
Mayor
Town of Springdale