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| Organization: | Iniciativa Tecnologica Centro Oriental, Inc. (INTECO, Inc.) |
| Project Name: | Construction of Broadband Infrastructure for the Central East Region of Puerto Rico |
| Project Type: | Infrastructure |
| State(s): | Puerto Rico |
| Federal Award: | \$12,931,174 |

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Construction of Broadband Infrastructure project intends to expand broadband Internet access within some of the neediest areas of Puerto Rico by deploying a multifaceted 515-mile network that will include both wireless and fiber connections. The project plans to directly connect nearly 250 anchor institutions, including higher education facilities, hospitals, municipal facilities, police stations, and libraries. The project also expects to facilitate faster and more affordable broadband Internet access for local consumers, including approximately 300 anchor institutions, 136,000 households, and 600 businesses and industrial centers, by enabling local service providers to connect to the project's open network. In addition, the project will extend free Wi-Fi hotspots to further promote digital literacy to low-income adults and youth.

The Construction of Broadband Infrastructure project also proposes to:

- Provide healthcare institutions the ability to use higher-speed connectivity for MRIs, X-Rays, and remote specialized care.
- Support public safety applications such as remote video capture and surveillance.
- Benefit education institutions with distance learning, video distribution, and other educational enhancements.
- Coordinate with three local Internet service providers who have expressed interest in using the network to expand service to homes and businesses.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

- INTECO is an economic development organization created in 2003 to improve the quality of life in nine Central Eastern municipalities. Its primary focus has been the development of a network of Innovation and Technology Centers to close the digital gap, and promote technology and sciences to youth. As part of this effort, INTECO has developed free Wi-Fi hot spots where community members can connect to the Internet. It has a strong track record in obtaining grants, having managed more than \$25 million for many high tech, public-private projects, including one from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. Twenty-six government, community and private organizations have provided letters of support. The organization's track record demonstrates strong experience in installation, project management, configuration, integration, engineering and cabling of telecommunications projects. INTECO will own and manage the network, and obtain support from **PDC Telecom** and **PREPANet** in providing access to the Internet via fiber connectivity to help deploy and manage on-going network operations.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- INTECO consists of 55 partners, including 38 from the private sector, nine from academia, and eight municipalities.

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.broadbandusa.gov.

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