

Recommended Award: Exhibit "A"

Applicant Name:	NFIA Stakeholders Group, Inc.	REDC Region:	WNY
Project Type:	Dark Fiber Assessment	County:	Niagara
Industry:	Multiple Industry Sectors	Locality:	Niagara Falls
Amount Requested:	\$125,000	Start Date:	7/1/2014
		Finish Date:	12/31/2014

RECOMMENDED OFFER

Recommended Total Award:	\$125,000
Total Project Cost:	\$250,000
% of Project Cost Recommended:	50%

REGIONAL IMPACT MEASUREMENTS

Number of Jobs Retained:	N/A
Number of Jobs Created:	N/A
Average Salary of Jobs:	N/A
Indirect Jobs Created	N/A
Other Impact	

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (adapted from application)

The NFIA (Niagara Falls International Airport) Stakeholders Group is made up of different members of the Buffalo Niagara Region that share an interest in the expansion of air services in Niagara Falls and the long-term economic success of the greater Niagara Region. The purpose of this project is to perform a study of the existing dark fiber infrastructure that feeds into the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, the Niagara Falls International Airport, the former Army Reserve Center site, the Niagara Airport Commercial Park, the Wheatfield Business Park and the Calspan site. The Stakeholders Group has identified dark fiber capacity as being a key feature for the long-term economic development of the above stated sites. The results of this study will provide guidance to the Stakeholders on what, if any, gaps in coverage exist and allow them to add capacity to ensure that all of the named sites remain stable and are able to accommodate future growth.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The sites involved in this study make up the largest employment base in Niagara County. Securing the future of each of these sites is paramount to the long-term economic success of the entire Buffalo Niagara Region.

The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Center currently employs over 3,000 people in Niagara County and, due to the changing nature of military missions, the base must constantly upgrade its own technological infrastructure to attract more advanced missions. This study will provide a much needed assessment to the airbase and give them an understanding of where upgrades are needed to secure its future.

The Niagara Falls International Airport is very important to regional efforts surrounding tourism. This study of dark fiber capacity will also lend itself to the future success of the airport. As the airport

markets itself to prospective carriers the capabilities of the existing fiber infrastructure will be considered. This study will give the Airport a clear sense of what the current capability is and it will identify places where improvements must be made to accommodate a targeted customer base.

As technology has evolved so has the need to meet certain thresholds when it comes to fiber infrastructure. The above named sites are of the highest priority to Niagara County and the Greater Buffalo Niagara Region. To ensure the future of all of these sites and the economic future of the WNY Region this study must be done in the near term.

It is the recommendation to this Board that it recommend a grant of \$125,000 to the NFIA Stakeholders Group, Inc. to provide one half of the financing needed to successfully perform this study. Due to the nature of the project it is recommended that the grant be paid to the Stakeholders group in advance of the start of the study but only upon confirmation that (1) another funding entity has committed to a matching grant for the completion of the study and (2) the data sought by the study is not otherwise available from New York State or other publicly available resources.