



Press Release

Award of the VT Wireless Broadband Propagation Mapping Contract

January 29th, 2010

The Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) is pleased to announce the recent award of the VT Wireless Broadband Propagation Mapping Contract to a Team led by Pericle Communications Company of Colorado Springs, CO. The other member of the Pericle Team is Cromack Industries of Greenfield, MA. The Wireless Broadband Propagation Mapping effort provides critical broadband coverage data collection, mapping and verification support for Vermont's Broadband Data and Development Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

The Pericle Team has a wealth of previous experience working together in New England and nationally in the performance of radio coverage modeling and drive test surveying. Pericle has developed automated software that measures radio coverage of existing sites and streamlines simultaneous data collection from a number of radio frequency receivers. Pericle is experienced in radio site interference analysis as well as the accurate identification and characterization of co-located radio communication technologies and equipment. VCGI and the rest of the VT Broadband Mapping Team look forward to working with the Pericle Team and the broadband data and voice Providers in Vermont to create the best possible statewide map of broadband coverage in the state.

The Vermont Broadband Mapping Team is working to develop a comprehensive and verified geographic inventory of broadband service availability in the State of Vermont. Landline and wireless services (fixed and mobile) will be mapped, including wireless voice and data with information from the providers and other sources. The broadband mapping information collected and verified through this effort will then support the broadband development objectives identified in the Rural Utilities Service's Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) in Vermont. Most importantly, the geographic inventory will further refine our understanding of the location of 'unserved' and 'underserved' areas in the state, thereby supporting targeted future investments in these areas. The mapped broadband coverage information will also be provided to the public for their use in determining the availability of broadband resources in the state.

The NTIA Broadband Data and Development Grant was awarded by NTIA in October 2009 to the Vermont Broadband Mapping Team composed of VCGI, the VT Department of Public Service, UVM - Center for Rural Studies, VT Telecommunications Authority and the VT Enhanced 911 Board. NTIA's Broadband Data and Development Grant is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. VCGI also wants to recognize the VT Telecommunications Authority for funding the collection and mapping of the availability of wireless voice services in the state, as that effort was not funded by NTIA. More information on the NTIA Broadband Data and Development grant may be found at <http://www.leahy.senate.gov/DOX/BroadbandMappingRelease.pdf>.

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