

Technical Capability Statement:

Stanton Telecom, Inc. (STI) has been offering broadband services since 1996. In 2009, Stanton Telecom upgraded their system to the latest cutting-edge internet technology by burying Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) throughout our ILEC exchange. This fiber optic cable replaced the copper that was originally used for providing service to all our customers. The FTTP project allowed STI to offer higher internet speeds to all our customers. STI currently uses GPON (ITU G.984 standard) fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) for our last-mile technology to supply services to our ILEC customers.

STI currently provides broadband service over the 100/100 Mbps minimum. STI offers 3 tiers of broadband services: 100/100 Mbps, 500/500 Mbps, and 1-Gbps/1-Gbps. STI has received our Engineering firm's certification that STI's network is gig capable and have applied for Gig Certification from NTCA.

STI's StantonCountyRural project will be resilient given that our voice, internet, and video interconnections are handled separately. For the internet interconnection, STI has multiple 10 Gbps optical ethernet connections utilizing Open Shortest Path First (OSPF) and Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) to uplink to two Tier 2 broadband providers. The total capacity of these optical connections is 30 Gbps. In case one uplink fails, all internet traffic will switch to the other uplink. For video content for IPTV service, STI receives the video streams over a 10 Gbps link. For voice, STI utilizes a DMS-10 Class 5 switch connected to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) via CenturyLink toll center in Norfolk, Nebraska via an OC-3 Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) connection with CenturyLink.

All of STI's central office and customer premises are from industry leaders such as Cisco, Extreme (formerly Brocade), and Calix. All of our equipment providers follow and are compliant with industry standards and protocols. Given this STI believes have positioned ourselves for long term sustainability.

STI currently has 12 employees. Two employees are Central office equipment (COE) qualified, one is Outside Plant (OSP) qualified, and one is qualified in both COE and OSP. STI has two customer support representatives to handle customer accounts. STI currently uses their own staff to operate and maintain their current FTTP system and will use their staff to operate and maintain the FTTP facilities deployed as part of the Crown Rd Project.

STI uses our current staff to maintain network infrastructure using common industry practices for each of the services provided. The network and services will be monitored and supported 24x7x365 by the STI's current support staff. The applicant will leverage existing staff and processes to operate the proposed network deployment. Troubleshooting and service provisioning will be handled by applicant office staff using a combination of existing automated systems. Orders for services will be taken by our customer service representatives. Equipment will be provisioned by our office technicians and professional installation will be completed by our outside plant technicians. In addition, Stanton maintains service contracts with key vendors,

contractors, and professional service firms if additional assistance is required. Stanton Telecom received training on the Calix platform that allows STI to conduct speed testing for CAF BLS companies. The training was received in January of 2022.

All the fiber for the project will be buried and be more resilient and less susceptible to damages from the weather like wind, ice, and snow storms in general. The FTTH network will be deployed using Calix GPON optical technology supporting up to 2.5 Gbps downlink bandwidth and 1.25 Gbps uplink bandwidth with each subscriber sharing access to the entire network bandwidth via 1x32 split ratios. All subscriber terminals will be uplinked to STI's core network at the Stanton, NE central office which provides dedicated internet access connections to diverse ISPs providing fully protected and redundant internet access.

The technical components used and the expected useful life of the facilities.

	<u>RUS</u>	<u>Engineer</u>
Buried fiber	20 years	25-50 years
Electronics equipment	10.67 years	10-15 years
ONTS	5-10 years	7-10 years

Components which may require more frequent repair:

The most frequently repaired/replaced items in a FTTH network will be at the customer premise. These items include power supply/battery backup, ONT and premise wiring.

- A description of the applicant's technical capability to meet the statutory technical and speed requirements in place for the NBBP throughout the fifteen-year period.

STI uses Calix's "FCC Performance Testing" product to conduct all our required FCC performance testing. STI is in our 5th quarter of testing, which began first quarter of last year. STI is testing at 25/3 Mbps to fulfill our CAF BLS requirements.

- Does the applicant's website clearly state that that offer services that meet the 100/100 or greater speed minimum?

STI's website, <https://stantontelecom.com/internet/>, clearly states our three broadband packages of 100/100 Mbps, 500/500 Mbps, and 1-Gbps/1-Gbps.