

**ATTACHMENT G
BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED NETWORK**

7b. A description of any risk factors or legal challenges that must be addressed prior to or during the project in question, such as local zoning, right of way, tribal approval, and permitting processes, and how the applicant intends to mitigate these risk factors or legal challenges.

- Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company will abide by all franchising authority ordinances (including payment of applicable municipal occupation taxes), permitting processes, zoning requirements and right of way requirements should the proposed project be approved. As a telecommunications company certificated by the Nebraska Public Service Commission, Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company dba Fastwyre Broadband (the “Company”) has the right to place facilities in public rights of way pursuant to the Telecommunications Rights-of-Way Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. sec. 86-701 – 86-710.
- The Company will collect and remit to appropriate governmental entities all taxes and regulatory surcharges associated with the provision of services to customers in the proposed project areas.
- The Company will seek appropriate zoning approvals, rights of ways, and permits to carry out the project.
- The Company is unaware of any other legal challenges applicable to the proposed project or network.
- The Company is in the process of seeking Tribal approval and support for the proposed project.

7c. A financial analysis for the project including cash flow projections for the project for a minimum of 5 years, including an explanation of revenue assumptions and take rate. Projections that do not reflect positive capitalization should include a written explanation as to how a project will be maintained over the life of the facilities.

Refer to Attachment H (CONFIDENTIAL MATERIALS – 2023 NBBP)

7d. A description of the plans for long-term maintenance of the network built through the grant.

The Company will document the hardware, Outside Plant equipment, Inside Plant equipment, version of software, connection points, addresses, service type and the fibers inside each cable in Oasis FM. The Company’s Outside Plant Organization utilizes these records to understand, update, and manage its outside plant fiber infrastructure. Oasis FM will help the Company’s Field Operations organization to manage, maintain, move, and add network build information to its records throughout the life cycle of the project. The Company’s Inside Plant organization will utilize these records for planning and maintaining the network capacity, including the amount of data that can flow through locations on the cables and equipment. Oasis FM also assists with identifying options to repair network issues, re-route signals, and may provide other potential solutions.

Predictive maintenance to decrease the equipment breakdown is needed due to increased traffic pattern complexity; as well as, use of multiple networks, applications, equipment vendors, and software systems. The Company utilizes a combination of predictive and preventive maintenance at its Winnebago Central Office (“CO”), including a backup generator that is on a weekly startup maintenance schedule. The Optical Line Terminals (“OLTs”) will be equipped with enough cards to accommodate growth. In addition, OLTs can host combination cards that include Ethernet and Passive Optical Network (“PON”) ports. The Company maintains an inventory of spare cards in case of card issues or failures. Additionally, the Calix and router alarm system provides monitoring to ensure the network is working properly. Further, the Company has a preventative maintenance schedule in which a CO Technician visits the site bi-weekly and validates the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (“HVAC”) system,

generator, alarm system, fire protection system, DC battery back system, the network equipment, and current signal levels. If there is a network equipment failure, the Company has a CO Technician based out of Blair, NE that will respond within one hour. The Company's Network Operations Center ("NOC") plays a key role in monitoring its network for outages. The NOC will monitor the proposed XGS-PON network via the Service Management Connector element in the management system and the Calix Operation Cloud system.

The proposed indoor Calix U6x Optical Network Terminal ("ONT") will have a battery backup unit that is available for installation which would provide operating and standby power for voice service only during a power outage. The Calix system can locate a new channel for the Wi-Fi if interference occurs without having to make the customer turn the unit off and back on. In addition, the Calix platform performs a daily maintenance check on the ONT and Wi-Fi is analyzed for interference. Help desk support will be available for new and existing broadband customers.

The Company will be onsite to monitor the progress of installation, inspect workmanship, and review test data and placement of the cable plant along the route. The proper permitting requirements will be followed and will help to protect the infrastructure from future construction project impacts. This on-site monitoring will also ensure the proposed network build aligns with industry standards. The Company will register all new areas with Nebraska 811 and appropriately place fiber marker signs along the route.

The Company will conduct Optical Time-Domain Reflectometer ("OTDR") testing during the installation of the proposed infrastructure, and regular testing of miscellaneous components at each aggregation layer (e.g., fiber, splitter, splice, connectors, cable joint closures, cabinets, handholes, and pedestals). The OTDR measurement data provides information on the condition and performance of fibers, as well as any passive optical components along the cable path (e.g., connectors, splices, splitters, multiplexers).

Finally, the Company will invest in employee training on the proposed network build. It will work closely with installation teams to train and educate them on the XGS-PON methodology and ensure its Field/CO Technicians have the needed support to deliver reliable service and maintain the network components.

7e. Disclose any prior receipt of federally awarded grant funds for broadband deployment and provide copies of any past audits of federal awards.

In Nebraska, the Company has been awarded the following federal grant funds for broadband deployment:

- **Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company ReConnect I** – The project will bring high speed broadband service to 334 customers over 221 miles of fiber in rural areas of Belden-Carroll, Meadow Grove, and Osmond, NE
 - Federal Funding Awarded = \$5,734,823
 - Supplemental Funding Awarded = \$993,030
 - Eastern Nebraska Telephone Company Funding = \$1,911,608
- **Rock County Telephone Company ReConnect II** – The project will bring high speed broadband service to 79 customers over 122 miles of fiber in rural areas of Bassett and Newport, NE
 - Federal Funding Awarded = \$3,105,642
 - Supplemental Funding Awarded = \$414,062

- Rock County Telephone Company Funding = \$1,035,154

The Company has not been audited for any of the federal awards listed above.

7 Note. For projects that involve broadband development on tribal lands, permission from and approval by tribes is required and documentation of the approval must be provided to the Commission no later than September 21, 2023.

Company representatives have contacted the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska to solicit their support of the project encompassed in this application (refer to Attachment J2). To date the Company has not received evidence of support or any opposition to the proposed project from the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The Company will continue its efforts to engage with them and will update this application with additional evidence when received.