

RECIPIENT NAME: Merit Network Inc.

AWARD NUMBER: NT10BIX5570114

DATE: 08/26/2013

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0660-0037

EXPIRATION DATE: 6/30/2015

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

General Information

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted

Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration

2. Award Identification Number

NT10BIX5570114

3. DUNS Number

615121324

4. Recipient Organization

Merit Network Inc. 1000 Oakbrook Drive
Suite 200, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6815

5. Current Reporting Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

06-30-2013

6. Is this the last Report of the Award Period?

Yes No

7. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.

7a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Certifying Official

Jamie Nielson

7c. Telephone (area code, number and extension)

X

7d. Email Address

jamien@merit.edu

7b. Signature of Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

7e. Date Report Submitted (MM/DD/YYYY):

08-26-2013

Project Indicators (This Quarter)			
<p>1. Please describe significant project accomplishments completed during this quarter (600 words or less).</p> <p>Construction on network infrastructure continued at a rapid pace once the winter weather cleared. Merit began construction in the Bad River Tribe area where the network infrastructure will be passing through. Merit, along with its contractors, placed all huts on their respective sites. Merit has completed work across many Central Office locations and worked to connect community anchor sites to the main fiber line.</p>			
<p>2. Please provide the percent complete for the following key milestones in your project. Write "0" in the Percent Complete column and "N/A" in the Narrative column if your project does not include this activity. If you provided additional milestones in your baseline plan, please insert them at the bottom of the table. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the most recent reporting quarter. Please provide a narrative description if the percent complete is different from the target provided in your baseline plan (300 words or less).</p>			
	Milestone	Percent Complete	Narrative (describe reasons for any variance from baseline plan or subsequent written updates provided to your program officer)
2a.	Overall Project	71	Construction is in full swing for Round 2. Merit has installed a significant amount of infrastructure and will continue construction during the next quarter with the hope of completing construction.
2b.	Environmental Assessment	100	Merit has exceeded our Environmental Assessment costs. We are currently at 637% of original budget. This overage is due to the underestimated line item based on Request For Proposal responses to Merit and unexpected challenges in obtaining clearances in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Since Merit will continue to incur costs related to the Environmental Assessment, Merit is considering a revision to the budget to incorporate the latest estimate of the Environmental Assessment cost at completion, which will be around 641%.
2c.	Network Design	100	Since receiving Merit's Finding of No Significant Impact, Merit has completed the required field engineering. Merit anticipates continued costs for incorporating redlines and doing final CADs. Currently Merit is at 193% of the original budget. A portion of site prep expenses and salary has been included in this category.
2d.	Rights of Way	100	Merit has prepped and submitted many permits so they can be approved as construction crews are deployed. Since receiving the Finding of No Significant Impact Merit has finalized the route and completed most of the engineering work necessary for permit submission. Merit is currently at 136% of its original budget.
2e.	Construction Permits and Other Approvals	97	Merit has prepped and submitted many permits so they can be approved as construction crews are deployed. Since receiving the Finding of No Significant Impact Merit has finalized the route and completed most of the engineering work necessary for permit submission.
2f.	Site Preparation	21	Due to the way Merit has been classifying their expenses, some of these costs are included with Network Design.
2g.	Equipment Procurement	24	Merit ordered and received equipment, and placed some of it in the field. As more of the network is completed, we anticipate placing additional orders.
2h.	Network Build (all components - owned, leased, IRU, etc)	92	Materials are still being ordered as construction continues. Since construction began in late December 2011, Merit has had a large number of crews working across multiple segments each week. It is anticipated that construction will continue at this pace until complete.
2i.	Equipment Deployment	48	Merit has managed the equipment deployment by ordering, receiving, and placing it as needed. As more of the network is completed we will place additional equipment orders and incur more deployment expenses.
2j.	Network Testing	0	Network construction is taking place. Testing will take place as equipment is placed and operational.
2k.	Other (please specify): Staffing, Miscellaneous	38	Now that the project is fully staffed, Merit anticipates gradually coming into line with the Baseline Report by project completion.

3. To the extent not covered above, please describe any challenges or issues faced during this past quarter in achieving planned progress against the project milestones listed above. In particular, please identify any areas or issues where technical assistance from the BTOP program may be useful (600 words or less).

Weather slowed construction progress earlier in the quarter as snow continued to accumulate. Merit contractors also encountered many areas of hard, underground rock which slowed construction. As a result, contractors have had to dispatch workers and equipment to different areas, stretching resources which lead to a slower pace for construction than expected. Merit has also ran into some difficulties with aerial permits in hard rock areas, but Merit is working with the appropriate parties to resolve any permitting issues.

4. Please report the following information regarding network build progress. Write "0" in the Total column and "N/A" in the Narrative column if your project does not include this activity. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the most recent reporting quarter. Please provide a narrative description if the total is different from the target provided in your baseline plan (600 words or less).

Indicator	Total	Narrative (describe your reasons for any variance from the baseline plan or any other relevant information)
New network miles deployed	707	Delays in some of our milestone categories have resulted in holdups in fiber installation. However, once construction is fully underway we anticipate closing the gap between our Baseline Report and the reported totals. Strand miles completed through Q2 2013: 103 Miles (includes purchased infrastructure) Conduit miles completed through Q2 2013: 1093 Miles (includes purchased infrastructure)
New network miles leased	0	No Variance
Existing network miles upgraded	64	Merit purchased existing fiber along the planned route.
Existing network miles leased	0	No variance
Number of miles of new fiber (aerial or underground)	707	Delays in some of our milestone categories have resulted in holdups in fiber installation. However, once construction is fully underway we anticipate closing the gap between our Baseline Report and the reported totals.
Number of new wireless links	0	N/A
Number of new towers	0	N/A
Number of new and/or upgraded interconnection points	0	N/A

For questions 5 and 6 please include information relating to agreements that you are negotiating or have entered into, or that your sub recipient, contractor or subcontractor is negotiating or entered into.

5a. If applicable, please provide the following information with regard to agreements with broadband wholesalers and/or last mile providers as a result of your project.

Indicators	
Number of signed agreements with broadband wholesalers or last mile providers	6
Number of agreements currently being negotiated with broadband wholesalers or last mile providers	0
Average term of signed agreements (in quarters)	80

5b. Please list the names of the wholesale and last mile providers with whom you have signed agreements (100 words or less). Providers:

LYNX Network Group, LLC
 KEPS Technologies, Inc. (D.B.A. - ACD.net) -(Signed contract as of June 30, 2012, will drop off project)
 Boardman River Communications, LLC (BRC)
 CCI Systems, Inc
 Peninsula Fiber Network, LLC (PFN)
 Great Lakes Comnet

5c. What wholesale services are being provided by this project? Please describe below. As an attachment to this report, please provide pricing plans (in \$ per month) associated with each wholesale service provided by your product (100 words or less). Wholesale services description:

No wholesale services are currently being provided.

5d. If you have designated a third party to operate all or a portion of your network, please provide the name and contact information for this third party, indicate if this entity is a sub recipient, contractor, and/or subcontractor, and describe with specificity the portion of your network this this third party operates (600 words or less).

Each sub recipient will own strands in the build depending on the segment/location of the build.

LYNX Network Group, LLC: Chris Barber, PO Box 237 Kalamazoo, MI 49004, Phone: 877.585.5969

Ownership: Northeastern Corridor and Middle Corridor

KEPS Technologies, Inc. (D.B.A. - ACD.net): Kevin Schoen, 1800 N Grand River Ave Lansing, MI 48906, Phone: 877.422.3638

Ownership: All Corridors (ACD had a signed contract with Merit. They will be dropping off the project)

Boardman River Communications, LLC (BRC): Gary John, 1801 Boardman Rd., SW, PO Box 17, South Boardman, MI, 49680, Phone: 231-369-2500, 231-492-5594

Ownership: Northern Corridor

CCI Systems, Inc: Joe Esbrook, 105 Kent Street, Iron Mountain, MI, 48901, Phone: 906-776-2866

Ownership: Northeastern Corridor and Middle Corridor

Peninsula Fiber Network, LLC (PFN): David McCartney, 108 W. Superior, Munising, MI, 49862, Phone: 906-226-2010

Ownership: Northern Corridor

Great Lakes Comnet: Bill Goodfellow, 1515 Turf Lane, Suite 100, East Lansing, MI 48823, Phone: 517-664-1600

Ownership: North Eastern, Middle, and North Corridor

6. Please provide the data according to the type of subscriber. Write "0" in the Total column and "N/A" in the Narrative column if your project does not pass or serve a particular subscriber type. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the most recent reporting quarter. Please provide a narrative description if the total is different from the target provided in your baseline plan (300 words or less).

Subscriber Type	Access Type	Total	Narrative (describe your reasons for any variance from the baseline plan or any other relevant information)
Broadband Wholesalers or Last Mile Providers	Providers with signed agreements receiving new access	0	N/A
	Providers with signed agreements receiving improved access	0	N/A
	Providers with signed agreements receiving access to dark fiber	6	Merit is providing dark fiber to wholesale providers who will in turn offer last mile services
	Please identify the speed tiers that are available and the number of subscribers for each	0	There are no Merit-defined speed tiers available to the current subscribers because they are all project subrecipients who will be creating their own speed tiers based on the equipment they independently install to light their fiber strands.
Community Anchor Institutions (including Government institutions)	Total subscribers served	106	CAI sites that are connected with BTOP funded infrastructure.
	Subscribers receiving new access	48	Will be receiving new access due to the REACH-3MCII project.
	Subscribers receiving improved access	58	All CAI sites that have been connected will be receiving improved access thanks to the REACH-3MCII project.
	Please identify the speed tiers that are available and the number or subscribers for each	1	All 106 are receiving a 1GB connection.
Residential / Households	Entities passed	0	N/A
	Total subscribers served	0	N/A
	Subscribers receiving new access	0	N/A

Subscriber Type	Access Type	Total	Narrative (describe your reasons for any variance from the baseline plan or any other relevant information)
	Subscribers receiving improved access	0	N/A
	Please identify the speed tiers that are available and the number of subscribers for each	0	N/A
Businesses	Entities passed	0	N/A
	Total subscribers served	0	N/A
	Subscribers receiving new access	0	N/A
	Subscribers receiving improved access	0	N/A
	Please identify the speed tiers that are available and the number of subscribers for each	0	N/A

7. Please describe any special offerings you may provide (600 words or less).

None at this time.

8a. Have your network management practices changed over the last quarter? Yes No

8b. If so, please describe the changes (300 words or less).

N/A

9. Community Anchor Institutions:

Using the table below, please provide a list by service area of the community anchor institutions (including Government institutions) connected to your network as a result of BTOP funds. Figures should be reported for the most recent reporting quarter only (NOT cumulatively). Also indicate whether your organization is currently providing broadband service to the anchor institution. Finally, provide a short narrative description with examples of how institutions are using BTOP-funded infrastructure (300 words or less).

Institution Name	Service Area (town or county)	Type of Anchor Institution (as defined in your baseline)	Are you also the broadband service provider for this institution? (Yes / No)	Narrative description of how anchor institutions are using BTOP-funded infrastructure
Alpena Regional Medical Center-Ossineke	Alpena, MI	Medical and Healthcare Providers	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona Educational Service District (AMAESD)	Alpena, MI	Schools (K-12)	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Baker College Automotive-Lake City	Lake City, MI	Other Institutions of Higher Education	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Michigan Works!-Oscoda(Mio)	Mio, MI	Other Community Support Organizations	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Mio-AuSable Schools	Mio, MI	Schools (K-12)	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
North Country Community Mental Health	Gaylord, MI	Medical and Healthcare Providers	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.

Institution Name	Service Area (town or county)	Type of Anchor Institution (as defined in your baseline)	Are you also the broadband service provider for this institution? (Yes / No)	Narrative description of how anchor institutions are using BTOP-funded infrastructure
Norway-Vulcan Area Schools	Norway, MI	Schools (K-12)	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Ogemaw District Library	Rose City, MI	Libraries	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Osceola County	Reed City, MI	Other Government Facilities	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Posen Consolidated Schools	Posen, MI	Schools (K-12)	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Solomonson Branch Library	Norway, MI	Libraries	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
St. Ignace Area Schools	St. Ignace, MI	Schools (K-12)	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Lake Superior State University	Sault St. Marie, MI	Other Institutions of Higher Education	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Baker College-Cadillac	Cadillac, MI	Other Institutions of Higher Education	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.
Northwest Michigan Council of Governments-Cadillac	Cadillac, MI	Other Community Support Organizations	Yes	This institution is connected to BTOP funded infrastructure to provide broadband connectivity to the anchor site.

Project Indicators (Next Quarter)

1. Please describe significant project accomplishments planned for completion during the next quarter (600 words or less).

In the next quarter, Merit anticipates completing lower peninsula construction as well as upper peninsula fiber. Merit will be looking to begin testing fiber in the lower peninsula and if possible, the upper peninsula. Merit will start any warranty work that is needed to repair issues that are discovered while testing. Merit will be looking to light any remaining anchors who have not been fully connected to the network. Merit plans to apply for a no cost extension to extend the performance period of the award to ensure the completion of the project. Merit is not currently planning a budget modification for the REACH-3MCII project.

Estimated number of miles to be deployed during the quarter: 250

Estimated number of CAI's to be connected during the quarter: 15

Estimated number of Broadband wholesaler/last mile provider agreements to be signed during the quarter: 0

2. Please provide the percent complete for the following key milestones in your project. Write "0" in the Planned Percent Complete column and "N/A" in the Narrative column if your project does not include this activity. If you provided additional milestones in your baseline plan, please insert them at the bottom of the table. Unless otherwise indicated in the instructions, figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the next reporting quarter. Please provide a narrative description if the percent complete is different from the target provided in your baseline plan (300 words or less).

	Milestone	Planned Percent Complete	Narrative (describe reasons for any variance from baseline plan or any other relevant information)
2a.	Overall Project	86	Merit expects construction to continue at full speed. The Finding of No Significant Impact was received approximately two (2) quarters behind the projected date thus many of our key indicators are also two (2) quarters behind.
2b.	Environmental Assessment	100	Merit has exceeded our Environmental Assessment costs. We are currently at 637% of original budget. This overage is due to the underestimated line item based on Request For Proposal responses to Merit and unexpected challenges in obtaining clearances in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Since Merit will continue to incur costs related to the Environmental Assessment, Merit is considering a revision to the budget to incorporate the latest estimate of the Environmental Assessment cost at completion, which will be around 643%.

	Milestone	Planned Percent Complete	Narrative (describe reasons for any variance from baseline plan or any other relevant information)
2c.	Network Design	100	Since receiving Merit's Finding of No Significant Impact, Merit has completed the required field engineering. Merit anticipates continued costs for incorporating redlines and doing final CADs. Merit anticipates spending to continue in the next quarter in this category, with the overrun being absorbed by another category. Merit anticipates spending continuing in the next quarter and will be around 212%. Some project salary has been applied to this category.
2d.	Rights of Way	100	Merit has prepped and submitted most permits for approval as construction crews are deployed. Since receiving the Finding of No Significant Impact Merit has finalized the route and completed the necessary engineering work. Merit anticipates being near 137% by the end of next quarter.
2e.	Construction Permits and Other Approvals	100	Merit has prepped and submitted most permits for approval as construction crews are deployed. Since receiving the Finding of No Significant Impact Merit has finalized the route and completed the necessary engineering work.
2f.	Site Preparation	37	Merit anticipates additional spending in the coming quarter as sites are being completed as backbone fiber passes by.
2g.	Equipment Procurement	39	Merit is ordering additional optical equipment and anticipates being at budget by project completion.
2h.	Network Build (all components - owned, leased, IRU, etc.)	100	Merit has contracts with seven (7) construction firms, each with multiple construction crews, and is continuing aerial construction and underground construction across the funded network. Merit anticipates continued spending during the next quarter and will likely be over budget. The overrun should be able to be absorbed into another category.
2i.	Equipment Deployment	58	Merit has been behind our Baseline Report due to delays in the start of construction. However, with construction actively underway, our engineers will be field testing completed fiber, and spending in this category will increase. Merit will be at or close to budget by project completion.
2j.	Network Testing	20	Merit has been behind our baseline due to delays in starting from construction. However, with construction actively underway, our engineers will be out in the field testing completed fiber, and spending in this category will increase. Merit will be at or close to budget by completion.
2k.	Other (please specify): Staffing, Miscellaneous	50	The project is now fully staffed and Merit anticipates a gradual alignment with the Baseline Report by project completion.

3. Please describe any challenges or issues anticipated during the next quarter that may impact planned progress against the project milestones listed above. In particular, please identify any areas or issues where technical assistance from the BTOP program may be useful (600 words or less).

Rock Bore construction could continue to be an issue over the remaining areas of construction, but Merit will work with the contractors to generate a strategy to reduce construction time line impact. Merit will be working with municipalities and any other parties that are still needed to issue permits for the construction to take place. Merit will be working with the contractors to make sure construction work is completed in Green Bay as easily as possible.

