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Organization:	Com Net, Inc.
Project Name:	GigE PLUS Availability Coalition
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Ohio
Federal Award:	\$30,031,849

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Given the disparity between rural and urban areas of western Ohio in high-speed Internet infrastructure, many regional community anchor institutions struggle to obtain critical broadband services, while last-mile service providers have difficulty obtaining the backhaul capacity needed to serve these areas. **Com Net's** GigE PLUS project proposes to construct almost 700 new miles of high-capacity fiber to expand an existing network throughout 28 western Ohio counties. Com Net expects the enhanced network to provide speeds of up to 40 Gbps to as many as 880 community anchor institutions, and middle mile network speeds up to 100 Gbps to the region's 33 last-mile service providers. The project plans to directly connect 212 K-12 schools, 173 state and local government offices, 112 public safety facilities, 84 health care facilities, 12 community colleges, four universities, 43 libraries, 92 public housing facilities, 151 community support organizations, and five state parks.

The project proposes to:

- Spur affordable broadband access for local consumers and businesses, including as many as 737,000 households and 165,000 businesses, along with an additional 2,900 community anchor institutions, by enabling local Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network.
- Enable 322 public safety agencies to upgrade their radio towers and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) from T-1 to Ethernet, so they can deploy next-generation devices and enhanced 911 capability.
- Encourage investment in economically distressed counties served by this project, 20 of which have unemployment rates higher than the state average.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Com Net has 17 years of experience working with independent rural telecom operators in the region to provide broadband, advanced voice, video and data services. A managing member of various shared networks, including Broadband Network Group, Independents Fiber Network and Tier 2 Communications, their northwestern Ohio network currently spans over 600 miles and serves over 20 independent last-mile providers, both wireless and wireline.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- The Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet)
- Zayo Bandwidth

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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