



PRESS RELEASE:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OneBroward Releases RFP for Ground Breaking Technology Project

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida - August 4th, 2008 - On August 1, 2008, OneBroward released an RFP for a community-owned wired and wireless broadband network spanning 500 square miles of Broward County, Florida. The network will greatly enhance services offered to County citizens, improve public safety and law enforcement, enable local government efficiencies, provide for digital inclusion for under-served communities and establish an entrepreneurial friendly environment that promotes economic development.

The community non-profit consortium (OneBroward) consists of the following eight organizations: Broward College, Broward County Government, Broward County Schools, Broward Health, Broward Sheriff's Office, Florida Atlantic University, Memorial Hospital District, and Nova Southeastern University.

The RFP was put together with the assistance of the Beta Strategy Group (BSG) from Ohio. Prior to compiling the RFP, several strategic workshops with consortium members were held to determine how best to maximize existing assets, set priorities for applications for the network, and determine the governance model for the operation of the network. These sessions led to the release of the OneBroward Request For Information (RFI) in March 2008, which received eleven responses from various commercial operators. Participants in the RFI process included technology giants ATT, Cisco, IBM, Nortel, Motorola, and Northrop Grumman just to name a few.

OneBroward is led by Dr. Phyllis Schiffer-Simon, the Director of the Broward Education Communications Network (BECON). Dr. Schiffer-Simon has been working tirelessly for several years to bring the network into reality. “The process of bringing eight large entities together in the interest of providing a broadband network solution to benefit the entire community has been ongoing and challenging, yet exciting” says Dr. Schiffer-Simon. Schiffer-Simon further states that “OneBroward has the potential to make Broward County, Florida one of the first broadband networks in the world that incorporates members’ existing assets to provide network applications that offer enhanced security and digital inclusion, with the potential of significant cost savings.”

BSG, lead by CEO Cathy Horton, has a vast level of experience in driving municipal broadband solutions and economic development through their MuniSync™ program, using technologies such as those to be used in OneBroward. “We are honored to play the important role of trusted advisor to the OneBroward Consortium,” states Cathy Horton, “There is no doubt that the OneBroward consortium members offer a shining example of how collaboration can construct an intelligent digital community.”

Through the BSG methods and guidance, OneBroward will become one of the largest networks of its kind in the country.

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