**Applicant: NE Colorado Cellular, Inc., d/b/a Viaero Wireless**

**Project: Franklin to Red Cloud FTTP**

**Attachment E: Technical Capability Statement**

**MANAGEMENT RESUMES AND TRACK RECORD**

**Frank DiRico, CEO**

Mr. DiRico is a successful telecommunications entrepreneur with a 38 year track record of success. In 1991, Mr. DiRico established Cellular One of Northeast Colorado, headquartered in Fort Morgan, Colorado. After acquiring Nebraska Wireless Telephone Company in 2003, the company changed its name to Viaero Wireless and today provides portions of rural Eastern Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas and Wyoming with unparalleled coverage and service through 32 retail sales and service locations and numerous dealers. The company has grown organically from its inception to a present network that includes approximately 900 towers and a growing number of wireless voice and wireless data subscribers. Under his leadership, the company currently experiences double-digit revenue growth, which is reinvested into the business to enhance the company’s network reach and capabilities.

Mr. DiRico is also Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of New England based Industrial Communications and Electronics (“Industrial”). Mr. DiRico started Industrial in 1974, growing it to the third largest SMR operator and Motorola Radio Dealer in the United States until the profitable sale of 800 Mhz frequencies to Nextel in 1998. Currently, Industrial operates as an engineering, tower leasing and construction company. Mr. DiRico also developed and holds a US patent on his Skycell ® tower-top equipment building. In 1997, Mr. DiRico expanded Industrial’s site leasing, radio sales and service business to the Miami, Florida area.

Mr. DiRico served on the Ocean Reef Academy school board in Key Largo, Florida, the Board of Directors for the American Telecommunication Association in Washington, D.C. and as Board Member of the Founders Society Baptist Hospital System. In 1994, he earned Chief Pilot status with the Altar Helicopter Corporation.

**Michael Felicissimo, President**

Mr. Felicissimo has extensive strategic planning, financial and operations experience in the telecommunications industry, with over ten years of experience at the highest levels of senior management. Mr. Felicissimo joined Viaero in 2004, and heads the company’s accounting, regulatory, procurement, billing and collections departments. He also oversees the company’s sales, marketing and general business operations.

Prior to joining Viaero, Mr. Felicissimo served as CFO at Extend America, Inc., a Bismark, North Dakota-Based rural wireless carrier, developing the company’s financial model, business case, operational metrics and financial statements. Prior to his time at Extend America, he served as Vice-President, Business Development for Advantage Wireless, Inc., an Englewood, Colorado based direct and indirect wireless retailer, and was responsible for 400,000 annual wireless activations through 1,100 retail outlets in 29 states.

Mr. Felicissimo joined U S West financial services in 1987, and held various financial and management positions within U S West until his promotion to Vice-President and CFO of U S West Wireless in 1998. Mr. Felicissimo managed the financial operations of U S West Wireless as it grew from a start-up operation in late 1997 through its acquisition by Qwest Wireless, LLC in 2000 and the acquisition of 1.1 Million subscribers. He led all financial planning, reporting and analysis for the company, including a $1.7 Billion network buildout and complex financial transactions associated with the business.

From 1980 to 1985, Mr. Felicissimo developed Middle Eastern sales channels for U.S. Electrical Motors, a division of Emerson Electric, and was promoted to International Sales manager in 1981, overseeing sales for the division with an enterprise value of approximately $125 Million.

Mr. Felicissimo holds a Masters in Business Administration from the American Graduate School of International Management, awarded in 1986, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in French, with a minor in business, awarded by the University of Connecticut in 1980.

**Wes Burnett, Vice-President – Chief Technical Operations**

Mr. Burnett has over thirty years of experience designing, engineering and operating a wide range telecommunications platforms, from traditional telephone service to Global System for Mobile (GSM), EDGE, UMTS, CDMA and TDMA platforms. He has extensive knowledge regarding all major vendors’ switching and radio frequency (RF) equipment. He has designed and managed both urban and rural wireless networks, and has over twenty years of senior-level experience managing telecommunications networks and network operations teams.

Mr. Burnett joined Viaero in 2004 and manages all aspects of its day-to-day network operations. He designed and supervised the construction of one of the nation’s largest high-bandwidth microwave networks, along with a digital PCS network consisting of more than 360 telecommunications towers, two major switching centers, a network operations center and related facilities. This network consistently delivers 99.9999% network reliability to Viaero’s subscribers.

From 1999 to 2004, Mr. Burnett was Managing Director of AirCell, Inc., a provider of airborne voice and data services utilizing AMPS and CDMA technology. Under his leadership, and utilizing his network design, the company developed and implemented the world’s first air-to-ground data network. He managed the aviation department and provided flight testing of the company’s products, as well as interfacing with the FCC regarding licensing issues. During his tenure, the company expanded from 30 to 142 cell sites.

Prior to joining AirCell, Mr. Burnett was the Director of Engineering and Operations, and later the Director of RF Engineering for McCaw Cellular (later AT&T Wireless). He supervised all engineering and operations for the company’s Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri Markets, including a staff of 60 employees, 209 cell sites, 3 switches and 7000 channels spanning 5 MSAs and 3 RSAs.

Prior to joining McCaw Cellular in 1994, Mr. Burnett held supervisory positions with GTE Mobilnet, Gulf Oil/Chevron, and Hicks and Ragland.

Mr. Burnett received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Texas Tech University in 1979. He holds an FCC General Class License and is a NARTE Engineer Second Class with Master Endorsement. He holds an FAA airline Transport Pilot Certificate and First Class Medical certification.

Mr. Burnett has attended numerous specialized technical training courses, including courses regarding the following products and equipment: Lucent 5ESS, Autoplex Series 2, Nortel, Motorola, LCC, Farinon, Avantek, Alcatel, Nokia UltraSite, Lenkurt, Western Electric, Southwest Bell, GTE Transmission Engineering.

**Ron Christensen, President – Viaero Fiber Networks**

Ron Christensen has been working in the telecommunications industry for nearly thirty years. Over his career he has been able to adapt, manage, and control various aspects of telecommunications companies.

Mr. Christensen began his career in telecommunications in 1992 with MCI Telecommunications, WorldCom, and Metro Media Fiber Networks as a Regional Operations Manager. There, he designed and constructed a wide variety of local and long-haul fiber optic routes throughout Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and New Mexico.

In 2005, Mr. Christensen transferred his skills into a job with General Dynamics Information Technologies as a Project Manager on AT&T Mobility projects. He was responsible for managing site acquisition, design and construction of wireless tower sites for 4G and LTE capabilities.

In 2014, Mr. Christensen began his tenure with Viaero. The unique skillset that Mr. Christensen possesses has aided Viaero in developing its fast and reliable network throughout most of Nebraska and in Colorado. He has continually been able to efficiently design, manage and implement the various projects that Viaero is working towards. He is continually learning the latest and greatest technology as it is released into the industry.

Additionally, Mr. Christensen is greatly involved with the rural communities and is on the Board of Lincoln County Development and generally attends City and County meetings throughout the entire region. He understands that rural areas are lacking access to broadband services and centers his work on providing an affordable solution to members of rural communities.

**Summary of Management Track Record**

Viaero’s CEO, President and Vice-Presidents have worked together within the organization for nearly fifteen years, and their track record is marked with numerous successes:

* Double digit year-over-year average revenue growth
* The acquisition of additional service territories with a population exceeding 2.1 Million
* Construction of nearly 900 telecommunications towers
* Acquisition of over 31,500 new PCS and wireless data customers, more than doubling the company’s subscriber base
* Refinement of scalable customer care, network operations, billing and accounting functions
* Exemplary record of compliance with state and federal regulations, including Federal Universal Service Fund reporting and compliance obligations
* Management of explosive growth in wireless minutes of use (MOU) and data traffic.

Frank DiRico, CEO, will have ultimate responsibility for the project, and will lead all strategic and business planning activities. He has decades of experience with constructing and profitably operating wireless telecommunications facilities and fiber networks.

Michael Felicissimo will oversee the company’s financial reporting and compliance associated with the project, billing and customer care expansion and changes, sales and marketing efforts, and product procurement. Mr. Felicissimo has had this precise responsibility with respect to the company’s existing PCS and wireless data businesses and has managed rapid change resulting from subscriber growth and new products, including this FTTH service.

Ron Christensen will supervise the construction and deployment of the FTTP network. He has been in a management role for many years and knows how to get the most efficient work done. Mr. Christensen is committed to ensuring that the community’s needs will be met.