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Organization:	Nexus Systems, Inc.
Project Name:	Louisiana "Piney Hills" Parishes Broadband Infrastructure Project
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Louisiana
Federal Award:	\$9,163,384

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Community-serving organizations in the north-central region of Louisiana experience inconsistent and uneven access to high-speed Internet services, which has hampered their ability to deliver advanced healthcare, education, and public safety services to local residents, especially those in rural areas near the Kisatchie National Forest. To address these needs, **Nexus Systems'** Louisiana "Piney Hills" Parishes Broadband Infrastructure Project proposes a hybrid fiber and microwave network between Alexandria and Vienna, Louisiana including the construction of 108 miles of new fiber and 90 miles of new microwave links, which will involve constructing one new microwave tower and upgrading 19 existing towers.

The new network intends to extend and interconnect with the \$80.6M BTOP Round One broadband infrastructure project grant to the Louisiana Board of Regents by expanding fiber middle-mile services into an area where five of the seven parishes have been designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as "Persistent Poverty Parishes" in need of economic development and infrastructure investment.

The Louisiana "Piney Hills" Parishes Broadband Infrastructure Project also proposes to:

- Connect as many as 110 community anchor institutions with speeds between 10 Mbps and 1 Gbps, including 67 K-12 public schools, seven public safety entities, 18 libraries, two community colleges, three other institutions of higher learning and, 13 healthcare facilities.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to approximately 55,500 households and 1,800 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Connect K-12 schools and colleges, including Grambling University, to the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative, the state's research and education network that connects to advanced national educational networks Internet2 and National Lambda Rail, to provide distance learning opportunities.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Nexus Systems has been providing broadband services in 19 parishes in northern Louisiana for over 10 years, and has extensive experience delivering services to its customers via both fiber and wireless technologies. Nexus Systems' business model is designed to support an openly competitive, non-discriminatory third party service provider environment through a full range of competitive service offerings. Nexus is a state of Louisiana Public Service Commission licensed Competitive Local Exchange Carrier and licensed telecommunications contractor.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Louisiana Board of Regents

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov.
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