

523 NIOBRARA AVE · PO BOX 246 HEMINGFORD, NE 69348 **308-487-5500 • BBC.NET** 

**Applicants Experience:** Mobius has been offering internet speeds with a shared loop or split loop in Qwest towns in the Panhandle since 2000. Seeing the need in the rural area, Mobius built its first FTTH (Fiber to the Home) project in Berea, Nebraska. That project included 13 miles of fiber which is part of the Alliance exchange.

After Berea, Mobius built a 50-mile fiber project in Dawes County along River Road in 2012 and 2013. Mobius has continued to build areas in Dawes, Box Butte and Sioux Counties with FTTH. Larger jobs are contracted out to speed up deployment, but several small projects have been completed by the staff of Mobius. Most of our technicians have 15 to 20 years' experience with the deployment, installation and splicing of fiber.

Mobius has been deploying fiber since 2010 outside of the Hemingford exchange boundary. Typically, the company has done a minimum of one fiber deployment project per year. 2020 was our most ambitious year with 7 separate projects. Larger jobs with tight completion deadlines are often sub contracted to buried fiber contractors, while the Hemingford team largely handles the fiber splicing and customer equipment installations. Since 2010, Mobius has deployed over 850 miles of buried fiber.

Life of the facilities: Buried FTTH is the choice for the projects that Mobius builds. Most upgrades of the equipment, when needed, are of electronics and CPE and not the fiber itself. Upgrades are within our Central Office and do not result in inconvenience at the customer's home. We are able to deploy our technician's day or night if there is an issue. We have two fiber splicing trailers with trained technicians that can have a spliced fiber repaired and the network operational in a short amount of time. The trailer allows technicians to work in all elements, as it is heated and air conditioned.

**Proposed network, Homes Passed and Miles:** Rural Box Butte County project plan is to continue with a non-contiguous fiber route to 23 homes over 44 miles. Mobius will deploy buried fiber with active ethernet gigabit to the home.

#### **MOBIUS STAFF**

Tonya Mayer CEO/General Manager, 30 Years

Telecommunications and Business Management

John Annen Telecommunication Specialist, 30 Years

Susan Morava Chief Financial Officer/Marketing Director, 28 Years

Responsible for financial models, budgeting, forecasting and product line analysis, marketing reports and programs.

#### Nancy Swanson Customer Service 27 Years

Operations & Billing Support. Customer Experience and basic trouble shooting, Broadband Mapping and Coordination support. Billing & Regulatory assistance and support.

Kory Haas IT and Director of Operations Manager, 26 Years

Responsible for installing, testing and operating the "Fixed" FTTH system and initial customer premise equipment. Manages and incorporates the new systems into the existing Internet Infrastructure and Information Technology Networks.

### Chris Weber Outside Plant Manager, 22 Years

IT, installation, wiring, networking, scheduling, troubleshooting.

Cheryl Linegar Regulatory Specialist/Executive Assistant, 21 Years

Preparation of regulatory State and Federal Reports, correspondence between Management, Board of Directors and Employees, Broadband Mapping, liaison between Telecommunication Consultants and regulatory bodies establishing 313 telephone exchanges for the FTTH recently completed projects.

Joni Jespersen Community Development, Marketing, 21 Years

Community Enhancement, Grant Preparation and Research, Customer outreach for Community improvements, Economic Development, Marketing Materials, Publicity.

Mark Klemke Outside Plant Technician, 21 Years

Installation, testing and operation of customer premise equipment with specific emphasis on wireless and FTTH. Responsible for mapping, planning and guiding FTTH projects. Trenching, Boring & Splicing.

Andy Kresl Outside Plant Technician, 18 Years

Installation, testing and operation of customer premise equipment with specific emphasis on wireless and FTTH. Responsible for mapping and guiding FTTH projects. Trenching, Boring and Splicing.

Shad Bryner Computer Tech/Outside Plant Technician, 21 Years

Installation, testing and operation of customer premise equipment with specific emphasis on assisting techs with customer installation & troubleshooting.

ADDITONAL STAFF AT MOBIUS ARE HIGH LEVEL TECHNICIANS AND PERFORM ALL TASK PERTAINING TO EVERY PRODUCT PROVIDER THROUGH MOBIUS.

**Useful life, technological components:** The preference of Mobius has been to bury the fiber underground with depths of at least 3 feet to protect from cuts. We do not use aerial fiber which is exposed to wind, ice and squirrels. While some cuts do happen, as long as they are located and located properly, the occurrence of cuts has been minimal. Cuts that have needed repaired are immediately responded to and repaired. The physical longevity of the fiber has a minimum expectancy of 25 years, but they can and do last much longer. Electronics used have a life expectancy, on average of 10 years, we use active ethernet, gigabit to the home.

**Speeds:** Mobius will offer symmetrical speeds with an opportunity for 100/100 at \$49.05.



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Mobius Communications Company, nor our parent company Hemingford Cooperative Telephone Company have been required to be NIST Compliant as of yet. Hemingford Coop Telephone did not elect EACAM and neither company have applied for other funding that has required the NIST compliance.

However, in order to have our companies prepared for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program and other types of federal or state funding where more cyber requirements are needed, we have been researching different companies to assist in not only cyber compliance, but also Supply Chain Risk Management. On June 26, 2024 our board approved to move forward with 7Sigma and have executed contracts.

We believe the program we have elected should meet all requirements and more for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program. Our contracted services with 7Sigma should have us in compliance prior to the 2024 NBBP awards being announced.

They will assist our companies with our plans, provide assessments, training and compliance. Attached is a letter from 7Sigma confirming our engagement with their company.

Sincerely,

**Tonya Mayer** 

## 7Sigma

**Systems** INC

6687 Mulberry Circle East I Chanhassen, MN 55317 I 952-856-0069

July 1st, 2024

Tonya Mayer General Manager Mobius Communications Company 523 Niobrara Ave Hemingford, NE 69348

Dear Tonya,

We are delighted to confirm our engagement with Mobius Communications to assist with your cybersecurity compliance efforts in alignment with the requests for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program(NBBP) funding.

We understand the critical importance of robust cybersecurity measures in the ever-evolving digital landscape, particularly in the telecommunications sector. Ensuring compliance with BEAD funding requirements not only protects your infrastructure but also strengthens the trust and security of the communities you serve.

Our comprehensive approach to cybersecurity compliance includes:

- I. **Risk Assessment and Management:** Identifying potential vulnerabilities and threats to your systems, and developing strategies to mitigate these risks.
- 2. **Policy and Procedure Development:** Crafting tailored cybersecurity policies and procedures that align with NBBP requests and industry best practices.
- 3. **Training and Awareness Programs:** Providing training sessions to educate your staff on cybersecurity best practices and how to respond to potential cyber threats.
- 4. **Monitoring and Incident Response:** Implementing continuous monitoring solutions and establishing a robust incident response plan to quickly address any security breaches.
- 5. **Compliance Documentation:** Assisting with the preparation and maintenance of documentation required for NBBP rquests, ensuring that all regulatory standards are met.

Our team combined a team of experienced cybersecurity professionals and is committed to working closely with Mobius Communications to continue to define your specific needs and finish a customized plan that addresses your unique challenges and objectives.

As part of our engagement, we will conduct an initial assessment of your current cybersecurity posture and compliance status. Based on our findings, we will provide you with a detailed roadmap and timeline for achieving full compliance with the grant funding requirements.

Enclosed with this letter is a summary of our proposed services and a preliminary timeline for the compliance project. We are confident that our expertise and dedicated approach will ensure that we meet all necessary

# 7Sigma

Systems INC 6687 Mulberry Circle East 1 Chanhassen, MN 55317 I 952-856-0069

cybersecurity standards required for the successful approval of your BEAD funding application. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (952) 270-3897 or <a href="mailto:fkaim@7sigma.com">fkaim@7sigma.com</a>

Thank you for entrusting 7Sigma Systems with this critical aspect of your operations. We look forward to continuing a successful partnership and to supporting your application for the grant funding.

Sincerely,

Frank Kaim

CEO/Principal 7Sigma Systems, Inc.

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