

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Progress Report

2. Award Or Grant Number

78-50-M09055

4. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

03-18-2011

1. Recipient Name

Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority

6. Designated Entity On Behalf Of:

n/a

3. Street Address

32-33 Kongens Gade,

8. Final Report?

Yes

No

9. Report Frequency

Quarterly

Semi Annual

Annual

Final

5. City, State, Zip Code

St. Thomas, VI 00802-0000

7. Project / Grant Period
Start Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)

01-01-2010

7a. End Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)

12-31-2014

7b. Reporting Period End Date:

03-31-2011

9a. If Other, please describe:

N/A

10. Broadband Mapping

10a. Provider Table

| Number of Providers Identified | Number of Providers Contacted | Number of Agreements Reached for Data Sharing | Number of Partial Data Sets Received | Number of Complete Data Sets | Number of Data Sets Verified |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

10b. Are you submitting the required PROVIDER DATA by using the Excel spreadsheet provided by the SBDD grants office? Yes No

10c. Have you encountered challenges with any providers that indicate they may refuse to participate in this project? Yes No

10d. If so, describe the discussions to date with each of these providers and the current status

Wire line carrier data is from direct interviews in 2009. One wireless carrier provided data by direct interview in 2009. The other wireless providers have been exchanging data when requested by written response since the project commenced in 2009.

Incumbent wire line provider initially offered broadband capacity available at remote switch locations but no middle mile information. They have since been unresponsive to refresh requests. New discussions with provider promise better cooperation going forward.

All wireless carriers provided transmitter locations as well as service level data by location. One provider offered an RF coverage map. Now the largest wireless provider is objecting to repetitive (semi-annual) queries. Argues FCC reporting is sufficient. Data set refresh request remains on hold while local management seeks approval of parent corporation before committing to share more data.

10e. If you are collecting data through other means (e.g. data extraction, extrapolation, etc), please describe your progress to date and the relevant activities to be undertaken in the future

Data from anchor tenants comes from analysis of data received from the IT organizations of the respective sectors, an iterative process. GPS readings were taken during on-site verifications. The Governor has initiated Meetings with Anchor Tenants during which written surveys were made available. The CAI survey is also being made available on-line.

The DSL coverage was plotted using a 12,000 radius of effectiveness from each remote switch facility location reported by the incumbent wire line carrier as opposed to using a direct measurement of individual loops for propagation quality.

Because there is some lack in provider data, the extrapolation of tower heights will be calculated trigonometrically, as opposed to direct measurement.

10f. Please describe the verification activities you plan to implement

Direct inspection was used to establish Community Anchor Tenant (CAI) GIS location data. The Governor has since initiated CAI meetings at which printed surveys have been distributed to collect broadband service data. These surveys have also been made available on-line at www.vingn.com

User initiated speed tests will be offered in conjunction with On-line end user surveys launched with the State Broadband Map. Test results will be keyed to user location (census tract or estate boundary precision) when user locates position with mouse click on State Broadband Map.

Automated Performance Testing will be conducted on a 7 x 24 basis with 200 user sample to establish busy hour and assess actual vs advertised performance.

10g. Have you initiated verification activities? Yes No

10h. If yes, please describe the status of your activities

The direct inspection of the anchor tenant is complete. Note that anchor tenant locations are subject to change overtime and will be modified accordingly with each succeeding period.

Governor has also initiated direct meetings with Community Anchor Tenants. Printed surveys are distributed at the meetings and an on-line version has been launched at www.vingn.com

An on-line survey has been launched as part of the State Broadband Map web site.

10i. If verification activities have not been initiated please provide a projected time line for beginning and completing such activities

The performance probe testing will be launched next quarter. Plans include installation of performance monitoring system in 2Q2011 with initial deployment of probe software agents on up to 200 volunteer end user systems. Initial candidates will be selected from the base of Territory employees. The on-line end-user survey will also be used to solicit participation by volunteers from the private sector. Selection of volunteer test population will be managed to assure geographic dispersion over the Territory. The performance probe measurement system will run continuously for the duration of the project. The test candidate population will change as necessary to ensure a broad sample.

Staffing

10j. How many jobs have been created or retained as a result of this project?

Phase I - 3.25

10k. Is the project currently fully staffed? Yes No

10l. If no, please explain how any lack of staffing may impact the project's time line and when the project will be fully staffed

N/A

10m. When fully staffed, how many full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs do you expect to create or retain as a result of this project?

N/A

10n. Staffing Table

| Job Title | FTE % | Date of Hire |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Project Manager | 100 | 10/01/2010 |
| GIS Team Leader/Analyst | 100 | 10/01/2010 |
| GIS Program/System Administrator | 100 | 10/01/2010 |

Sub Contracts

10o. Subcontracts Table

| Name of Subcontractor | Purpose of Subcontract | RFP Issued (Y/N) | Contract Executed (Y/N) | Start Date | End Date | Federal Funds | In-Kind Funds |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Stratum Broadband | Initial Mapping and Planning Support | N | Y | 07/28/2009 | 01/04/2012 | 0 | 0 |

Funding

10p. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$1,294,854 10q. How much Remains? \$1,714,652
 10r. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$299,944 10s. How much Remains? \$618,770

10t. Budget Worksheet

| Mapping Budget Element | Federal Funds Granted | Proposed In-Kind | Total Budget | Federal Funds Expended | Matching Funds Expended | Total Funds Expended |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Personal Salaries | \$0 | \$60,000 | \$60,000 | \$0 | \$11,800 | \$11,800 |
| Personnel Fringe Benefits | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Travel | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Equipment | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Materials / Supplies | \$0 | \$818,714 | \$818,714 | \$0 | \$288,144 | \$288,144 |
| Subcontracts Total | \$3,021,867 | \$0 | \$3,021,867 | \$1,294,854 | \$0 | \$1,294,854 |
| Subcontract #1 | \$1,294,854 | \$0 | \$1,294,854 | \$1,294,854 | \$0 | \$1,294,854 |
| Subcontract #2 | \$1,340,754 | \$0 | \$1,340,754 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subcontract #3 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subcontract #4 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subcontract #5 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Construction | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Other | \$0 | \$40,000 | \$40,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Direct Costs | \$3,021,867 | \$918,714 | \$3,940,581 | \$1,294,854 | \$299,944 | \$1,594,798 |
| Total Indirect Costs | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Costs | \$3,021,867 | \$918,714 | \$3,940,581 | \$1,294,854 | \$299,944 | \$1,594,798 |
| % Of Total | 77 | 23 | 100 | 81 | 19 | 100 |

Hardware / Software

10u. Has the project team purchased the software / hardware described in the application? Yes No

10v. If yes, please list

The contractor has purchased equipment and software to perform the Phase I Broadband Planning and Mapping. This includes:

The equipment and software are being provided by the applicant and not from the grant as per the final negotiations for the grant.

During this quarter the viNGN has purchased the following hardware and software to bring the development and production environments in-house:

Software:

ESRI ArcInfo.....\$11,3282.00

ESRI ArcGIS Data Interoperability Single Use License.....\$ 2,032.00

2 ESRI ArcGis Server License Development.....\$ 32,520.00

10w. Please note any software / hardware that has yet to be purchased and explain why it has not been purchased

The purchase of the following software and hardware is planned for the next quarter:

Servers and software for operating the Speed Test and Performance Probe:

Visualware Software - MyConnection Server and MySpeed module with 200 Probe agents for operating the verification probe are under evaluation for requirements suitability and determination in this quarter.

10x. Has the project team purchased or used any data sets? Yes No

10y. If yes, please list

The CAD data provided as In-Kind contributions from WAPA have all been received and used extensively during the identification and

location of anchor tenants, towers, and other points of interest.

Avensa MAPdataUSA was purchased at the beginning of the project as an aid in Broadband Planning.

10z. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included? Yes No

10aa. If yes, please list

The performance test website is scheduled to begin controlled verification April of 2011. In the beginning of this process we anticipate that the "busy hour" and the actual rates stratified throughout the region will be determined. The delivery of data free of qualifications relative to verification is now scheduled to be made with the semi-annual update to the NTIA, which is planned for September of 2011.

The State Broadband map website was launched in October minus the user survey and speed test facilities. With the completion of hardware and software licensing, the speed test and verification data collection will begin in the next quarterly period (Apr - Jun, 2011).

10bb. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

All providers are very protective of user and physical plant information and are anxious about explicit depiction of their service area on a public map citing competitive issues. To date, each has required that data sets shared with our contractor be held off-island to avoid the risk of public disclosure due to transparency policies of the Territory's government. Regular dialog with the management of these businesses seems to be the only method available to mitigate the effects that follow the competitive mistrust.

10cc. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project

The indirect benefit of the SBDD program is quite noticeable. Since the program has been underway and more attention has been paid to speed as a measurement, the advertised speeds of the broadband service from last mile providers has seemed to double pretty uniformly. Perhaps this capability was always present, but the additional emphasis on communicating to the public is a step in the right direction.

We anticipate that the USVI will become more competitive relative to broadband. Any steps taken by the NTIA to assure the flow of quality data from the providers to the SBDD program over the coming periods would be very beneficial to the territory.

Much of the interaction has been between NTIA and grantees, it may be helpful for NTIA to design a campaign targeting providers that educates them on NTIA's objectives, the role of states in this process and the benefits to provider participation.

11. Broadband Planning

11a. Please describe progress made against all goals, objectives, and milestones detailed in the approved Project Plan. Be sure to include a description of each major activity / milestone that you plan to complete and your current status

Planning Projects:

The primary goal of the Broadband Planning activity was to establish the process for deploying a comprehensive broadband middle mile network for the USVI. BTOP awarded funds supported this launch in the region. The newly established viNGN public-private partnership will oversee the deployment and operation of that wholesale middle mile network.

The market, technical, and business questions in the actual application guidelines formed the overriding outline of the requirements. The first step was to convene meeting with the key stakeholders and providers. The key stakeholders represented all the anchor tenants They referred to themselves as the USVI Broadband Coalition. A second meeting with providers captured their interests and yielded recommendations for participation in a Technology Team. Over 100 individuals were interviewed from all the key groups. From these interviews two separate tracks were formed: one for business matters and one for technical matters. It was primarily from the stakeholders that the market assessment data was synthesized. Secondary research was gathered, but it was the goals and aspirations of the actual users of the system that most guided the assessment process. The initial findings went directly to the market section of the BTOP CCI proposal.

Separately members of the Technology Team and the Office of Economic Opportunity gathered technical data from industry relative to technology that might be used to design a broadband environment for the USVI.

New Projects Scheduled to begin as part of SBDD Phase II

1. Technical Assistance Projects - Smart Grid Support Analysis and Assessment of LTE Use for Public Safety
2. Street Address Normalization

11b. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the project team is employing

The absence of street address based geodata in the Territory has been limiting. The need is being addressed by an on-going project in the Lieutenant Governor's Office (LGO) with support from the USGS. A data sharing arrangement (by executed Memorandum of Agreement- MOA between viNGN and the Office of the Lieutenant Government) has been established for future data access. In the interim, an effort is being made to use available LGO Estate based GIS data which will be overlaid on a Census Block layer for positioning needs since residents identify their location by historic Estate boundaries.

11c. Does the Project Team anticipate any changes to the project plan for Broadband Planning? Yes No

11d. If yes, please describe these anticipated changes. Please note that NTIA will need to approve changes to the Project Plan before they can be implemented

n/a

Funding

11e. How much Federal funding has been expended as of the end of the last quarter? \$0

11f. How much Remains? \$0

11g. How much matching funds have been expended as of the end of last quarter? \$0

11h. How much Remains? \$0

11i. Planning Worksheet

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Personal Salaries | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Personnel Fringe Benefits | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Travel | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Equipment | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Materials / Supplies | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subcontracts Total | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subcontract #1 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subcontract #2 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subcontract #3 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subcontract #4 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Subcontract #5 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Construction | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Other | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Direct Costs | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Indirect Costs | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Costs | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| % Of Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Additional Planning Information

11j. Are there any additional project milestones or information that has not been included?

None at this time.

11k. Please describe any challenge or obstacle that you have encountered and detail the mitigation strategies the Project Team is employing

There have been few challenges or obstacles encountered. Due to the size of the number of people involved, there is the natural problem of getting input from all groups synchronized, but the involvement of the Governor's office and normal program management follow up have produced all the inputs needed for the timelines required.

11l. Please provide any other information that you think would be useful to NTIA as it assesses your Broadband Mapping Project

The SBDD Planning process was extremely beneficial toward preparing the plans for all the information that was needed for a balanced Comprehensive Community Infrastructure proposal. The activities and the deliverables have assisted in structuring work in

the public sector that is difficult to achieve without such a process. In retrospect, the results from the efforts go much further than just the direct goals of the program. The planning and mapping activities are going to be continued as ongoing quality measurements for the viNGN network beyond the term of the ARRA SBDD program.

12. Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purpose set forth in the award documents.

12a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official

Marian Prescod

12c. Telephone
(area code, number, and extension)

12d. Email Address

mprescod@consult3p.com

12b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official

Submitted Electronically

12e. Date Report Submitted
(Month, Day, Year)

07-07-2011