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Organization:	Contact Network, Inc.
Project Name:	South Central Mississippi Broadband Infrastructure Project
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Mississippi
Federal Award:	\$ 20,725,022

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Contact Network plans to collaborate with key state agencies, including the Mississippi Department of Transportation and various public safety entities, in a public-private partnership to expand high speed Internet access in underserved areas of 16 counties in southern and central Mississippi. The project proposes to build 635 miles of fiber optic middle mile broadband infrastructure and lease 223 more miles of existing commercial fiber in this economically troubled region to complete a fiber network with the capacity to upgrade as demand increases.

The South Central Mississippi Broadband Infrastructure Project proposes to:

- Connect 19 public school districts within the geographic area of the South Central Mississippi Consortium for Educational Excellence and Development with speeds of up to 1 Gbps.
- Streamline and improve the quality of healthcare by providing regional hospitals such as Covington County Hospital, Jefferson Davis Community Hospital, Marion General Hospital, and Riley Memorial Hospital with the bandwidth needed to share the large files associated with electronic medical records and various telemedicine applications.
- Enhance educational opportunities by linking regional schools to remote research tools, distance learning, and video conferencing.
- Enable intelligent transportation system upgrades such as real-time traffic monitoring and traffic flow management during emergency evacuations.
- Improve public safety by linking geographically disparate first responders and state agencies over an interoperable fiber-based system with remote video surveillance, security cameras, and remote fire monitoring.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Contact Network, doing business as InLine, has operated as an Internet service provider to small, medium, and large businesses and government agencies across Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee since 1992. The company provides a variety of end-to-end network services over its wireline and wireless networks covering over 1,200 square miles in those states.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Mississippi Department of Transportation
- University of Southern Mississippi
- South Central Mississippi Consortium for Educational Excellence and Development
- Central Mississippi Regional Library System
- Southern Regional Educational Service Agency

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. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

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