PACIFIC DATAPORT BACKGROUND

Pacific Dataport is currently developing the statewide Aurora Network, which consists of two new GEO HTS/VHTS satellites. The first is the Aurora 4A and it will be operational Q3 2022 with ~7.5 Gbps. The second, which will be known as the Aurora IV, will be operational H2 2024 with 100+ Gbps. The Aurora Network will increase Alaska's middle mile broadband capacity by approximately 110 Gbps and serve ~110,000 broadband users with 25/3 service for a target retail price of about $99. We have Aurora 4A fully funded and are currently raising funds for Aurora IV, our much larger satellite.

Pacific Dataport will sell capacity to the existing telecoms (wired & wireless), governments (Tribal, local, state & federal) and Alaska Native Corporations, Villages, Tribes and Tribal consortiums. These providers will deliver the last mile network to the consumer's home. In essence, we perfectly complement their existing systems and will allow them to expand broadband into new areas, if they choose to do so. We'll also sell to health clinics and schools. This new satellite middle mile capacity will allow residents to have access to very fast, affordable broadband and enables opportunities for tele-health, education, and commerce. Residents will be able to cruise the Internet, stream television and music, and conduct meetings on two-way video platforms like Zoom and Teams.

FACTS ABOUT BROADBAND IN RURAL ALASKA

1. Today, the FCC'S Fourteenth Broadband Report estimates 36.3% of rural Alaskans still have no wired broadband connection providing at least 25/3 service – about 105,000 residents – and no rural Alaska school meets the FCC's goal of 1 Mbps per student.

2. GCI Terra – The microwave system in SW Alaska has bottlenecks, mostly because it has a maximum capacity of about 7.5 Gbps. Currently, there are about 45,000 residents using the network and quick math will tell you that no one (except the schools and health clinics paying top dollar) is getting more than 10/1 service for several hundred dollars per month. Our estimate, if everyone was getting 25/3 service, would be maximum 10,000 residents. It is very over-sold and will soon be obsolete.

3. Fiber Latency in Rural Alaska – Residents in Nome and Kotzebue (using 100% fiber to/from Seattle) are seeing about 100 ms for latency. As required by the FCC USF Alaska Plan, latency must be less than 100 ms. Mathematically, it's close to 100 ms, but at peak times, customers routinely see greater than 100 ms. No agency is actually monitoring this and the ATA continues pushing less than 100 ms policies.

4. GEO Latency Myth – The fiber lobby has incessantly pushed that GEO cannot produce “latency sufficient to support real-time interactive applications”. This is absolutely untrue. Even at 500 ms, we often use GEO in our office for Zoom and Teams calls. The ATA is using this latency myth to exclude the Pacific Dataport Aurora Project from federal funding.