

Long Island Wireless Broadband Initiative RFP Released

January 17, 2007

The Counties of Suffolk and Nassau, New York are seeking a private partner or set of partners to build, own, and operate an outdoor wireless network across all of the populated areas in the two Counties that will cover over 2.7 million residents and approximately 750 square miles. While this network will be one of the largest of its kind in the US, the Counties expect it will be well utilized due to the demographics of the region. Preliminary surveys of residents indicate a high likelihood of use, and the Counties are fortunate that their households have the 9th highest level of disposable income across the US and rank 4th across the US for media household EBA (effective buying income).

The Counties seek wireless broadband services that will benefit the public, the business community, visitors and County and local government authorities. To this end, the Counties have identified the following primary objectives for this endeavor. The Counties believe meeting these objectives will not only benefit all those who live and work on Long Island, but also the private partner or set of partners the Counties select through this RFP by fully utilizing the network for a wide variety of purposes.

- a. Ensure universal wireless broadband access for all residents of Long Island. The Counties envision multiple service levels on the network ranging from free service for all to high speed premium services optimized for video. Through-put performance and/or length of time of use for the free service may be different than the premium services.
- b. Stimulate economic development and promote job creation by enabling business entities in retail and industrial areas to purchase access to the Network in a timely fashion and at affordable rates.
- c. Improve the services provided by the Counties and the local governments within the Counties. A robust Network will enhance the ability of residents and visitors alike to have ready access to information provided by the Counties and other local governments. In addition, the Counties are interested in exploring the potential of VoIP, telemetry and camera surveillance over the Network. The Counties also desire to use the Network for applications such as permitting, inspections, health services, and probation tracking among others. The Counties are interested in anchor tenancy discussions.

- d. Enhance education and improve the interaction between teachers, students and parents. These educational enhancements may support one to one laptop initiatives as well as access to continuing education and library services. The Counties expect these services would be purchased.
- e. Enhance the experience of visiting Long Island for vacationers, tourists and business travelers. The Network may provide location based information for nearby restaurants, hotels, entertainment venues, and other applications. County Economic Development supports the project and Long Island enjoys very strong tourism business during the summer.
- f. Encourage competition by introducing an alternative method for wireless broadband service. Customer premise devices may allow residents to bring not only the free tier into their homes but also upper level, more capable tiers of service.
- g. Lay the foundation for wireless access to commuters on local modes of transportation. Over 140,000 residents of the Counties take public transportation to work each day and over 20,000 commute from elsewhere to Long Island each day to work.
- h. Provide a redundant path for critical information flow in times of crisis or disaster.

The RFP, including information on the Pre-Proposal Conference and question and answer process, is available at the project website:

<http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/wireless/wireless.html>.

The schedule for the RFP is:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Date of Issue of RFP	January 17, 2007
Written Questions from Respondent Due	February 1, 2007
Pre-Proposal Conference	February 8, 2007
Responses to Questions Due to Respondent	February 15, 2007
Proposals Due	March 19, 2007