

## Exhibit M - Large project Worksheet (NOFA #008)

### Purpose:

This form, labeled “EXHIBIT M – LARGE PROJECT WORKSHEET (NOFA #008),” requires an Applicant to justify the quantity of Eligible Service Locations to which the Applicant collectively, including all entities attached or connected to the Applicant, proposes to Facilitate Covered Speeds when that quantity is in the top 25% of all Applicants to this NOFA (“Large Project Threshold”). See NOFA #008, Section 2.2.6.10 for additional information.

It has been determined by the Office that your submitted application(s) falls within the Large Project Threshold and seeks justification for the number of Eligible Service Locations to which service will be facilitated. The Office may use the information in the determination of whether or not to disqualify an application exceeding the Large Project Threshold.

***Given the limited timeframe available for project construction under this NOFA, the Office believes that buildout commitments must be of a reasonable size and distributed among various communication services providers to guarantee project completion by the end of the Project Period. Applicants who are unable to complete projects risk the reversion of funds to the federal government by the Office, leaving Eligible Service Locations without funding to construct new broadband service.***

Applicants should provide additional information to the Office to justify the large number of Eligible Service Locations contained within the proposed project(s) and the ability to complete the project(s) according to the project completion requirements of this NOFA (See NOFA #008 Section 1.3).

Organization Name: Harmony Telephone Company

Are there unique construction or project management methods that allow for rapid network deployments to large project areas?

Harmony consistently looks for ways to accelerate network deployment and wishes to honor Iowa's dig once commitment through a NOFA #008 expansion leveraging overlapping existing project commitments in nearby geographies included in NOFA #007. Additionally, where feasible, we are looking to deploy aerial fiber which will help to accelerate construction and reduce costs. Harmony is uniquely situated to rapidly deploy fiber due to their partnership with MiEnergy Cooperative who is the local electric utility provider in the region. They will deploy ADSS fiber in the power space in conjunction with buried infrastructure. This strategy will help to extend the window of the construction season as compared to buried network deployments. Harmony is in close communication with Finley Engineering Inc for GIS, design, staking, and project management services and have developed a preliminary work plan to accommodate the timeline required.

Does your technology or network architecture designs facilitate serving the number of Eligible Service Locations identified in the application within the identified timeline?

Yes, the proposed network technology is a FTTP network using XGS-PON technology. The proposed network will extend to all customers included in exhibit D in the proposed applications and is capable of delivering up to 10Gbps/10Gbps speeds today with more bandwidth available in the future via electronics upgrades. Proposed electronics were itemized in the core application worksheet for reference relative to each broadband intervention zone and corresponding application. Additionally, the network is scalable to accommodate all existing locations with a minimal over subscription ratio of 3.2:1 for 1Gbps symmetrical service. We have a longstanding relationship with our electronics equipment vendor which will allow for prioritization of shipments to accommodate the identified timeline.

Provide prior experience and/or examples of completing comparably sized broadband projects on a materially similar timeline.

Harmony Telephone Company is the recipient of two USDA ReConnect awards. ReConnect FOA 1 broke ground in 2020, has 324 passings, 140 route miles and is complete except for a few remaining drops. ReConnect FOA2 is currently under construction and has 538 passings and 260 route miles. ReConnect FOA2 started in 2021 and is estimated to be complete in 2024. This project is a strategic fiber ring built for redundancy and we have current and proposed NOFA projects filling in the ring. Harmony Telephone Company has also committed to building the City of Harmony self-funded. The Harmony project includes 517 locations. This project started in 2022 and will be complete this year in 2023.

Provide completion timeframes on previous Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grants.

Harmony Telephone Company along with Spring Grove Communications, has been the recipient of round NOFA #003, NOFA #005, and NOFA #007 Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grants. The Iowa CARES NOFA #003 grant included 8.4 route miles and 116 eligible service locations with a project budget of \$1,430,000. 50% of the NOFA #003 project was completed in 2020 and the remaining 50% was completed in fall of 2021. A grant extension was requested and granted by OCIO for this project. Spring Grove Communications received a NOFA #005 grant for 16.63 route miles and 57 eligible service locations. This NOFA #005 project was constructed and completed in 2021. Harmony Telephone Company received four NOFA #007 grants in East Winneshiek, Schley, Alta Vista, and Cresco totaling 372.67 route miles, 904 eligible service locations, for a project budget of \$20,219,057. Construction has started on Cresco, Schley, and Eastern Winneshiek. Construction will begin in 2024 for the Alta Vista project. All four NOFA #007 projects will be complete in 2024.

Identify any key relationships, partnerships, third-party agreements, or other resources that will allow your organization to overcome supply chain issues, labor shortages, and facilitate expeditious network deployment.

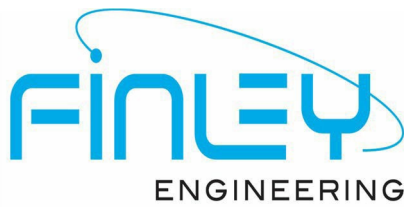
Harmony has a number of key relationships useful to quickly and efficiently execute these projects. They have experience working on similar projects in both MN and IA ranging from self-funded, municipal, Federal and State funding sources. Harmony understands potential pitfalls of the process and are continually engaging in ongoing strategic planning efforts to identify projects and integrate them into their network plan. They leverage Finley Engineering to do design work and construction management. Finley will also conduct bids with several trusted contractors to

determine availability and pricing. They also have contracts with equipment vendors like Calix to ensure electronics can be delivered on time. Finally, they have several partners in their ownership group that can share staff and resources to work on the project. Harmony is owned by MiEnergy, Spring Grove Communications, and Mabel Telephone who are all aware of and ready for this project. Funding has been allocated and copies of minutes are available per request.

Control Number 526576  
Control Number 527033  
Control Number 527043  
Control Number 527044  
Control Number 527045

Applicants may also provide any additional information, documents or data sets that might further justify the Large Project Threshold of the proposed project.

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**PHYSICAL ADDRESS**

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Slayton, MN 56172

Phone (507)-777-2000  
www.FinleyUSA.com

**SHIPPING ADDRESS**

1981 Engebretson Ave,  
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INTEGRITY INTO EVERYTHING

Control Number 526576  
Control Number 527033  
Control Number 527043  
Control Number 527044  
Control Number 527045

**PROJECT PLAN**

<b>Project Name(s):</b>	<b>Central Howard County FTTP, Kendallville FTTP, West Freeport FTTP, South Leroy FTTP, North Howard FTTP</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Matt Morris, Project Manager</b>
<b>Client:</b>	<b>Harmony Telephone Company</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>9/7/2023</b>
<b>Project Description</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. These projects are designed to bring high speed Broadband services to rural communities, connecting the outside world to rural America.</li> <li>2. This project plan outlines the scope and activities to engineer and design approximately 91.3 miles in Central Howard County, 21.99 miles in the Kendallville area, 7 miles in West Freeport, 68 miles in South Leroy, and 88.5 miles in the North Howard Region.</li> <li>3. Passive Optical Network (PON) using XGS-PON ITU-T G.9807.1 protocol.</li> <li>4. All routes will be staked on existing pole lines or buried/underground units within existing pole right of way/easements. Premise locations passed will be included on the staking map and drops.</li> <li>5. Project includes engineering design, construction management, inspection, testing, and turnover.</li> </ol>
<b>Project Deliverables</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Digital file deliverable will be ARC GIS Online database/.shp files and accompanying construction sheet layout files for outside plant lines, PON cabinets and OSP network design.</li> <li>2. Fiber count assignments will be provided on single line (stick) schematic sheets.</li> <li>3. A fiber assignment spreadsheet provided showing fiber end points for all fibers in the project.</li> <li>4. Final inspection sheets tested by contractor.</li> <li>5. Construction Management including timeline, and budget preparation and monitoring for the construction of the outside and inside plant components.</li> <li>6. Digital drawings for inside plant components, electronics, and wiring.</li> </ol>
<b>Project Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create the construction documents with routes, potential drops and units that can be used create a construction contract for and approved by Harmony Telephone Company and used by a contractor to construct a new fiber route as described above herein.</li> <li>2. Provide Harmony Telephone Company with all information regarding the route and potential risks to the project, including an analysis of all aerial attachment supports, easement, environmental considerations and leasing information.</li> <li>3. Provide construction management oversight and inspection to ensure the project is being built to plans and specifications.</li> </ol>

<b>Communication</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regular and timely communications between all key stakeholders of Harmony Telephone Company, Finley, selected contractors, and the State of Iowa is imperative to the successful completion.</li> <li>2. Finley chaired status meetings with Harmony Telephone Company personnel regarding the status of the detail engineering, and construction management, and progress toward meeting identified timelines, on a weekly schedule. * Stakeholders may adjust meeting time and frequency. * Finley and Harmony may conduct meetings to design and conduct construction management outside of regular weekly schedule. Ensure copy all.</li> <li>3. Upon completion of the plans and specifications, Finley will provide the documentation and construction sheets to Harmony Telephone Company for review and approval prior to sending them to the contractor for construction.</li> <li>4. All email communications between Finley and contractor with Harmony Telephone Company as carbon copy (cc).</li> <li>5. Communication between Finley Project Manager and Harmony Telephone Company regarding financial status will be with the contractor, unless otherwise directed by Harmony Telephone Company.</li> <li>6. Communication between Finley Project manager or CAD/GIS lead person regarding mapping items, or deliverables, will be with designated personnel.</li> </ol>
<b>Schedule</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The project schedule document is currently under development and is subject to change. This document will be shared with all stakeholders after specific tasks and dates are identified. Commencement of detailed engineering schedule will take place after approval of project scope and 217 contract with Harmony Telephone Company</li> <li>2. Milestone A Grants Awarded Late Sept 2023</li> <li>3. Milestone B High level design 30 days *See Schedule Table Below</li> <li>4. Milestone C Staking Complete</li> <li>5. Milestone D Final Design Complete</li> <li>6. Milestone D Contractor Bid Period</li> <li>7. Milestone E Construction Begins</li> <li>8. Milestone F Turnover Complete</li> </ol>
<b>Change Management</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The change document and process to be developed by Finley, initiated by Harmony Telephone Company, shall outline any changes to the agreed upon, schedule, units, and specifications and approving authorities.</li> </ol>
<b>Acceptance Criteria</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Final project acceptance process to be designed in follow on plan. At a minimum the final design, cost and schedule must be accepted by Finley and Harmony Telephone Company.</li> </ol>
<b>Proposed ways to complete all 5 projects if awarded.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leverage the relationship with MiEnergy to allow ADSS construction process' to allow for a quicker construction process and longer constructions season where permitted.</li> <li>2. Use multiple construction companies to complete the projects to allow for simultaneous construction.</li> <li>3. Leverage Finley Engineering expertise in construction management to mitigate delays and keep the project on time and within the budget.</li> </ol>

Project	High Level Design	Field Staking	Bid Window 30 days	Construction Begins	Construction Completion
526576 Central Howard County FFTP (BIZ 68, 88, 91)	11/15/2023	12/15/2023	2/28/2024	6/1/2024	6/30/2026
527045 Kendalville FFTP (BIZ 63)	12/1/2023	1/15/2024	2/28/2024	6/1/2024	11/30/2025
527044 West Freeport FFTP (BIZ 56)	12/1/2023	2/1/2024	2/28/2024	6/1/2024	11/30/2025
527033 South Leroy FFTP (BIZ 89)	11/15/2023	1/15/2024	2/28/2024	6/1/2024	8/30/2026
527043 North Howard FFTP (BIZ 64)	11/15/2023	12/15/2023	2/28/2024	6/1/2024	8/30/2026

All narrative and additional information should be submitted in a single PDF format and attached in reply to this correspondence in the Iowa Grants Online system named as: "Application Number - Applicant Name – Exhibit M." Submissions outside of the Iowa Grants Online system will not be considered.

***Applicants should not submit proprietary or confidential information in association with Exhibit M.***