



BROADBANDUSA

CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.recovery.gov
www.broadbandusa.gov

Organization:	Vermont Telephone Company, Inc. (VTel)
Project Name:	Vermont Broadband Enhanced Learning Link (VT BELL)
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
States:	New Hampshire, New York, Vermont
Federal Award:	\$12,256,492

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The VT BELL project is **VTel's** plan to address a bandwidth and transport capacity shortage in the state's existing middle mile infrastructure in areas including Essex, Stowe, New Haven, and Berlin. Because this shortage has slowed the deployment of crucial resources necessary to promote long term educational and economic initiatives, such as distance learning networks, access to Internet2, and remote access to large databases and libraries, VT BELL proposes expanding VTel's existing fiber network to deliver up to 10 Gbps Ethernet broadband to more than 200 high schools; hospitals; colleges; universities; community colleges; rural, independent and large telephone companies; and public safety entities, including police barracks, statewide. The project also proposes to build the high speed network to Vermont's three highest peaks to enhance the Department of Public Safety's statewide microwave network for improved emergency communications in mountainous areas.

VT BELL proposes to:

- Deploy 257 new miles of fiber to its existing network and complement the project of another BTOP-funded entity, Vermont Telecommunications Authority, to provide a robust, high speed network statewide and create new interconnection points in Plattsburgh, NY and Hanover, NH.
- Spur affordable broadband access for local consumers and businesses, including as many as 64,000 households and 13,000 businesses, by enabling local Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network.
- Expand services to schools participating in the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative, a program that allows students across the state to participate in classes not offered in their geographic area.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Vermont Telephone Company, which does business as VTel, is one of the largest family-owned telephone companies in America, with a traditional service area that covers southern Vermont and parts of three other states, serving approximately 50,000 Vermonters with 19,000 telephone lines.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- CBN Connect
- New England Telehealth Consortium (NETC)

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.

Made possible by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

