How the Aurora & OneWeb Networks Will Help Close Alaska's Digital Divide and Serve the Arctic

PACIFIC DATAPORT

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Last Mile and Middle Mile

DEFINITIONS:

- Internet (less than 25X3)
- Broadband (25X3 and faster)
- 2.5 GHz Tribal Spectrum (Issued by the FCC)
- WISP (Wireless Internet Service Provider Could be broadband)





Internet Path to Customer





LEO MEO GEO Satellites



BROADBAND STATUS IN RURAL ALASKA - FUNDING

- Three areas where funding can go:
 - Middle mile infrastructure (CapEx)
 - Last mile infrastructure (CapEx)
 - Last mile (user) subsidies (OpEx)
- Alaska telecoms rely on the Federal government for ~\$380M/year (total) in subsidies (telephone/broadband)
 - Alaska Plan USF Legacy Funding (FCC) \$150M/year
 - ACS USF Legacy Funding (FCC) \$20M/year
 - E-Rate Funds (FCC) \$90M
 - Rural Health Care Funds (FCC) \$120M
- ReConnect Infrastructure Grants (USDA) Varies: \$18.8M in 2019; and \$57.8M in 2020
- ~90% of Federal funds coming to Alaska goes to last mile (user) subsidies

BROADBAND STATUS IN RURAL ALASKA - COST

- Three options for middle mile infrastructure:
 - Microwave: \$50k-70k per mile Useful life ~25 years
 - Terrestrial Fiber: ~\$100k per mile Useful life ~25 years
 - Submarine Fiber: ~\$125k per mile Useful life ~25 years
- The USDA and FCC insist on deploying expensive fiber and microwave middle mile in Alaska
 - This results in expensive and slow internet as Alaska telecoms recoup costs
- Traditionally, the Alaska telecom business model relies on USDA/FCC last mile (user) subsidies
 - Now, owned by outside investment firms (GCI and Alaska Communications)
 - Shareholder return is #1, not expanding middle mile infrastructure to new areas
 - They will need to adapt quickly as new firms enter the market with \$99/month broadband



BROADBAND STATUS IN RURAL ALASKA - MAPS







Credit: Pacific Dataport, Inc.



MIDDLE MILE DEPLOYMENT TO RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITIES: INFRASTRUCTURE CAPEX COSTS

PROJECT CAPITAL COST PER HOUSEHOLD COMPARISON				
PROJECT	COST PER HOUSEHOLD	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	IN SERVICE	
Aurora Network	\$5,016	46,650	2021	
Terra Network	\$22,222	11,250	2010	
AU-Aleutians Network	\$31,182	1,860	2023	
Quintillion Network	\$69,079	3,619	2018	
Yakutat Network	\$92,592	270	2022	
SEALink Network	\$500,000	56	2025	



Terra Network by GCI 2010
Q Network by Quintillion 2018
Aurora Network by Pacific Dataport 2021
Yakutat Network by Copper Valley Telecom 2022
AU-Aleutians Network by Unicom/GCI 2023
SEALink Network by AP&T Wireless 2025

MIDDLE MILE & CONSUMER PRICING

MIDDLE MILE COVERAGE/PRICE/AVAILABILITY IN ALASKA (Q2 2020)				
Company	AK Coverage	Cost per Mbps	Available Capacity (Mbps)*	Туре
Aurora 4A	100%	<\$500	~7,500	HTS
Aurora IV	100%	<\$500	~70,000	VHTS
А	100%	\$4,201	14	HTS
В	100%	\$1,575	11.6	Ku
С	30%	\$875	70	Ku
D	25%	\$3 <i>,</i> 500	240	HTS
E	20%	\$3 <i>,</i> 500	0	HTS
GCI TERRA**	6%	\$8,208	0	Microwave
Quintillion	2%	~\$1200	unlimited	Fiber

WITH THE AURORA NETWORK, OPERATORS PAY <\$500 PER MBPS STATEWIDE

* Mbps to MHz conversion is 2:1; ** Retreived from: https://www.gci.com/-/media/files/gci/regulatory/ 20190517gciterrapostingeffective.pdf?mod=20190523233731 (1 yr Hub Port \$864/1 yr Edge Port \$7,344)

> WITH THE AURORA NETWORK, CONSUMER PRICE IS ~\$.66 PER GB STATEWIDE

CONSUMER PRICE PER GB & SPEED IN ALASKA				
Location	Cost per GB	Down/Up (Mbps)		
Anchorage	\$0.24	100X5		
Aurora IV - Statewide	\$0.66	100X10		
Bethel	\$3.15	10X2		
Dutch Harbor	\$5.95	4X1		
Ft. Yukon	\$6.55	1X0.5		
Elim	\$11.43	1X0.25		
Savoonga	\$11.50	1X0.25		
McGrath	\$16.54	1X0.25		
Arctic Village	\$16.54	1X0.25		
Adak	\$22.22	0.5X0.5		



The Aurora Project

Phase I – Aurora 4A

- ~7.5 Gbps
- GEO HTS Satellite
- Statewide Coverage
- Operational Q4 2021

Phase 2 – Aurora IV

- ~100+ Gbps
- GEO VHTS Satellite
- Statewide Coverage
- Operational ~2023











Comparison is based on the following technical capacity parameters.

Aurora 4A = 7.5 Gbps (7,500 Mbps) • Aurora IV = 100 Gbps (100,000 Mbps) • Ku Satellite = 1.448 Gbps (1,448 Mbps) • C Band Satellite = .650 Gbps (650 Mbps).



AURORA SYSTEM ALASKA COVERAGE



AURORA SYSTEM ALASKA COVERAGE







- Launched in 2015
- Internet access everywhere, for everyone!
- Geographically covering 100% of the WORLD
- Pacific Dataport is OneWeb's preferred distribution partner for Alaska and Hawaii
- 110 launched of 648 satellites
- Low latency solution
- Service 2021













Talkeetna Alaska Teleport

- 90 Acre Site
- Able to host multiple gateway clients
- OneWeb first client with 29 gateways
- Statewide reach
- Redundant fiber and power
- Space for a data center, data processing and Internet exchange





LEO/GEO COMMITMENTS TO ALASKA

	Committed to Serving Alaska	Date In Service	· profi		4.0		
PACIFIC DATAPORT	YES – 100% Coverage	2021				115 115 115 115 115 115 115 115 115 115	
ONEWEB	YES – 100% Coverage	2021	03В	SpaceX Starlink	Telesat LEO	Amazon Kuiper	OneWeb
KUIPER (AMAZON)	No	-	Equatorial MEO	53° LEO Shell	Polar LEO Shell	42° LEO Shell	Polar LEO Shell
Telesat LEO	No	-			*	42 42 42 42 44	
STARLINK (SPACEX)	No	-	Initial Constellation Shells Source: NSR Non-GEO			*00000*00000*0000	
O3B	No	-	Constellations Analysis Toolkit				110

STARLINK SYSTEM ARCTIC COVERAGE

- Currently NO Ability to Cover Alaska
- No announced plan to offer service to all of Alaska (covering one area is insufficient)
- Launched ~1,000 of 4,400 satellites
- Launched 10 experimental satellites in polar orbit (needed to serve AK)
- Still developing cost-efficient laser interconnectivity
- Will need to build and launch 500-1,000 into polar orbit AFTER getting FCC permission
- Still navigating orbital debris and 12 GHz spectrum sharing challenges
- Only targeting DTC (Direct-to-Consumer)





OneWeb LEO & Aurora GEO HTS HYBRID NETWORK







2.5 GHz Tribal Spectrum WISP System







2.5 GHz Tribal Spectrum WISP System

Access Point Sector Antenna









Subscriber Module







2.5 GHz Tribal Spectrum WISP System "broadband-in-a-box"

PATH TO DEPLOYMENT	VENDOR DIRECT
#1 – FEASIBILITY STUDY (PLANNING)	MICROCOM
#2 – EQUIPMENT & INSTALLATION (CAPEX)	MICROCOM
#3 – MONTHLY CAPACITY (OPEX/BACKHAUL/MIDDLE MILE)	PACIFIC DATAPORT
#4 – MANAGED SERVICES (OPEX/BILLING & MAINTENANCE)	MICROCOM

WHAT PACIFIC DATAPORT IS DOING TO HELP

Launch TWO new networks to bring affordable solution for schools, health clinics, businesses & residents

- Aurora Project Launch Q4 2021
 - 100 Gbps of New Middle Mile
 - Two NEW technology GEO HTS/VHTS satellites will cover 100% of Alaska
 - Will lower the retail price of 25X3 (or faster) broadband in rural Alaska to \$99
- OneWeb Project Operational Q3 2021
 - LEO constellation of 648 satellites will cover 100% of the world, starting with Alaska
 - Owned by U.K. Gov. & Bharti Global
 - PDI has been working for several years to bring OneWeb technology to Alaska
- Microcom's Talkeetna Alaska Teleport Currently Operational
 - For LEO and GEO HTS middle mile providers
- Alaska Broadband Association
 - Started by PDI to notify rural Alaskans when broadband comes to their community
 - Purpose: Advocate for Alaskans and broadband policy improvement in Alaska
- Microcom and Pacific Dataport are working with Tribes to deploy their last mile 2.5 GHz Tribal spectrum WISP (wireless Internet service provider) Systems



Thank you!

For additional information contact:

Shawn Fitzpatrick VP of Engineering 907.223.7036 sfitzpatrick@pacificdataport.com

Shawn Williams VP of Government Affairs & Strategy 907.440.1185 <u>swilliams@pacificdataport.com</u>