

<p>1. Recipient Organization (<i>Name and complete address including zip code</i>) University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences / 4301 W. Markham St. / Little Rock, AR 72205</p>	<p>2. Award Identification Number NT10BIX5570102</p>
<p>3. Performance Narrative (Q1) <i>Please describe your project activities and progress for the first quarter of 2010. This should include a description of federal expenditures to date, key milestones, the primary activities needed to accomplish those milestones, significant project accomplishments, and any delays or challenges. Please use the milestone categories provided in your baseline report (e.g., environmental assessment, design, rights of way) to structure your answer. (500 words or less)</i></p> <p><i>Overall Project</i> The Arkansas Healthcare, Higher Education, Public Safety, and Research Integrated Broadband Initiative was assigned a project start date of August 1, 2010 and announced August 19, 2010. Within the first month-and-a-half of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences' (UAMS) BTOP efforts, several steps were either launched or accomplished that lay the foundation for planning and eventual deployment of the integrated network. <u>In the third reporting quarter, there were no expenditures and, therefore, no draw downs requested.</u> The "grant team" as referenced in this response comprises members of University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and sub-grantee Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON).</p> <p><i>Environmental Assessment (EA)</i> The grant team met with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to discuss the environmental implications of fiber construction. The grant team began devising a request for proposals (RFP) for an environmental consultant to perform the EA. With the great expanse of the proposed network, the six-month EA completion requirement may present a challenge in future months.</p> <p><i>Network Design</i> A current network design for UAMS' FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program award is currently underway with a contracted company, which comprises 309 sites also included within the UAMS BTOP proposal. An RFP has been prepared that calls for the network design of additional sites proposed exclusively through BTOP. Collectively, the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program network design and the BTOP network design will mesh to create an integrated statewide network.</p> <p>The grant team initiated a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process for selecting an engineering firm that will have the responsibility for detailed fiber route and site design, project management, construction oversight, as well as the Environmental Assessment. Eight firms responded.</p> <p><i>Rights of Way</i> The grant team contacted the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Commission regarding the rights of way contributed for the fiber construction indicated within the BTOP proposal. These rights of way were contributed as in-kind match by the Commission and will be secured in a future reporting quarter by a 20-year, long-term lease-hold agreement.</p> <p><i>Construction Permits and Other Approvals</i> No construction permits or other approvals were attained during the third reporting quarter.</p>	

Site Preparation

No site preparation was undertaken during the third reporting quarter.

Equipment Procurement

No equipment procurement was undertaken during the third reporting quarter.

Network Build

No network building activities were undertaken during the third reporting quarter.

Equipment Deployment

No equipment deployment activities were undertaken during the third reporting quarter.

Network Testing

No network testing activities were undertaken during the third reporting quarter.

Other

The grant team prepared job postings for the Project Director, 6 Project Managers, and 3 Video IT Network positions in the third reporting quarter, which closed in the fourth reporting quarter.

The grant team worked toward the satisfaction of the project's Special Award Conditions for Matching Funds, with the final necessary documents submitted in the third reporting quarter.

The grant team began the process of collecting information for UCCs required of its in-kind match.

4. Performance Projections (Q2)

Please describe your anticipated project activities and progress for the next quarter. This should include a description of federal expenditures, key milestones, the primary activities needed to accomplish those milestones, significant project accomplishments, and any potential delays or challenges you foresee. Please use the milestone categories provided in your baseline report (e.g., environmental assessment, design, rights of way) to structure your answer. (500 words or less)

Overall Project

In the provided report, all instances of budget categories reference the baseline report. Moreover, the "grant team" will include the director and managers to be hired in this quarter alongside earlier referenced members.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

An engineering firm selected via RFQ will be hired to perform an EA of leased and fiber routes, while beginning route and prefabrication site planning in parallel with the EA. Draw down funding will be needed to purchase services from the engineering firm conducting the EA during the fourth reporting quarter, as found within "engineering fees."

Network Design

The leased circuit network design RFP and the fiber network design RFP will be announced, and qualified contractors will be selected. By the close of the fourth reporting quarter, it is anticipated the network designs will be in their earliest stages of development and will not require draw down during the fourth reporting quarter.

Rights of Way

No rights of way activities will be conducted during the fourth reporting quarter.

Construction Permits and Other Approvals

No construction permits and other approvals are anticipated in the fourth reporting quarter.

Equipment Procurement

The grant team will prepare and release an RFP for an equipment vendor(s) that will be responsible for providing interactive video equipment. Equipment will not be procured during the fourth reporting quarter.

Network Build

While no construction will take place in the fourth reporting quarter or prior to EA completion, the grant team will release an RFP to acquire Indefeasible Rights of Use (IRU) for fiber routes throughout the state. These IRUs will be funded through “*construction.*” The fiber engineering firm selected by RFQ will initiate negotiations for private easements for fiber construction and prefabricated hut placement beginning in the fourth reporting quarter. The grant team will also initiate an RFQ process to select a construction management firm that will act as the general contractor for the construction of fiber and prefab site preparation.

Equipment Deployment

No equipment deployment is anticipated; however, equipment will be contributed as in-kind match in the fourth reporting quarter, as funded through “*equipment.*”

Network Testing

No network testing is anticipated in the fourth reporting quarter.

Other

The grant team will oversee the hiring of a Project Director, Program Managers, and Video IT staff. Funding to support personnel is found within “*administrative and legal expenses.*”

The grant team will begin meeting with the key organizations that comprise network to undertake preparatory measures for network deployment. In-state travel costs will be required to visit partners throughout Arkansas. Funding to support travel is found within “*administrative and legal expenses.*”

The UAMS BTOP website will be launched, <http://www.uams.edu/cdh/btop>.

One challenge will require a change order: The fiber portion of the project will request reallocation of funds to hire two Network Engineers needed to manage fiber build-out.

Travel costs from Little Rock to Washington, DC, for six individuals will be drawn down during the fourth reporting quarter to attend the BTOP Recipient Conference. Funding to support this expense lies within “*administrative and legal expenses.*”

5. 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.

5a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official

5c. Telephone (*area code, number and extension*)

Suzanne Aktari

(501) 686-8845

Programs	5d. Email Address sealstadt@uams.edu
5b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official Suzanne Alstadt	5e. Date Report Submitted (<i>Month, Day, Year</i>) 10/28/2010