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Organization:	BlueBird Media, LLC
Project Name:	Northern Missouri Ultra-High Capacity Middle Mile
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Missouri
Federal Award:	\$45,145,250

ABOUT THE PROJECT

BlueBird Media's Northern Missouri Ultra-High Capacity Middle Mile project, a public-private partnership among local service providers and regional cooperatives, the state of Missouri, and national equipment vendors, proposes to bring high-speed Internet access to a largely underserved and/or economically distressed 59-county region in the northern part of the state. The project plans to enable health care institutions to initiate regional health information exchanges and foster telehealth adoption, along with advanced medical imaging and medical collaboration in rural areas. The project would also utilize telehealth to allow regional correctional facilities to limit costly inmate transport and reduce security risks. The project's network also plans to enable significant online testing for students, distance education, and other e-learning technologies.

The Northern Missouri Ultra-High Capacity Middle Mile project also proposes to:

- Connect as many as 350 community anchor institutions with speeds between 50 Mbps and 10 Gbps, including 213 K-12 public school buildings, 60 public safety entities, 10 community colleges, 30 healthcare facilities, and 28 government facilities.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for approximately 600,000 households and 57,000 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Construct 809 miles of new fiber and 44 new microwave towers across the region.
- Provide middle mile service to partner Socket Telecom, which recently won a \$23.7M broadband award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to deploy fiber-to-the-home in Callaway county and Fulton, Missouri.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

BlueBird Media is a public-private partnership founded for the purpose of developing an ultra-high capacity middle-mile broadband Internet network throughout underserved and disadvantaged areas in northern Missouri. It plans to leverage Recovery Act funds to offer last-mile providers next-generation bandwidth speeds at affordable prices and provide support to local community anchor institutions, including local governments, schools and hospitals, to promote the creation of jobs and a greater quality of life.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Cygnus Towers, LLC
- Alcatel Lucent
- MOREnet
- Missouri Office of Administration
- ADTRAN, Inc.
- Motorola, Inc.
- BoyCom Cablevision, Inc.
- Ralls County Electric Cooperative
- Co-Mo Electric Cooperative
- United Electric Cooperative
- Socket Telecom, LLC
- Cogent Communications, Inc.
- Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

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.

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