



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Table of Contents

- A. General Application Information
- B. Executive Summary, Project Purpose, and Benefits
- C. Partners
- D. Congressional Districts
- E. Service Area Details
- F. Community Anchor Summary
- G. Project Benefits
- H. Technology
- I. Project Budget
- J. Historical Financials
- K. Project Readiness
- L. Environmental Questionnaire
- M. Uploads



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

A. General Application Information

Applicant Information	
Name and Federal ID for Applicant	
DUNS Number	061463618
CCR # (CAGE)	3G0E2
Legal Business Name	SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Point of Contact (POC)	CHAD TURNER 3078832411 Ext. 6621 cturner@silverstar.net
Alternate POC	TIKIJO MERRITT 3078832411 Ext. 6674 tjmerritt@silverstar.net
Electronic Business POC	CHAD TURNER 3078832411 Ext. 6621 cturner@silverstar.net
Alternate Electronic Business POC	MICHELLE MOTZKUS 3078832411 Ext. 6690 mamotzkus@silverstar.net

Name and Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:	
Prefix	Mr.
First Name	Allen
Middle Name	R
Last Name	Hoopes
Suffix	
Telephone Number	307-883-6671



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Fax Number	307-883-2575
Email	ahoopes@silverstar.net
Title	President

Additional Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:

Project Role	Name	Phone	Email
Secondary Point of Contact	Ron , McCue	3078832411 6670	rmccue@silverstar.net
Secondary Point of Contact	Michelle , Motzkus	3078832411 6690	mamotzkus@silverstar.net

Environmental Point of Contact

Prefix: Name: Ricks, Karen Suffix: Telephone Number: 3078832411 Title: Engineering Manager
--

Organization Classification

Type of Organization	For-profit Entity
Is the organization a small business?	No
Does the organization meet the definition of a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern?	No



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date:		Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program		Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.	
Task: Submit Application - BTOP		Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes	

Authorized Organizational Representative	
AOR Name	Turner, Chad
Result	Applicant Authorized

Project Title and Project Description

Project Title: Expanding Greater Yellowstone Area Broadband Opportunities

Project Description: This middle mile project "closes the gap" in an existing 960 mile state-wide fiber network enabling robust, redundant broadband network opportunities for 11 counties and 26 communities in Wyoming. The project constructs approximately 86 miles of fiber facilities between Jackson Hole, WY and Togwotee Pass, WY.

CCI Priority Checklist

The following items were selected from the CCI Priority Checklist:

1. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to community anchor institutions.
2. The project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and has incorporated a public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profits entities, and other key community stakeholders.
5. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure to public safety entities.
6. This project will deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and either includes a Last Mile infrastructure component in unserved or underserved areas or has received commitments from one or more Last Mile broadband service providers to utilize the Middle Mile components. Any Last Mile components in rural areas do not exceed 20% of the total eligible costs of the project.

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Components

The following items were selected from the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Components:

Middle Mile



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

BIP Applicants

Have you also applied to BIP for funding in the sample proposed funded service area?

- No

If Yes, please provide the project title and Easygrants ID number:

Title of Joint BIP Application:

Easygrants ID:

Other Applications

Is this application being submitted in coordination with any other application being submitted during this round of funding?

- No

Easygrants ID	Project Title

If YES, please explain any synergies and/or dependencies between this project and any other applications.

Individual Background Screening

Is the Applicant exempt from the Department of Commerce requirements regarding individual background screening in connection with any award resulting from this Application?

- No, Applicant is subject to these requirements

If the answer to the above question is "No," please identify each key individual associated with the Applicant who would be required to complete Form CD-346, "Applicant for Funding Assistance," in connection with any award resulting from this Application:

Name	Title	Employer
Allen R. Hoopes	President	Silver Star Communications
Ron B. McCue	Chief Operations Officer	Silver Star Communications



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Chad Turner	Vice President/Finance	Silver Star Communications
-------------	------------------------	----------------------------

B. Executive Summary, Project Purpose and Benefits

Essay Question

Executive Summary of the proposed project:

Almost the entire state of Wyoming is by definition, “rural and remote” with a land area of 97,814 square miles and a 2008 estimated population of only 532,668. Wyoming is the ninth largest state in area, but the least populated state of the nation. The entire state has an average of 5.3 people per square mile. Cities, towns and small communities are predominantly distributed across the state with two to three hour drives between population centers of 25,000 to 50,000 people. Wyoming businesses and citizens have, by necessity begun to strongly embrace broadband technology to overcome the distance and density factors.

When one takes a close look at Wyoming, a relatively square state with distributed population centers; existing telecommunications provider’s fiber optic facility segments form a partial ring. In essence, a fiber network topology that is an inverted “C” with the “gap” in the network being the project as proposed and described herein. This “gap” has restricted the availability of robust and protected broadband opportunities for the citizens and businesses of Wyoming for over a decade.

Today, there is an approximate eighty-six (86) mile “gap” between the endpoints of an existing 960 route mile fiber network that traverses nearly two-thirds the state of Wyoming. The “gap” is located in northwest Wyoming, between Togwotee Pass (on the continental divide) and Jackson. The Governor’s Office, the Wyoming Business Council, Office of the State CIO, numerous state agencies, other communications carriers, business entrepreneurs, health care providers, educational facilities and community leaders have identified “closing the gap” as a highest priority broadband stimulus funded project for Wyoming.



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

The resulting fiber optic ring topology would consist of this project, existing fiber segments owned by the applicant and existing fiber segments owned by other established telecommunications companies serving Wyoming.

When completed, this project will enable robust and diverse (redundant) broadband network opportunities for 11 counties and 26 communities in Wyoming. Some of the cities, towns and small communities along the entire proposed fiber ring topology include Cheyenne, Laramie, Medicine Bow, Hanna, Rawlins, Wamsutter, Rock Springs, Green River, Lyman, Mtn View, Evanston, Cokeville, Afton, Freedom, Jackson, Dubois, the Wind River Reservation, Riverton, Shoshoni, Casper, Douglas and Wheatland.

Direct and indirect beneficiaries of a robust and diverse (redundant) fiber optic broadband network topology include:

- Approximately 366,000 Wyoming residents or almost 70% of the US Census 2008 estimated state population (www.census.gov/popest/cities/files/SUB-EST2008-56.csv)
- The University of Wyoming and five 2-year institutions (community colleges)
- 222 Wyoming Public Schools (https://wdesecure.k12.us/public_ed/schools.html)
- 42 Participating Facilities (hospitals, community mental health centers and substance abuse clinics) in the Wyoming Telehealth Network (WYOMING TELEHEALTH NETWORK, Proposal to FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program www.fcc.gov/cgb/rural/rhcp.html, Wyoming [Part 1])
- WYOLINK (Wyoming Homeland Security Communications Initiative; <http://wyolink.state.wy.us>) and other local and statewide emergency response teams and related initiatives (<http://wyohomelandsecurity.state.wy.us/main.aspx>)
- Other providers, telecommunications carriers and adjoining state networks seeking alternate or protected broadband transport and carrier class service routes in and out of Jackson, and the state of Wyoming in general



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

- Start-up businesses looking for network reliability, existing businesses seeking to expand to other communities or connect offices using less costly, shorter transport and circuit routes.

The project will consist of a robust DWDM and SONET architecture to provide up to 40 lambdas of 2.5 Gb/s capacity in a working/protect configuration and OC-48 down to DS1 services. Silver Star currently maintains an open network policy and through its Internet provider company does not differentiate among applications that traverse our Internet network. Silver Star commits to adhere to the NOFA’s non-discrimination and network interconnection obligations if awarded BTOP funds.

Upon completion of the buried fiber optic/plowcon for the Togwotee-Moran segment, Silver Star will deploy Fujitsu SONET and DWDM transport equipment to accommodate the expected service requests for advanced broadband transport and carrier class services.

Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc., doing business as Silver Star Communications, has over fifty years experience building and operating a widespread, state-of-the-art broadband network. SSC has designed, constructed and operates a robust network consisting of over 396 miles of transport fiber optic cable supporting diverse and redundant DWDM and SONET circuits. SSC has personnel with extensively experienced staff in all areas of management, engineering, operations, customer service and finance who are prepared to implement and operate this proposed project as an integral part of its existing robust network.

Silver Star is an established facilities-based provider of advanced broadband transport and carrier class services for numerous providers in Wyoming. These providers include incumbent LECS, RLECS, CLECS, ISPs, cellular and other wireless providers. Additionally, SSC provides interconnection and transport for an adjacent statewide network: Syringa Networks. Silver Star's network and transport management, pricing, interconnection agreements and service delivery policies are well established, competitive and transparent.

The proposed project is estimated to result in 79 created or saved jobs.

Industry estimates place the cost of this proposed middle mile project (Jackson, WY to Togwotee Pass) at over 7 million dollars. Silver Star proposes to construct this project with a 22% cost match.



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

For more than a decade, telecommunications carriers have tried to justify the costs required to “close the gap”. The costs as estimated are reasonable given the distance and the fact that the project will traverse the Continental Divide (elev. 9,700 feet), the Bridger-Teton National Forest and parts of Grand Teton National Park. ARRA broadband stimulus funding represents an opportunity to construct a critical and long-needed project and invest in the Broadband future of the state of Wyoming that might not otherwise be constructed due to costs and area remoteness.

Project purpose:

The main purpose of the Expanding Greater Yellowstone Area Broadband Opportunities project is to complete a fiber optic cable ring throughout a majority of the state of Wyoming in order to provide a robust broadband network for use by Critical Community Facilities, Community Anchor Institutions, Public Safety entities, Internet Service providers, voice and data providers, and for the transport of that traffic both within and outside the state.

3) The project will serve to improve access to and use of broadband service by public safety agencies including the 911 service and the Homeland Security WYOLINK program by completing the robust and protected broadband fiber optic network throughout the state of Wyoming.

The proposed project addresses four of the five key purposes of the national broadband service development and expansion program, as established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

1) The project will enhance the availability and provision of broadband services to underserved households and businesses in 11 counties and 26 western Wyoming communities and to consumers residing in the unserved areas of Moose and Moran.

2) The project will provide broadband access and support to schools, libraries, medical and health care providers, and will serve to facilitate greater use of broadband services by vulnerable populations within the proposed funded service area.

3) The project will serve to improve access to and use of broadband service by public safety agencies within the proposed funding service area including: state and county law enforcement,



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

fire protection and emergency service, and federal agencies, by enhancing the economic viability and availability of high capacity, secure broadband facilities.

4) The project will stimulate the demand for broadband by enhancing its availability, will stimulate economic growth and job creation. This project alone is estimated to create 79 direct jobs and, as a result, foster economic growth and further job creation.

Completion of this project ensures a survivable fiber optic ring upon which 911 emergency services systems and other essential services will be carried continuously, which services will not be rendered inoperable region-wide by a single cut in the fiber system. As shown by the various letters of support, numerous federal state, county and city agencies, health care providers, local businesses and K-12 educational facilities have pledged their support to this proposed project (see Support Letters, attached under Supplemental Information).

Direct and indirect beneficiaries of a robust and diverse (redundant) fiber optic broadband network topology include:

- Approximately 366,000 Wyoming residents or almost 70% of the US Census 2008 estimated state population
- The University of Wyoming and five 2-year institutions (community colleges)
- 222 Wyoming Public Schools
- WYOLINK (Wyoming Homeland Security Communications Initiative) and other local and statewide emergency response teams and related initiatives
- 42 Participating Facilities (hospitals, community mental health centers and substance abuse clinics) in the Wyoming Telehealth Network

Robust health care and educational opportunities would necessarily include adequate capacity and a redundant, protected, secure facility to transport critical information to and from remote locations to specialized medical facilities and learning centers. This project would create just such a high capacity, redundant and secure broadband facility for use by all of the existing health care facilities, emergency services and public schools located within proposed funded service area.

Recovery Act and Other Governmental Collaboration:



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

The Togwotee Pass WY to Jackson WY Fiber Optic Project will provide a robust and diverse fiber optic ring topology that will enhance or compliment a number of Wyoming Reinvestment and Recovery funding proposals that have a technology component or require advanced broadband capabilities (<http://wyoming.gov/recovery/Documents/QuickInfo/WyomingARRAFundingSummary.pdf>).

Some Key Agencies and announced funding levels in Wyoming include:

- Department of Transportation (\$172 million)
 - o Including enhanced road/weather condition monitoring
- Department of Education (\$162 million)
 - o Including technology upgrades and delivery technology
 - o Statewide connectivity
- Department of Health and Human Services (\$48 million)
 - o Including technology upgrades and delivery technology
 - o State and national connectivity
 - o Rural Health Care Initiatives
- Department of Energy (\$48 million)
 - o Including monitoring and enhanced Energy Assurance (Smartgrid)
- Department of Labor (\$8 million)
 - o Workforce Training (training centers and training delivery)
- Department of Justice (\$6.5 million)
 - o Combatting internet crime initiatives (www.recovery.gov/?q=content/available-amount-program&state=WY)

Collaboration opportunities that can create efficiencies and leverage existing stimulus funds exist with:

- Wyoming Department of Transportation and establishment of rights of way corridors
- Assist schools and medical facilities in choosing and deploying technology in a cost effective manner
- Workforce training centers connected to a robust statewide fiber network can deliver training services i



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Fit with BTOP CCI Priorities:

This project: Delivering Opportunities: Investing in Rural Wyoming Broadband is designed to exceed CCI Priorities, and will consist of a robust DWDM and SONET architecture to provide up to 40 lambdas of 2.5 Gb/s capacity in a working/protect configuration and OC-48 down to DS1 services. When completed, this project will enable robust and diverse (redundant) broadband network opportunities for 11 counties and 26 communities in rural, western Wyoming. Direct and indirect beneficiaries of a robust and diverse (redundant) fiber optic broadband network topology include:

- Start-up businesses looking for network reliability, existing businesses seeking to expand to other communities or connect offices using less costly, shorter transport and circuit routes.
- Other providers, telecommunications carriers and adjoining state networks seeking alternate or protected broadband transport and carrier class service routes in and out of Jackson, Wyoming, and the state of Wyoming in general.
- Service area health care providers, educational facilities and community/emergency service providers.

Specifically, Indirect Community Anchor Institution that will benefit from this proposed project include:

Jackson Elementary
Colter Elementary
Kelly Elementary
Moran Elementary
Summit High School
Teton County School District
The Learning Center
Teton County Library
Teton County Law Library
Brent Blue MD
Central Wyoming Neurosurgery
Emerg-a-Care



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Gros Ventre OBGYN
Jackson Whole Family Health
Orthopaedic Associates of Jackson Hole
Snake River Orthopedics
St Johns Medical Center
Stephen Brown, MD Psychiatric Services
Teton Orthopaedics
Teton Pediatrics
The Women's Health Center& Family Care Clinic
Theresa Lerch Family Practice OBGYN
Western Wyoming Family Planning
Wyoming Medical Group
Zoe Interventional Pain Management Center
Jackson Fire Department
Teton Country Sheriff
Emergency Management
Central Wyoming College
Camp Davis of University of Michigan
Grand Teton University
Community Safety Network
Teton County Government Services
U.S. Agriculture Services
Wyoming State Government Offices
Homeland Security
National Science Foundation
National Center for Atmospheric Research
U.S. Forest Service
Teton County Landfill
Teton Country Road & Levee Department
Journeys School
C Bar V Ranch
Central Wy College-Jackson
University of Wyoming Outreach
Latino Resource Center
Job Service Center



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Western Wyoming Dermatology
US District Court
Northern Arapaho Tribe and Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Wind River Reservation

Region anchor institutions, numerous state agencies, other communications carriers, business entrepreneurs, health care providers, educational facilities and community leaders have identified this proposed project as a high priority. The potential effects of this project have far-reaching socioeconomic benefits, including improved and more affordable broadband access for public and private businesses, learning institutions, medical facilities, and small business owners.

Is the applicant seeking a waiver of the Buy American provision pursuant to section x.Q of the NOFA?

- No

Is the applicant delinquent on any federal debt?

- No

If Yes, justification for delinquency:

Are you seeking a waiver of any requirement set forth in the NOFA that is not mandated by statute or applicable law?

- No

Is the applicant a current recipient of a grant or loan from RUS?

- Yes

C. Partners

Are you partnering with any other key institutions, organizations, or other entities for this project?

- No

If YES, key partners are listed below:

--

Description of the involvement of the partners listed above in the project.



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

The project: Expanding Greater Yellowstone Area Broadband Opportunities intended to benefit the communities within the proposed funded service area and, while not formally partnering with entities to construct and manage this proposed project, Applicant expects and intends to deliver improved broadband access to community anchor institutions, area businesses and households.

Potential beneficiaries of this proposed project include the following:

Jackson Elementary
Colter Elementary
Kelly Elementary
Moran Elementary
Summit High School
Teton County School District
The Learning Center
Teton County Library
Teton County Law Library
Brent Blue MD
Central Wyoming Neurosurgery
Emerg-a-Care
Gros Ventre OBGYN
Jackson Whole Family Health
Orthopaedic Associates of Jackson Hole
Snake River Orthopedics
St Johns Medical Center
Stephen Brown, MD Psychiatric Services
Teton Orthopaedics
Teton Pediatrics
The Women's Health Center & Family Care Clinic
Theresa Lerch Family Practice OBGYN
Western Wyoming Family Planning
Wyoming Medical Group
Zoe Interventional Pain Management Center
Jackson Fire Department
Teton Country Sheriff
Emergency Management



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Central Wyoming College
Camp Davis of University of Michigan
Grand Teton University
Community Safety Network
Teton County Government Services
U.S. Agriculture Services
Wyoming State Government Offices
Homeland Security
National Science Foundation
National Center for Atmospheric Research
U.S. Forest Service
Teton County Landfill
Teton Country Road & Levee Department
Journeys School
C Bar V Ranch
Central Wy College-Jackson
University of Wyoming Outreach
Latino Resource Center
Job Service Center
Western Wyoming Dermatology
US District Court
Northern Arapaho Tribe and Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Wind River Reservation

D. Congressional Districts

Applicant Headquarters

- Wyoming

Project Service States

Wyoming

Project Service Areas



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Wyoming - At Large

Will any portion of your proposed project serve federally recognized tribal entities?

- No

Indicate each federally recognized tribal entity your proposed project will serve.

Have you consulted with each of the federally recognized tribal entities identified above?

- No

E. Service Area Details

Is the applicant seeking a waiver for providing less than 100% coverage of a service area?

- No

Project Details

Service Area Type: Middle Mile
Service Area Name: Jackson to Togwotee Pass
Rural Classification of the Last Mile Service Area: Rural
Service Status of the Last Mile Service Area: Underserved

If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list. No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream in the proposed funded service area;

Total Square Miles in Service Area: 4,008
Total Population in Proposed Service Area: 18,251
Total Number of Households in Service Area: 10,267



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Total Number of Businesses in Service Area: 1,915
Total Number of Community Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities in Proposed Funded Service Area: 16
Unemployment Rate in the Service Area: 9
Median Income in the Service Area: 54,614
Estimated Percentage of Households with Access to Broadband: 89
Estimated Percentage of Households Subscribing to Broadband: 64

F. Community Anchor Summary

Community Anchor Summary	
Schools (k-12)	1
Libraries	0
Medical and Healthcare Providers	2
Public Safety Entities	2
Community Colleges	0
Public Housing	0
Other Institutions of Higher Education	0
Other Community Support Organization	1
Other Government Facilities	10
TOTAL COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS	16
Historically Black colleges and Universities	0
Tribal Colleges and	0



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Universities	
Alaska Native Serving Institutions	0
Hispanic Serving Institutions	0
Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions	0
TOTAL MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS	0

G. Project Benefits

Demographics

Jobs	
How many direct jobs-years will be created from this project?	79
How many indirect jobs will be created from this project?	50
How many jobs will be induced from this project?	28

Methodology used to estimate jobs:

Applicant utilized the "Simple Rule for Estimating Job Years Created by Government Spending" methodology suggested by the Council of Economic Advisors to produce the job-year estimates, as follows:

\$92,000 of government spending creates 1 job-year
 64% of the job-years represent direct and indirect effects
 36% of the job-years are induced effects

Total project cost = \$7,234,820
 Divided by \$92,000
 Equals 78.6 job-years

78.6 multiplied by 64%
 Equals 50.3 indirect jobs



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

78.6 multiplied by 36%
Equals 28.3 induced jobs

Project Impact:

The proposed project will deliver enhanced broadband connections, enabling higher bandwidths for residential consumers, businesses, educational institutions and emergency service facilities. This project will:

- provide the backbone to connect residential and business consumers to a vast broadband system
- enable area school districts to provide distance learning programs that connect with college affiliated programs thereby improving education, skills, knowledge, and opportunities
- provide a minimum of 1 Gigabit/second of broadband to the higher education institutions in the Project area
- connect local hospitals and various clinics, promoting a more reliable and better health care system

This project will benefit emergency services throughout western Wyoming, specifically by creating an alternate route in the event of a fiber cut or area natural disaster. Very rural areas such as this one are vulnerable to loss of communications as a result of human or natural disruption of a single threaded communication transport system. If cut off from communication with the more populated areas of the state, the emergency responders would certainly be faced with life threatening situations and would be unable to properly protect the population. Broadband has become the life-blood of rural communities in terms of health care, education, business, communications and entertainment. This project will provide the certainty of a reliable broadband service with far-reaching benefits in rural America.

The proposed project will also provide transport to other regional communications providers such as Qwest, Bresnan Communications and Advanced Communications Technology and makes available the opportunity to other carriers for connectivity backbone or alternate transport route.

Vulnerable Populations:

No vulnerable population groups are overrepresented in the project's proposed funded service area.

Level of Need:



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Today, there is approximately an eighty-six (86) mile “gap” between the endpoints of an existing 960 route-mile fiber network that traverses nearly two-thirds of the state of Wyoming. The “gap” is located in northwest Wyoming, between Togwotee Pass (on the continental divide) and Jackson. The Governor’s Office, the Wyoming Business Council, numerous state agencies, other communications carriers, business entrepreneurs, health care providers, educational facilities and community leaders have identified closing the “gap” as a ‘high priority’ broadband stimulus funded project for Wyoming.

Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc., being a progressive and advanced company, is applying to build the 86 miles of fiber to close the “gap”. This fiber network will extend the existing Silver Star transport network into the Dubois exchange with a proposed meet point with Advanced Communications Technology, Inc. (ACT) at Togwotee Pass. At this landmark pass, the fiber networks of the Silver Star and ACT will connect, completing the 1000+ mile Wyoming ring (See Network Map, attached).

When completed, this project will enable robust and diverse (redundant) broadband network opportunities for 11 counties and 26 communities in Wyoming. Communities benefitting from this fiber project would include, but are not limited to: Cheyenne, Laramie, Medicine Bow, Hanna, Rawlins, Wamsutter, Rock Springs, Green River, Lyman, Mountain View, Evanston, Cokeville, Afton, Freedom, Jackson, Dubois, the Wind River Indian Reservation, Riverton, Shoshoni, Casper, Douglas and Wheatland.

Direct and indirect beneficiaries of a robust and diverse (redundant) fiber optic broadband network topology include:

- Approximately 366,000 Wyoming residents or almost 70% of the US Census 2008 estimated state population.
- The University of Wyoming and five 2-year institutions (community colleges)
- 222 Wyoming Public Schools
- 42 Participating Facilities (hospitals, community mental health centers and substance abuse clinics) in the Wyoming Telehealth Network



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

- WYOLINK (Wyoming Homeland Security Communications Initiative) and other local and statewide emergency response teams and related initiatives
- Other providers, telecommunications carriers and adjoining state networks seeking alternate or protected broadband transport and carrier class service routes in and out of Jackson, and the state of Wyoming in general
- Start-up businesses looking for network reliability, existing businesses seeking to expand to other communities or connect offices using less costly, shorter circuit routes.

For more than a decade, telecommunications carriers have tried to justify the costs required to “close the gap”. The costs as estimated are reasonable, especially given the distance, and the fact that this project will traverse the Continental Divide (elev 9700 ft), the Bridger-Teton National Forest and parts of Grand Teton National Park. ARRA broadband stimulus funding represents an opportunity to construct a critical and long-needed project for the state of Wyoming that otherwise would most likely not be constructed due to costs and remoteness.

This network will help greater Wyoming, but will have highest impact on Teton County WY. Teton County WY has a very competitive communications landscape including multiple mobile voice and mobile broadband services, along with multiple fixed wire line High Speed internet providers. The mobile voice market includes providers: Silver Star Wireless, Verizon Wireless, Union Wireless, Sprint-Nextel, T-Mobile, and ATT Mobility. The fixed broadband market includes leaders: Bresnan and Qwest Communications. The Jackson market was also one of the nation’s first Mobile 4G WiMax networks and 3G networks from Silver Star Wireless, Verizon Wireless, and ATT Mobility. This competitive market has led to varied service and pricing alternatives for the communication users of Teton County, WY.

These competitive services require a reliable network connection with redundant fiber path. A communications network is only as reliable as the worst section. The existing network has operated with only a few short disruptions over the years, but these short disruptions have led to a few disruptive communications outages for the Teton County service area.

As a Comprehensive Community Infrastructure grant, the second part of this project will provide new 1 Gb/s connections to the anchor institutions along the proposed route. This project will connect 17 anchor institutions using a non-blocking 1 Gb/s active Ethernet solution. The network



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

for anchor institutions will provide the bandwidth as recommended by the newly released FCC National Broadband Plan; Anchor Institutions will have expanded broadband connections that meet the short term and long term requirements.

This Community Infrastructure grant will connect the remote school of Moran Elementary to the Teton County District core schools within the Town of Jackson. Once this school is connected using ultra fast 1G/bs connections, it will be an enabler for future teaching and administration advancements.

Another main anchor for this project is the Grand Teton National Park; this network will enable 1 Gb/s connections between two gate entrance facilities and the main headquarters buildings. These connections will enable logistical savings for the Park Service, and provide the opportunity to enhance its security services, if needed.

H. Technology

Technology Type

Indicate the technology that will be used to deliver last mile services. The following items were selected:

Wireline - Fiber-optic Cable

Other:

Technology Questions

Methodology for Area Status:

Applicant has determined the area status as "underserved" according to the definition contained in the NOFA at Section III: 'Underserved area means ... a Middle Mile service area, where at least one of the following factors is met: ... (ii) no fixed or mobile terrestrial broadband service provider advertises to residential end users broadband transmission speeds of at least three megabits per second ("Mbps") downstream in the ... Middle Mile service area.' Applicant is aware of no advertisements that are being made within the proposed underserved area that have qualified the area as served; therefore by definition, the area status is "underserved."



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

This middle project includes at least some portion of the project inside a served area, an underserved area cannot be connected to a served area without going into an area that is classified as “served”. 83% of the route miles are in underserved areas, and the communities of Moose and Moran are currently unserved, by definition.

Description of Network Openness:

Silver Star plans to offer interconnection to its new broadband fiber portion of its network on a non-discriminatory basis, as it does on the existing network. These interconnections will be consistently offered on a competitive, non-discriminatory basis to carriers and access providers in sound financial condition, and in good standing with federal, state and local regulatory agencies. Master Service Agreements (MSA’s) will be on file with all carriers who interconnect, whether through private line circuits, Ethernet services, or Dedicated Internet Access (DIA). These MSA’s will define the terms, conditions and service assurance levels under which the interconnection services will be offered.

Silver Star will deploy a network monitoring and alarm aggregation system that monitors individual network elements (from SONET/DWDM Nodes to Network Routers and Switches) in real time to assure the highest level of service, a proactive approach to network degradation and a prompt response to network outages. For customers who subscribe to broadband and DIA services, Silver Star will establish an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) that will be published on its website. This AUP will define the terms and use of the Internet and broadband access services provided by Silver Star as well as the consequences for default on the part of the subscribing party.

Silver Star will employ the services of a Trusted Third Party and will be in compliance with the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) for packet networks and will file annually its compliance with the Federal Communications Commission.

Silver Star intends to fully comply with the “Nondiscrimination and Interconnection” provision of the NOFA and understands that failure to comply will be considered a default of any loan or grant agreement that may be offered.

System Design:



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

The network being proposed for this project is a hierarchical design that includes middle mile access equipment and long haul transport equipment over a fiber core. The network starts at the existing facilities of Silver Star Telephone Company. Silver Star currently has a fiber network that extends to the Rafter J (Jackson) Hut from Alpine WY. Silver Star, through our partners, extends this network down to Evanston WY.

The physical fiber cable proposed in this project will be installed along US-89 from our Rafter J hut to the intersection of WY-22 and US-89. The fiber will continue down WY-22 toward the junction of WY-22 and WY-390. The primary route will continue up WY-390 to Teton Village before crossing the Snake River using an existing underground duct facility. The fiber will route past the Jackson Hole Airport along US-89 to Moran WY. The final leg of the fiber will follow US-287/26 from Moran to Togwotee pass.

The fiber optic cable proposed for this project will be our standard size for transport of 96 fibers for the rural section plus a 288 fiber inside the Town of Jackson for FTTH distribution and transport (See Network Maps). Our history has shown us that a 96 fiber provides a very good balance between installation cost and future requirements.

The top level transport electronics in this hierarchical design includes an extension of the Silver Star DWDM network from the Rafter J (Jackson) Hut to Moran, then to the Togwotee Hut. The Togwotee hut will include DWDM equipment from the Silver Star and ACT vendors because DWDM mid-span meets are current not supported. The DWDM equipment within the same physical location will allow circuits to be cross-connected from the Silver Star to ACT networks. This DWDM network will complete the electronics required to close the fiber “gap” in the WY ring.

This DWDM network will be equipped with OC-48 optics for the initial second level transport system, but will have capacity to be upgraded up to 40 lambdas; each with a capacity of at least 10 Gb/s. The upgrade to 40 Lambda will require additional shelves at the regeneration and uplink sites. These additional shelves will be purchased by Silver Star as required to fulfill circuit requests and needs.

The second layer of transport will be for SONET type services including low-level circuits from DS1s to OC-12s. This SONET network will originate in the Rafter J Hut on the existing SONET terminal; the network will continue to the add/drop location at Moran, WY. The final leg of the



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

SONET network will start at Moran and proceed into the Togwotee hut. The SONET network will be interconnected to the ACT SONET network at Togwotee.

The third level in the network equipment is the middle mile access equipment. The access network will be located in the existing Rafter J hut and within the new Moran junction hut. Each of the Anchor's will be provided a direct 1 Gb/s FTTB connection from the access equipment to the site. The Moran site will be used for feed anchor institutions within and around Moran WY. The Jackson site will be used to feed anchor institutions from Jackson to the Grand Teton National Park at Moose. The two Access Network terminals will be connected with redundant 10 Gb/s connections transported over the DWDM network (See Network Diagram).

The Point of Interconnections with other carriers will be provided by ACT and Silver Star. The ACT network has interconnections at Casper, Forsyth, MT, and Sundance, WY. The Interconnections for the Silver Star Network will be at Iona, ID, Evanston WY, and Pocatello, ID. These sites provide connections to the Western Utah fiber network, Qwest Communications, Syringa Networks, Vision Net, and SDN Networks along with Tier 1 and 2 providers at each interconnection point.

Silver Star has selected DWDM technology as the primary transport equipment because of its capacities for future upgrades and our company's history with using this type of equipment. The DWDM electronics proposed will provide capacity for serve Teton County for the next 20 to 30 years. The DWDM equipment proposed can also be upgraded to 40 Gb/s or 100 Gb/s per Lambda capacity and upgrade to support 40 additional Lambdas. Extending this DWDM network to ACT makes engineering and financial sense.

The middle mile aggregation network is being proposed an Active Ethernet network. An Active Ethernet network will provide 1 to 2 dedicated fibers to each Anchor institution. These dedicated fibers will be activated with 1 Gb/s electronics. If any Institutions grow beyond the initial 1G/s capacity the subscriber electronics can be upgrade to 10 Gb/s electronics without changing any physical fiber optic in the ground.

Is the applicant seeking a waiver pursuant to section IX.C of the NOFA so as to sell or lease portions of the award-funded broadband facilities during their life?

No



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

I. Project Budget

Project Budget		
	Federal Grant Request	Match
Last Mile	0	0
Middle Mile	5,608,179	1,626,841
Total	5,608,179	1,626,841

Project Budget Total: \$7,235,020

Match Percent: 22.5%

Projects Outside Recommended Funding Range:



Outside Leverage	
Applicant is providing matching funds of at least 20% towards the total eligible project costs?	Yes
Matching cost detail	<p>The following breakdown details Applicant's in-kind and cash match contributions to the total project costs. The specified in-kind contributions meet the definitions contained in Section V.E.2.a, are necessary to the success of the project and include the labor/services of Applicant's experienced staff in the engineering, construction, administration and management of the proposed project. Applicant's in-kind and cash match contributions equal 22.5% of the total project costs.</p> <p>Administrative and legal expenses - \$20,000 (in-kind) (Applicant internal staff labor/services)</p> <p>Architectural and engineering fees - \$210,000 (cash) and \$234,400 (in-kind)</p>



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

	<p>(Environmental Study consultant fees; Applicant internal staff labor/services for design, project compliance)</p> <p>Other architectural and engineering fees - \$60,000 (cash) and \$40,000 (in-kind) (Permit fee; Applicant internal staff labor/services)</p> <p>Project inspection fees - \$17,000 (cash) and \$272,400 (in-kind) (Contractor and Applicant internal staff labor/services)</p> <p>Equipment - \$722,841 (cash) and \$37,800 (in-kind) (Equipment purchase cost and cost for commercial power to equipment hut; Applicant internal staff labor/services)</p> <p>Miscellaneous - \$12,200 (cash) (Applicant internal staff labor/services)</p> <p>(See CCI Detailed Budget Attachment for additional documentation.)</p>
Unjust enrichment	Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc. currently is not receiving, nor has it requested to receive, Federal support for non-recurring costs in the service area covered by the proposed project.
Disclosure of federal and/or state funding sources	Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc. currently is not receiving, has not received, nor has it requested to receive, Federal or State funding for this proposed project.
Budget reasonableness	<p>The route Applicant has designated for the proposed project is the most cost effective based on distance, construction cost and potential environmental impact. The total number of units indicated for each budget category is based on over fifty years of communications industry experience and industry standards for design. The unit price indicated is based in part on current estimates provided by vendors and in part on Applicant's experience with projects of this magnitude.</p> <p>Budgeted network equipment costs of \$673,419 are based on the most recent quote available from the DWDM/SONET vendors plus anticipated in-house support costs.</p>



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

	<p>The proposed cable route is 86 miles. The OSP design is two (2) 1.25 inch diameter plowcon ducts, direct buried. Fiber optic cable ranging in size from 288 count to 96 count will be installed (jetted) in one of the ducts; the other duct will be spare. 100 foot of fiber coil has been allocated at each handhole. Miscellaneous materials include fiber vaults/handholes, splice cases, duct couplings, warning tape, etc. Multiple crews working this project will be necessary in order to complete it within the limited construction seasons available using standard construction support equipment (backhoes, trackhoes, directional boring equipment, fuel truck) to obtain the DOT required bury depth of 48 inches through the rocky terrain typical of the service area. A significant amount of rock-saw operation will be required to place the buried cable along this mountain route. The budgeted OSP construction cost of \$5,416,179 is reasonable for the geography and difficult geology of the area in which the project lies.</p> <p>The budgeted building cost of \$191,004 includes a fully integrated pre-fabricated shelter-delivered to the site, a standby generator and required Park Service and/or Teton County permits. The costs are based on recent quotes within the last quarter.</p> <p>Engineering costs of \$153,900 include design, staking, mapping, and clerical services. Costs are based on recent experience with the design of similar projects. An additional \$210,000 is estimated to complete the NEPA compliance requirements based on an estimate provided by a qualified Environmental firm with experience in the local area.</p> <p>Project management costs of \$399,000 include project coordination, inspection and compliance work. Costs are based on recent work performed and the requirements of this program.</p>
Demonstration of need	<p>This middle mile project constructs approximately 86 miles of fiber facilities between Jackson, WY and Togwotee Pass, WY to complete an existing 1,000+ mile regional fiber network. Completing this fiber ring will enable robust, redundant broadband network opportunities for 11 counties and 26 communities in western Wyoming.</p>



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date:		Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program		Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.	
Task: Submit Application - BTOP		Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes	

	<p>This project is estimated at \$7.2 million, of which no capital funding is available from or committed by other federal or non-federal sources. Beyond in-kind contributions with which Silver Star intends to support this proposed project, no outside funds have been solicited. Silver Star's current transport network serves as the main transport network for Teton County and affects most of the households in surrounding areas that subscribe to Broadband Internet services from wired providers. Challenges associated with building this project include the rocky terrain and high mountain weather patterns that restrict underground construction during 6-7 months of the year.</p> <p>For more than a decade, telecommunications carriers have tried to justify the costs required to close the gap. The estimated project costs are reasonable given the distance, and the fact that the project will traverse difficult construction and cable plowing terrain. ARRA broadband stimulus funding represents an opportunity to construct a critical and long-needed project for the state of Wyoming that might not otherwise be constructed due to costs and area remoteness.</p> <p>Silver Star, by itself, is unable to fund a \$7.2 million project, given current capital requirements to maintain and improve its existing network. A capital intensive project such as the one proposed requires an immediate outlay of cash. Silver Star is in the process of replacing depreciated equipment and upgrading obsolete technology within its existing service territory for the benefit of its existing customers.</p> <p>Lending resources have been exhausted due to the large capital outlays toward current projects. As demonstrated by the Cash Flow forecast, it would be impossible for Silver Star to fund a capital intensive project such as the one proposed. While Silver Star currently is working to improve the status of debt covenants in the short term, it anticipates over the next couple of years to be in a better position to again seek outside federal or non-federal funding sources as a large amount of the current obligations will be paid down. The proposed project would not</p>
--	---



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

	<p>be possible during the grant period without the federal grant assistance.</p> <p>An award of ARRA funds would resolve the dilemma Silver Star faces in being unable to justify the cost of closing the gap, while supporting the ARRA and BTOP priorities by enhancing rural broadband facilities and by stimulating local local economic growth through jobs and development of key area facilities.</p>
--	--

Funds to States/Territories

States	Amount of Federal Grant Request
Wyoming	5,608,179

Funds to States/Territories Total: \$5,608,179

J. Historical Financials

Matching Funds			
	2007	2008	2009
Revenue	████████	████████	████████
Expenditures	████████	████████	████████
Net Assets	████████	████████	████████
Change in Net Assets from Prior Year	████████	████████	████████
Bond Rating (if applicable)			

K. Project Readiness

BTOP Organizational Readiness



Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Silver Star operates a mission critical service, which requires detailed work-flow procedures. Silver Star is keenly aware that proper work-flow procedures are necessary to ensure timely delivery of services to its customers. Silver Star has in place a Work Flow Procedural Manual establishing appropriate documentation, notification, training and billing procedures. All services provided by Silver Star Communications are to follow these procedures. The overriding goal of the Procedural Manual is to provide a high level of service to the customer, along with detailing every work flow process that occurs from start to finish on a customer order. Periodic changes are made to the work-flow process to increase the efficiency of the organization.

Organization Departmental roles and responsibilities are described below:

Sales: The sales process is initiated by a potential customer contacting a Silver Star sales representative. Sales representatives have two customers: customers and Silver Star sales support personnel. The primary role of the Silver Star sales representative is to ask the appropriate questions and analyze the customer's need. The secondary role is to give all required information to the sales support personnel who in turn will create a quote(s) or service orders.

Operations Engineering: The role of Operations Engineering is to monitor the network and the equipment for the network. Operations Engineering is responsible for keeping an updated inventory of anything related to the network. Operations Engineering is also responsible for performing verification of network capacity for quotes.

Provisioning: The role of provisioning staff is to provision circuits on the network, process paperwork to 3rd party vendors for all orders, and designate assignments for orders.

Network Operations: Network Operations is the technical group responsible for physically wiring and connecting the circuits, and troubleshooting, testing all circuits with other vendors.

Accounting: Accounting is responsible for keeping accurate billing records for all customers, collecting payment from customers, and analyzing 3rd party bills. Accounting is also in charge of ensuring federal grant and loan funds are utilized in a fiscally responsible manner.



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Silver Star has over fifty years' experience building and operating a widespread, state of the art broadband network, having designed, constructed and operate a robust network consisting of over 396 miles of transport fiber optic cable supporting diverse and redundant DWDM and SONET circuits. As detailed above, Silver Star has the necessary organizational mechanisms in place and the personnel with extensive experience on staff in all departments prepared to implement and operate this proposed project.

Construction and Vendor Contracts

Applicant anticipates using vendors and/or contractors for the following activities associated with the proposed project. Copies of vendor support letters are uploaded under Supplemental Information 2.

Engineering (Preliminary design, budget estimates, staking, rights-of-way, bids, contracts and closeouts, construction inspection services, mapping)

- In-house 100%

Environmental Documentation

- Consulting Firm 90%
- In-house 10%

Construction

- Outside Contractor (by bid) 100%

DWDM & SONET Equipment (Purchase & Installation)

- Vendor 90% (Vendor already providing similar equipment in other parts of existing network under existing contract)
- In-house installation and support-10%
- In-house installation and support-10%

Outside Plant Material (fiber, conduit, vaults/handholes, misc)

- Provided by contractor or vendors-100%

(See attached vendor support letters.)



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Customer Base

The applicant does not have an existing customer base in the Proposed Funded Service Area today. The applicant currently has an interconnection with Qwest and provides the transport out of Teton County for Qwest services.

Licenses, Regulatory Approvals and Agreements

The following agencies and entities are identified as requiring notifications, regulatory approvals, licenses or permits and right-of-way agreements:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - Bridger-Teton National Forest (USFS)
- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - Grand Teton National Park (NPS)
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- State of Wyoming
 - Wyoming Department of Transportation
 - State Lands Board
 - Department Environmental Quality
 - Wyoming Game and Fish
 - State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Teton County
- Town of Jackson

Informal visits and inquires have started. No formal regulatory review, license applications or right-of-way permitting has started.

SPIN Number

L. Environmental Questionnaire



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Project Description

The project consists of direct buried construction of approximately 78 miles of plowcon (2 ducts-one active, one spare), jetted fiber optic cable (48 fiber) in one duct, and placement of a fully integrated pre-fabricated fiber optic equipment building in Moran, WY. The proposed route follows existing State highways and forest roads; and existing utility routes between 4000 S Hwy 89 in Jackson and Togwotee Pass summit on Hwy 26.

Construction and clean-up of direct buried fiber optic facilities (plowcon and fiber) will require one, two or even three plowcat dozers (in tandem depending on terrain), backhoes, trackhoes, a directional boring machine, a fuel truck and support vehicles. The width of construction disturbance will average fifteen feet and should not exceed twenty feet for the most difficult of construction terrain. Small live stream crossings are anticipated to be bored. Large stream and river crossings will require duct attachments to existing bridges. Silt traps will be installed as needed or required.

Placement of an 8' x 10' pre-fabricated equipment building in Moran, WY will require a minimum of ground disturbance for slab construction, installation of a groundfield, construction of underground power facilities and construction of fiber entrance facilities. (See attached Network Maps for Project Route.)

Property Changes

Construction of Buried Fiber Optic Facilities: The expected width of disturbance during placement of buried fiber optic facilities is expected to be between 10 and 20 feet, or an average of 15 feet. The approximate length of the proposed plow route is 78 miles. Accordingly, total temporary disturbance during construction could approach 169 acres.

Land Ownership and Administration: The vast majority of the proposed route follows State highways in the Grand Teton National Park. A small portion of the proposed route is along State highways and established unimproved (dirt) road on lands administered by the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Teton County and Town of Jackson rights-of-ways make up the remainder of the project route.



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Zoning and Land Use: The majority of the proposed project route is zoned RU (rural) by Teton County. Within the urban areas of the County there are AC Auto-Urban Comm., BP Business Park, AH Affordable Housing, PD PUD, and SF Single Family zones. Within the Town of Jackson AC and BP Business Park zones exist along with the Rural designation. There is a small amount of private land, east of Moran, along the project route, in conservation trust. (See Attached Zoning exhibit for lands affected by the proposed project.)

Buildings

A pre-fabricated equipment building (8 feet by 10 feet) set on a concrete slab of the same dimension is proposed for placement near the Moran, WY U.S. Post Office. Evidence of existing underground facilities in the area indicates prior disturbance.

Wetlands

Wetlands are present or near the proposed fiber optic route. The attached Exhibit-Wetlands from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wetlands Inventory website shows the proposed project route and inventoried wetland features. All of the major rivers and associated wetlands will be crossed by connecting conduit to the existing bridge structures. Based on a NWI search, there are five main wetland areas along the route. Most of the wetlands and waterway crossing are between Rafter J subdivision and Wilson, Wyoming, and at the Snake River areas near Moran. A detailed delineation will be conducted and a Nationwide 12 Permit will be obtained as appropriate and necessary. In compliance with the Clean Water Act, construction will be done in accordance with the procedures and techniques provided in the direction of the Nationwide Permit program regarding wetlands as administered by the USACOE.

Critical Habitats

The only Wyoming county affected by this project is Teton County. Approximately 8 miles of the proposed project, east of Togwotee Pass, is in Situation 1 & 2 Grizzly Bear Habitat. Attached Exhibit-Habitats is a listing of Federal Threatened, and Candidate Species and Designated Critical Habitats that occur in or may be affected by projects in TETON County, Wyoming. This project will have minimal indirect affects on threatened and endangered species and its habitat during the construction process. Because the construction will be contained within the existing State and County highway rights-of-way, the affect on the Canada Lynx, Bald Eagle, Grizzly Bear and Gray Wolf and its habitat will be little more than the current levels of traffic and noise, and will be temporary in nature, occurring over two summer construction



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

seasons lasting approximately seven months each. The data base of the USF&W Service was queried regarding plants and other species as well. The disturbed roadside habitats do not lend themselves to providing habitat for any of the flora listed within the area of interest.

Floodplain

See attached exhibit-Floodplain for the project’s FEMA Flood plain information maps.

Protected Land

A number of historic properties are located along the proposed route but not within the existing disturbed rights-of-way in which the project will be constructed. The applicant contacted Mr. Richard Currit, Senior Archaeologist and Review and Federal Consultation NEPA Coordinator, of the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He indicated that SHPO can only respond directly to the agency proposing to permit the project or its officially designated assignee. Upon review of the proposed route, Applicant has determined that no new disturbance outside of the existing right-of-way would be required and there is a very low likelihood that any adverse impacts to cultural resources would result as there are no registered sites within the proposed project area. The project does not traverse any registered tribal lands, therefore no impact to such lands is anticipated and no contact with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer by the Applicant will be necessary. The applicant proposes to facilitate a letter from the permitting agency to the SHPO office in order to complete this requirement.

Coastal Area

Review of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management’s website indicates the project is NOT located within the boundaries of a coastal zone management area.

Brownfield

The proposed project is not located within any brownfield sites according to the EPA’s brownfields mapping website.



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Uploads

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name	File Name	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
Service Offerings and Competitor Data	JT_CCI Service Offerings and Competitor Data Attachment rev.xlsx	Hoopes, Allen	03/25/2010
Network Diagram	Network Diagram.pdf	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
Build Out Timeline	JT_CCI Build-Out Timeline Attachment.doc	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
List of Community Anchors and Points of Interest	JT_CCI Anchor Detail and POI Attachment.xls	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
Management Team Resumes and Organization Chart	SSTCI-7357 OrgInfo.pdf	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
Government and Key Partnerships	govt&key support.pdf	Hoopes, Allen	03/25/2010
Historical Financial Statements	SSTCI-7357 Financial Statements.pdf	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
Budget Narrative	Budget Narrative.pdf	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Submitted Date: Easygrants ID: 7357	
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: SILVER STAR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
Task: Submit Application - BTOP	Applicant Name: Mr. Allen R Hoopes

Detailed Budget	CCI Detailed Budget Attachment.xls	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
Pro-forma Forecast	CCI Pro Forma Financial Projections Attachment Togwotee.xlsx	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
Subscriber Estimates	JT_CCI Subscriber Estimates Attachment.xls	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
Dashboard Metrics	Key Metrics Dashboard.doc	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
Service Area Data	CCI Service Areas Attachment.xls	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
Network Maps	Network Maps.pdf	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
BTOP Certifications	Certification.pdf	Hoopes, Allen	03/25/2010
SF-424 C and D	CCI_SF_424_C_and_D_Forms.pdf	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010
Supplemental Information	Exhibits- Attachments_Supplemental.pdf	Hoopes, Allen	03/24/2010