



# NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

*Celebrating 51 Years of Providing Utilities to the Navajo Nation*

**For Immediate Release**

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## **NTUA and Commnet Wireless receive multi-Million Broadband/Wireless Grant**

**FORT DEFIANCE, Ariz.** – The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) has been notified that the “Navajo Nation Middle/Last Mile Project: Quality Broadband for the Navajo People” application will receive a \$32.1 million grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for a major broadband initiative.

In August 2009, NTUA submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to build a fiber optic network communications and microwave infrastructure throughout the central core of the Navajo Nation.

The overall project budget is approximately \$46 million, which combines the NTIA grant award and a 30 percent matching contribution of \$11.3.M from NTUA and \$2.2 million from partner Commnet Wireless.

In the application, NTUA stated that the Navajo Nation, like most rural areas, faces considerable challenges regarding telecommunications services. While a number of initiatives have aimed to provide broadband on the Navajo Nation, access to the service remains almost universally absent.

“When looking at the broadband access map, the void in the southwest is predominately the Navajo Nation. With this project, we would fill a large portion of that gap,” said NTUA General Manager Walter Haase. “This will allow high quality reliable telecommunications service in the Navajo Nation and will enable information and communication flow throughout the region. This is a huge step forward in terms of high capacity connectivity.”

“When in place, the Navajo Nation will not be waiting to catch up with the rest of the country,” Mr. Haase said. “We will actually be an unparalleled and significant step ahead.”

The Navajo Nation Middle/Last Mile Project will be implemented in five (5) phases, which will extend over 530 miles. The construction plan includes installing 96 strands of aerial fiber optic cable and 33 new microwave tower sites. This undertaking amplifies NTUA’s existing microwave network to provide broadband access to 15,120 square miles of the Navajo Nation’s 27,000 square mile area.

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“This is significant for schools, hospitals, and chapters,” he said. “Physicians and health care personnel throughout the Navajo Nation will be able to utilize telemedicine and teleradiology services. Indian Health Service facilities in each community will be interconnected to enhance communication among health care providers, and to the outside world.”

“As for schools, our children and teachers will have access to the best internet technology possible. Navajo Nation Chapters and tribal communities will have a more reliable internet and broadband connectivity,” he said, adding that the accessibility to broadband is vital to the economic development, education, employment, and health and safety of the Navajo Nation.

Additionally, NTUA will be partnering with Commnet Wireless to provide last mile services via their 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) network. Through this 4G network NTUA will be able to service both fixed and mobile customers with high speed broadband access.

“Commnet Wireless feels honored to partner with NTUA and the Navajo Nation on the development of a 4G mobile broadband network for the largest underserved tribal region in the country,” said Lou Tomasetti, CEO of Commnet Wireless. “As an advocate for bringing enhanced wireless services to rural America it is a privilege to be a part of NTUA’s vision in providing affordable broadband to Navajo Lands.”

The project 4G LTE project itself, will initially provide fixed and mobile service to over 30,000 households (approximately 135,000 people) and 1,000 businesses in 15 of the largest communities on the Navajo Nation, including Window Rock, Shiprock, Kayenta, Chinle, and Tuba City. In addition, the project will provide high capacity connectivity on the combined middle-mile backbone to an additional 49 tribal communities.

“I would like to personally thank Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr., the Navajo Nation Council, and other tribal leaders for supporting the concept of this project,” said Mr. Haase, additionally expressing appreciation to the elected state governors, U.S. Senators and Members of Congress from Arizona, Utah and New Mexico for reinforcing the need for the project.

“Their leadership played a key role providing the U.S. Department of Commerce the understanding of the region and the fundamental need for this groundbreaking project,” he added. “Their support significantly increased our chances to build a communications infrastructure which will serve the needs of our people and the southwest region for generations.”

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#### **About the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority**

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority is the largest multi-utility company owned and operated by an American Indian tribe. NTUA, a non-profit enterprise, was established in 1959 by the Navajo Nation Council to provide electricity, water, natural gas, wastewater treatment, and photovoltaic (solar power) services to residents throughout the 27,000 square-mile Navajo Nation, which spreads across northern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, and southeastern Utah. Even as NTUA works hard to meet the basic utility needs of the Navajo Nation – the region continues to suffer from the lack of access to electricity and other basic infrastructure needs. For more information visit: [www.ntua.com](http://www.ntua.com)

#### **About Commnet Wireless**

Commnet Wireless ([www.commnetwireless.com](http://www.commnetwireless.com)) is the nation's leading provider of wholesale voice and data services to the wireless telecommunications industry. Commnet Wireless works in partnership with national and regional wireless operators to offer highly-reliable, feature-rich coverage in a variety of technical environments. We currently manage wireless networks in 14 states.

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Thursday, March 25th, 2010*

***Governor Jan Brewer Announces Stimulus Broadband  
Infrastructure Award to Benefit Navajo Nation***

*Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) is awarded \$32.2 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications & Information Administration*

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer announced today that the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) has been awarded an approximately \$32.2 million federal grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This grant along with partial matching funds, will provide middle mile and last mile broadband infrastructure access to the Navajo Nation. Middle mile is the equipment and infrastructure that carries the internet over longer distances, while last mile broadband carries internet to its final destination over shorter distances, directly to the home or business.

“This grant to the Navajo Nation's Utility Authority will revolutionize broadband communications on the Navajo Nation,” said Governor Brewer. “This grant will deliver broadband internet, which will foster jobs, business development and new educational opportunities. This is a step forward in bringing the tools of economic prosperity to every corner of our state.”

This broadband project will benefit over 30,000 households and 1,000 businesses. Governor Brewer was an early endorser of the Navajo Nation's Utility Authority's grant application. The NTIA solicited the formal advice of the Governors of the fifty states as part of the overall broadband grant decision making process. Governor Brewer in her letter to the NTIA recommended the Navajo Nation Utility Authority's grant.

“The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority grant received the highest recommendation in its category by the Arizona Broadband Advisory Committee (ABAC),” said Arizona State CIO Chad Kirkpatrick. “The Navajo Nation was identified as one of the areas in Arizona with the greatest need for broadband support. The plan was well thought out and well presented,” Kirkpatrick said. The ABAC Committee was assembled by Governor Brewer to provide insight and advice on over 100 broadband grant applications that could impact Arizona. For additional information see: <http://www.broadbandusa.gov>

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# Navajo Nation Awarded \$32 Million Recovery Grant for Ultra Fast Broadband Network

March 25, 2010

**WASHINGTON** - U.S. Sens. Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall and Rep. Ben Ray Luján today announced that the Navajo Nation will benefit from a \$32 million Recovery grant to create an ultra fast broadband network on the reservation. The new broadband network will cover more than 15,000 square miles across New Mexico, Arizona and Utah where more than 60 percent of residents lack basic telephone service. The group officials made the announcement on a press conference call with U.S. Secretary Gary Locke, Former Gov. Toney Anaya and Rep. Jim Matheson of Utah.

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), which applied for the grant in August 2009, will use the funding to build one of the first Long-Term Evolution (LTE) wireless broadband networks in the country. The project will link 49 Navajo chapter houses by deploying 550 miles of new aerial fiber-optic cable and modified microwave towers over the region.

"I don't believe there is a part of the country more worthy of an investment like this one. Too few Navajos have access to the services most Americans consider basic, such as water and electricity. So it's no wonder there is chronic high unemployment on the Navajo Nation. In the long-term, bringing broadband to this underserved area will create many opportunities for advancing education, medicine and the economy. In the short-term, it will create good jobs in the region," Bingaman said. "This is great news for northwest New Mexico and beyond."

Udall, a member of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, praised the award. "This grant is monumental for the Navajo Nation," he said. "The Navajo Nation faces greater challenges than non-native communities, including higher rates of diabetes, more unemployment and fewer high school graduates. I believe this award will help change those circumstances by opening up new economic opportunities for education, health care and job creation. With this cutting-edge broadband network, the Navajo Nation and northwest New Mexico will have technology to leap ahead."

"I am greatly encouraged by this American Recovery and Reinvestment Act award for Navajo Nation to improve their broadband capabilities and bridge the digital divide," said Luján. "This award will connect communities, help businesses grow, and provide students with the resources to expand their skills."

NTUA expects this new telecommunications infrastructure will spur more affordable Internet service for as many as 30,000 households, 1,000 businesses, and an additional 1,100 community institutions, including public safety, health and social services, and emergency care facilities.

The high speed Internet network will likely take three years to complete. The total cost for the project is \$46 million. Additional matching funds from NTUA and Commnet Wireless will be used to complete the project.



# COMMERCE NEWS

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Office of the Secretary  
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## **SECRETARY LOCKE ANNOUNCES RECOVERY ACT INVESTMENTS TO EXPAND BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS AND SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke today announced 10 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act investments to help bridge the technological divide, boost economic growth, create jobs, and improve education and healthcare across the country. The investments, totaling more than \$63 million in grants, will increase broadband access and adoption in more than a dozen states. The grants will fund projects that lay the groundwork to bring enhanced high-speed Internet access to thousands of households and businesses and link hundreds of schools, hospitals, libraries, and public safety offices to the information superhighway.

“In a globalized 21<sup>st</sup> century economy, when you don’t have regular access to high-speed Internet, you don’t have access to all the educational, business and employment opportunities it provides,” Locke said. “These critical Recovery Act investments will create jobs and lay the groundwork for long-term sustainable economic growth in communities across America.”

The Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the Recovery Act, provides grants to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

“The level of interest in this program has been extraordinary, and is yet another indicator of the critical role broadband plays in achieving durable, sustainable economic growth,” Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator Lawrence E. Strickling said. “Like the grants announced today, the strongest proposals are the ones that have taken a truly comprehensive view of the communities to be served and have engaged as many key members of the communities as possible in developing the projects.”

*The following grants were announced today:*

**Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah - Navajo Tribal Utility Authority: \$32.2 million** broadband infrastructure grant with an additional \$13.8 million applicant-provided match to bring high-

speed affordable broadband services to the Navajo Nation by deploying 550 miles of new aerial fiber-optic cable and 59 new or modified microwave towers covering 15,000 square miles in three states. The proposed service area has rugged terrain and significant poverty, and more than 60 percent of residents lack basic telephone service. The project expects to directly connect 49 Chapter Houses, which serve as community centers for the Navajo population, at speeds from 10 Mbps to 10 Gbps. Last-mile wireless services will be offered at speeds between 1 and 3 Mbps through the project's wireless partner, Commnet Wireless.

**Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Texas - Mission Economic Development Agency: \$3.7 million** public computer center grant with an additional \$2.5 million applicant-provided match to create 12 new public computer centers and expand five existing ones in Phoenix, Ariz.; Canoga Park, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, Calif.; Del Norte, Colo.; Blackfoot, Idaho; Wheaton, Md.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Kansas City, Mo.; Anthony, NM; Philadelphia, Pa.; and San Antonio and Laredo, Texas. Each center expects to operate on the project's centrally managed network and provide computer training and adult education to a low broadband adoption, high unemployment target population through a standardized English-Spanish training curriculum.

**Idaho - First Step Internet: \$2.4 million** broadband infrastructure grant with an additional \$600,000 applicant-provided match to build a regional network of 10 microwave towers to extend high-capacity Internet service in the rural counties of Latah, Idaho, Clearwater, Lewis, and Nez Perce in north-central Idaho. The project intends to directly connect 42 anchor institutions, including healthcare facilities, emergency response agencies, libraries, and government offices, as well as institutions serving the Nez Perce Tribe.

**Illinois - City of Chicago: \$7 million** sustainable broadband adoption grant with an additional \$2.3 million applicant-provided match to spur economic development in five disadvantaged neighborhoods in Chicago with a comprehensive broadband awareness and adoption program that will include providing computers and training opportunities to more than 11,000 residents and 500 small businesses and not-for-profits. The project intends to create public computer centers at six community centers for working families and expand workstation capacity at four Business Resource Centers, as well as provide 1,500 residents and small businesses that complete a multi-session training course with laptops and netbooks.

**Minnesota - C.K. Blandin Foundation: \$4.9 million** sustainable broadband adoption grant with an additional \$1.5 million applicant-provided match to launch the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities initiative, a multi-sector, comprehensive approach to sustainable broadband adoption targeting residents, small businesses, local governments, and critical services providers in each of Minnesota's 80 rural counties. The project anticipates training as many as 2,500 individuals in computer literacy, online education, and workforce development, and plans to distribute 1,000 affordable refurbished computers. Funding will also support the development of institutional broadband applications for schools and healthcare facilities to help increase broadband adoption.

**North Carolina - Fayetteville State University: \$1 million** public computer center grant with an additional \$263,000 applicant-provided match to provide 30 new computer workstations,

wireless Internet access, and training courses at a new public computer center for the Fayetteville, North Carolina, community, including residents of local public housing. The project will include courses on Internet basics, personal finance and health, and basic job skills. The first 50 users to complete all of these courses will receive a laptop computer for home use. This project will be led by Fayetteville State University, a Historically Black University, in partnership with the Fayetteville Metropolitan Housing Authority and other organizations that will provide training targeted to the needs of low-income persons.

**Ohio and Pennsylvania - Zito Media Communications: \$6.1 million** broadband infrastructure grant with an additional \$1.5 million applicant-provided match to create a 382-mile fiber ring with 10 gigabits of capacity through the counties of Geauga, Ashtabula, and Trumbull in Northeastern Ohio, and the counties of Erie, Crawford, and Mercer in Northwestern Pennsylvania. The project plans to deploy 342 miles of new fiber and 40 miles of leased fiber to directly connect an estimated 60 community anchor institutions at speeds from 10 Mbps to 1 Gbps, including hospitals, schools, public safety agencies, colleges, and libraries.

**Vermont - Vermont Council on Rural Development: \$2.5 million** sustainable broadband adoption grant with an additional \$1.2 million applicant-provided match to increase broadband Internet access and adoption in 24 small, mostly rural communities through a comprehensive effort combining broadband training, access, awareness, and planning. The Vermont Council on Rural Development and its project partners plan to train more than 1,800 individuals and distribute an estimated 1,200 computers to 4th and 5th grade students, as well as work with teachers to integrate broadband usage into lesson plans.

**Virginia - Nelson County of Virginia: \$1.8 million** broadband infrastructure grant with an additional \$457,000 applicant-provided match to enhance and expand broadband Internet services in areas of rural Nelson County, Virginia by deploying 31 miles of new fiber and four new wireless tower sites, and directly connecting 13 community anchor institutions. The anchor institutions receiving direct connections to the new network are expected to include seven county government facilities, four K-12 schools, a library, and the Blue Ridge Medical Center.

**Virginia - Page County Broadband Authority: \$1.6 million** broadband infrastructure grant with an additional \$412,000 applicant-provided match to deploy a 39-mile fiber network that will serve the four principal towns in Page County, Virginia, a rural and underserved area in the Shenandoah region of Western Virginia. The network expects to directly connect 29 anchor institutions including, 11 K-12 schools, three libraries, six healthcare facilities, Lord Fairfax Community College, and eight public safety institutions.

NTIA received more than 1,800 applications proposing projects totaling nearly \$19 billion during the first BTOP funding round and is currently awarding grants on a rolling basis. NTIA just received a second round of applications in the BTOP Sustainable Broadband Adoption and Public Computer Center grant categories, and is currently accepting applications in the BTOP Comprehensive Community Infrastructure grant category through March 26, 2010.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided a total of \$7.2 billion to NTIA and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to fund projects that will expand

access to and adoption of broadband services. NTIA will utilize \$4.7 billion of that funding for grants to deploy broadband infrastructure in the United States, expand public computer center capacity, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service. NTIA will announce all grant awards by September 30, 2010.

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*Fact sheets with further information about all BTOP grants are available on the NTIA Web site here: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/projects.html>.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NTUA TO TRIAL DRAGONWAVE'S NEW HORIZON QUANTUM RADIO FOR LTE PILOT ON NAVAJO NATION**

### ***NTUA Pursuing U.S. Stimulus Funds for 4G Network To Trial DragonWave's Industry Leading Solution***

Ottawa, Canada, March 8, 2010 - DragonWave Inc. (TSX: DWI; NASDAQ: DRWI) a leading global supplier of packet microwave radio systems for mobile and access networks, today announced that the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) has agreed to a commercial field test using DragonWave's Horizon Quantum radio product.

NTUA is pursuing funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a \$46M grant that includes a 530 mile of fiber optic deployment and a 57-site Long Term Evolution LTE 4G network that would provide broadband throughout 15,000 miles of the Navajo Nation, which, at 27,000 square miles, is the largest American Indian land base in the United States.

According to Walter Haase, General Manager of NTUA, "The network is designed to enable unprecedented applications such as broadband Internet access, distance learning and telemedicine that will certainly benefit people here on the Navajo Nation. Using microwave to tie remote sites to the fiber for 4G technologies is an integral enabler of our overall strategy to meet and exceed expectations."

To support NTUA's application, DragonWave is installing a commercial pilot network near Fort Defiance, Arizona, in which the Horizon Quantum is backhauling 700 MHZ LTE base stations.

"As a state of the art 4G backhaul radio, the scalability, spectral efficiency, and advanced synchronization of the Quantum product are an excellent fit for our application. Affordable last mile backhaul is one of the biggest challenges in deploying 4G services in rural America," noted Steve Nez, NTUA Communications Supervisor.

"We are excited about the opportunity to work with the NTUA on this innovative network," said Peter Allen, president and CEO, DragonWave. "Our work with leading 4G service providers enabled us to create the industry's first solution that is truly optimized for LTE backhaul. The Horizon Quantum offers the industry's highest capacity, leading spectral efficiency and lowest total cost of ownership in carrier-grade, native-Ethernet microwave transport."

#### **About the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority**

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Navajo Nation – the region continues to suffer from the lack of access to electricity and other basic infrastructure needs. For more information visit: <http://www.ntua.com/>.

### **About DragonWave**

DragonWave® is a leading provider of high-capacity packet microwave solutions that drive next-generation IP networks. DragonWave's carrier-grade point-to-point packet microwave systems transmit broadband voice, video and data, enabling service providers, government agencies, enterprises and other organizations to meet their increasing bandwidth requirements rapidly and affordably. The principal application of DragonWave's products is wireless network backhaul. Additional solutions include leased line replacement, last mile fiber extension and enterprise networks. DragonWave's corporate headquarters is located in Ottawa, Ontario, with sales locations in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North America. For more information, visit <http://www.dragonwaveinc.com/>

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### **Forward-Looking Statements**

Certain statements in this release constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Forward-looking statements include statements as to DragonWave's growth opportunities and the potential benefits of, and demand for, DragonWave's products. These statements are subject to certain assumptions, risks and uncertainties, including our view of the relative position of DragonWave's products compared to competitive offerings in the industry. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such statements. DragonWave's actual results, performance, achievements and developments may differ materially from the results, performance, achievements or developments expressed or implied by such statements. Risk factors that may cause the actual results, performance, achievements or developments of DragonWave to differ materially from the results, performance, achievements or developments expressed or implied by such statements can be found in the public documents filed by DragonWave with U.S. and Canadian securities regulatory authorities. DragonWave assumes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as expressly required by law.

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