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Organization:	Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority
Project Name:	viNGN Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Program
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Virgin Islands
Federal Award:	\$58,888,469

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Hurricanes and other heavy storms in the **U.S. Virgin Islands** often disable communications systems until aerial wiring can be restored, leaving key institutions like hospitals and public safety agencies without essential broadband services when they are most needed. The Virgin Islands' viNGN project proposes to deploy a high-speed fiber network to the islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John, creating a territory-wide middle mile network and connecting community anchor institutions with reliable high-speed Internet services. The project also intends to strengthen the Virgin Islands' external broadband connections through acquisition of 3,720 miles of undersea cable to Florida and Puerto Rico.

The viNGN also proposes to:

- Construct a 244-mile fiber network and utilize over 3,000 miles of existing fiber to offer speeds between 10 Mbps and 10 Gbps to anchor institutions and local Internet service providers.
- Encourage economic development by utilizing several small business and/or Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) partners and enable access to online educational, healthcare, and government services to residents facing high unemployment and poverty rates.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to approximately 43,000 households and 2,500 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Provide direct connections to as many as 325 anchor institutions, including as many as 42 public safety entities, 92 K-12 schools, seven libraries, four colleges, 19 healthcare facilities, and 123 government buildings and centers.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Virgin Island Public Finance Authority (VIPFA) has partnered with USVI Water & Power Authority, which has years of experience owning and operating a 23-mile aerial, underground, and underwater fiber network. The executive directors of both agencies have private-sector experience in the communications industry, and VIPFA has extensive experience managing and administering grants from both governmental and non-profit organizations.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority
- AMPATH
- CENX, Inc.
- PREPA Networks Corporation
- VI Technical Services, LLC
- Alliance Data Services
- Terremark Worldwide, Inc.
- Stratum Broadband, LLC
- Integrated Architectures, LLC
- Linx Associates, Inc.
- EBI Consulting
- McAfee, Inc.

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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