

FCC Rural Broadband Experiment – Expressions of Interest from Texas

April 1, 2014



On January 30, 2014, the [Federal Communications Commission](#) voted to create a [Rural Broadband Experiment](#) program. The FCC hopes that this experiment will help it shape and adjust its Connect America Fund broadband subsidy program by including an application-based, competitive bidding framework. One purpose is to see whether available subsidies could provide higher levels of service, including expanded service to community anchor institutions, that exceed the current 4 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload standard for the Connect America Fund. In addition, these rural broadband experiments mark the first opportunity for providers that are not the incumbent local telephone company in a particular area to receive Connect America Fund subsidies to build and operate fixed broadband networks in those areas.

The FCC actively and openly solicited “expressions of interest” from providers, communities, institutions, and public-private partnerships regarding their ideas and proposals as to how they would utilize Connect America Fund subsidies to support broadband infrastructure build-out in currently unserved areas. These initial, non-binding “expressions of interest” were due at the FCC on March 7, 2014. To date, the FCC has received almost 1,000 expressions of interest from applicants across the country, which can be found at [List of Expressions of Interest](#). The FCC is currently evaluating these submissions and is expected to release an Order defining how to move forward with this program. Such Order will include details regarding available funds for the program, a clear definition of areas eligible for funding, project rules and rules for evaluating formal applicants for funding. There is no clear timeline for when these decisions will take place at this time.

For more information on these Rural Broadband Experiments, please see a previous Connected Nation [Policy Brief](#) from February 7, 2014.

Below is a list of the “expressions of interest” filed by applicants in Texas as well as key takeaways from these submissions.

Texas Expressions of Interest Summaries

- A total of 52 expressions of interest were submitted by applicants from Texas.
- In line with the FCC objective for this experiment of better understanding what solutions different industry stakeholders could offer, submissions were received from a variety of applicants including – rural telecommunications providers, wireless providers, a telecommunications consortium, Councils of Government, electric and telephone cooperatives, and other CLECs and ILECs.
- The technology solutions proposed include the use of multiple platforms including copper, fiber, DSL, LTE, and fixed wireless. Overall, however, a majority of the proposals include in part or in full deployment of fiber to the premise networks or fixed wireless.
- Proposed project scopes range from projects narrowly focusing on county-level deployment challenges to proposals to serve existing broadband gaps across the entire state. Project funding requests range from just \$150,000 to as much as \$487 million in subsidies. The overall budget for all 52 proposed projects is upward of \$853 million.
- Of the Expressions of Interest filed, three of the submissions mention the Connected Texas program in support of their Expressions. For example, LiveAir Networks indicates they have worked with Connected Texas to identify unserved areas in their footprint and the Ark-Texas and East Texas Councils of Government suggested that they would serve the role of working with Connected Nation and complying with the National Broadband Map in moving the region towards greater connectivity.

Texas Expressions of Interest Submitted (As of April 1, 2014)



Name of Filer

4ip Technology & Media, LLC
Alenco Communications, Inc. (ACI)
Allen Pooley
Ark-Tex & East Texas Councils of Governments
Big Bend Telephone Company
Big Bend Telephone Company
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
Border to Border Communications, Inc.

Brazoria Telephone Company, Inc.
Cap Rock Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
CD Networks, LLC
Chad Strausbaugh
Coleman County Telephone Cooperative
Cumby Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (CLEC)
Cumby Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (ILEC)
Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Electronic Corporate Pages, Inc.
Etex Telecom
Etex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Fidelity Communications Co.
GCEC Telecom

Harris Broadband LLP
Hill Country Telecommunications, LLC
JAB Wireless, Inc.
John Edmonds
LiveAir Networks
Livingston Telephone Company
Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
NDemand, Inc.
Neu Ventures dba Mountain Zone TV Systems
Neu Ventures dba Mountain Zone TV Systems
New Source Broadband I LLC
North Texas Telephone Company
Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Pedernales Electric Cooperative
Peoples Wireless Services & Peoples Communication, Inc.
Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Expression Filed

[Expression of Interest Rural Broadband Experiments \(3 pages\)](#)
[\(2 pages\)](#)
[\(11 pages\)](#)
[\(9 pages\)](#)
[Letter of Interest Price Cap Area \(2 pages\)](#)
[Letter of Interest RoR \(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest Letter \(7 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[\(3 pages\)](#)
[\(7 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(14 pages\)](#)
[Coleman County Expression of Interest \(4 pages\)](#)
[\(3 pages\)](#)
[\(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\); Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[IP Experiment Expression of Interest EPCI Inc \(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(3 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[\(3 pages\)](#)
[Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest Letter \(5 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(9 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(3 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(22 pages\)](#)
[\(3 pages\)](#)
[\(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[Rural Broadband \(3 pages\)](#)
[\(3 pages\)](#)
[\(1 page\)](#)
[\(3 pages\)](#)
[Letter \(1 page\)](#)
[\(4 pages\)](#)
[\(4 pages\)](#)
[Letter \(19 pages\)](#)

[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)

Name of Filer

Riviera Telephone Company, Inc.
Rural Texas Broadband
Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

South Plains Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Southwest Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Suddenlink Communications
Totalcom Networks, LLC
TWIN, Inc.
Unified Communications Inc. D.B.A. ZochNet
VTX Telecom, LLC
W. T. Services, Inc.
Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
WSSP Inc./Matt Wallace
XIT Telecommunication & Technology, Ltd.

Expression Filed

[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\); Expression of Interest \(1 page\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(3 pages\)](#)
[Next Generation Network Experiments Expression of Interest \(4 pages\)](#)
[\(2 pages\)](#)
[\(3 pages\)](#)
[Rural Broadband Expression of Interest \(3 pages\)](#)
[Letter \(10 pages\)](#)
[IP Experiment Expression of Interest TWIN Inc \(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(1 page\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[\(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[\(2 pages\)](#)
[\(5 pages\)](#)
[\(2 pages\)](#)