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Organization:	Contact Network, Inc.
Project Name:	Mississippi Delta Broadband Infrastructure Project
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
States:	Mississippi
Federal Award:	\$11,584,467

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Contact Network proposes deploying a 550-mile broadband middle mile network throughout 12 economically distressed counties in the Mississippi Delta region, where community anchor institutions currently lack the bandwidth necessary to enable distance learning, telemedicine, and enhanced public safety applications. The Mississippi Delta Broadband Infrastructure Project intends to expand and enhance a fiber optic network in the region to enable up to 4 Gbps backhaul service, with 1 Gbps service available to local community anchor institutions. The project also proposes to connect 16 public school districts comprising the Delta Area Association for the Improvement of Schools to facilitate distance learning, video conferencing, and improved school security.

The Mississippi Delta Broadband Infrastructure Project also proposes to:

- Connect 130 community anchor institutions, including 110 K-12 schools, four government facilities, five community colleges, and ten healthcare providers, with the potential to serve an additional 145 anchor institutions.
- Construct 373 miles of new fiber and incorporate 176 miles of existing fiber that will facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to approximately 72,000 households and 3,100 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Link hospitals via major fiber routes along U.S. Highway 51, U.S. Highway 49, U.S. Highway 49N, and U.S. Highway 82 to enable telemedicine and more effective sharing of electronic medical records.
- Work with the Mississippi Department of Transportation to deliver Intelligent Transportation Systems and public safety applications to priority state roadways to relieve congestion and improve safety.
- Interconnect with Contact Network's earlier \$20.7M BTOP award-winning project to build 635 miles of new fiber in South Central Mississippi.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Contact Network, doing business as InLine, has operated as an Internet service provider to small, medium, and large businesses and government agencies across Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee since 1992. The company provides a variety of end-to-end network services over its wireline and wireless networks, covering over 1,200 square miles in those states.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Mississippi Department of Transportation
- Delta Area Association for the Improvement of Schools
- Delta State University E-Learning Program

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

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

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