

PROJECT PROPOSAL

- FOR PUBLIC POSTING



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Please include:

1. An executive summary of the project:

IdeaTek ' s Northeast Kingman County rural broadband project deploys over 90 miles of new fiber optic broadband infrastructure comprising approximately 222 unserved premises bringing capacity for a symmetrical 1Gbps service level or higher with scalability to significantly higher speeds for long term broadband sustainability. Northeast Kingman County is particularly underserved, currently experiencing broadband speeds as low as 6X1.5. The proposed area will cover a rural area NE of city limits in Kingman County, following Hwy 400 east. This project aims to address critical sustainability challenges in this very rural, sparsely populated area.


Although the Kansas economy relies on agriculture, rural Kingman County farms continue to suffer from slow, unreliable, and unaffordable broadband access. This particularly underserved area has been continuously overlooked for sustainable broadband investments because population densities are low, which make

2. A description of the location (City(s), County(s), etc.), proposed service areas, partners involved and anticipated improvements.

Location: The proposed service area is a rural and remote unincorporated part of Northeast Kingman county.

Partners: Kingman County Commission, C5 Manufacturing, Cottonwood Feeders, Kingman County Economic Development, Kingman County Farm Bureau, Representative Michael Murphy, USD 331 Kingman-Norwich, USD 382 Pratt Reno County, Senator Jerry Moran, Representative Ron Estes, Representative Steven Howe, Reno County, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Improvements: fiber optic broadband connectivity deployments

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3. Goals of the project and community need to address including whether the proposed area is unserved or economically distressed or what the compelling need is, if served.

Connect the underserved with scalable, high capacity fiber optic broadband services. Current service speeds from FCC 477 Data indicate an average speed of 72X18; well below the Federal definition of minimum speed broadband. See also, attached letters of support,

Serve disadvantaged residents, students, business owners, and farmers deprived of affordable broadband by providing low to no cost connectivity, utilizing FCC ACP and lifeline programs.

Bolster Kansas ' ag economy and ag investments with next generation infrastructure. This service area represents under connected and unserved cattle ranches and farms, which need the best connectivity to successfully compete in modern times. In a time where costs are rapidly rising it is more critical than ever to have the ability to lower input costs with real time data, connected equipment, and connected crops and livestock.

4. The proposed infrastructure and access improvements planned, including the number of proposed connected premisees and community anchor institutions, businesses, or other organizations and the recipients to be served by the project.

Premises Passed: 218

Businesses: 3

Anchor Institutions: 1

5. The short and long-term investment benefit to the community and service area proposed.

In the short-term, IdeaTek will hire contractors to complete the fiber build, providing an opportunity for employment for Kansas-based workers. In addition, broadband access will provide residents in these areas an immediate opportunity to efficiently work remotely, expanding employment access, as well as access to telehealth and remote education.

In the long-term, communities with fiber infrastructure are far more attractive to new residents and businesses, bringing long-term economic growth and opportunity to the community . When critical, superior broadband access is provided to rural areas, economic growth and opportunity are no longer out of reach.

