

House Select Committee on High Speed Internet Access in Rural and Urban Areas - Broadband Terms – Updated 11-9-2009

Peter Capriglione – ISD

NTIA - National Telecommunications Information Administration

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is an agency in the U.S. Department of Commerce that serves as the executive branch agency principally responsible for advising the President on telecommunications and information policies. In this role, NTIA frequently works with other Executive Branch agencies to develop and present the Administration's position on these issues. Since its creation in 1978, NTIA has been at the cutting edge of critical issues. In addition to representing the Executive Branch in both domestic and international telecommunications and information policy activities, NTIA also manages the Federal use of spectrum; performs cutting-edge telecommunications research and engineering, including resolving technical telecommunications issues for the Federal government and private sector; and administers infrastructure and public telecommunications facilities grants.¹

BTOP - Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

BIP - Broadband Initiatives Program

NOFA – Notice of Funds Availability

For More Information: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/about.html>

RUS - Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service

Electricity, telephone, water and waste disposal services have been taken for granted in American cities since at least the 1920's. But if you lived in a rural area only 60 years ago, chances are you went without these necessities of modern life and high standard of living they make possible.

Modern utilities came to rural America through some of the most successful government initiatives in American history, carried out through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) working with rural cooperatives, nonprofit associations, public bodies, and for-profit utilities. Today, USDA Rural Development Utilities Programs carries on this tradition helping rural utilities expand and keep their technology up to date, helping establish new and vital services such as distance learning and telemedicine.

The public-private partnership which is forged between Rural Development Utilities Programs and these industries results in billions of dollars in rural infrastructure development and creates thousands of jobs for the American economy.²

For More Information: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/index2/aboutus.htm>

Middle Mile - that connects the last mile Internet service provider with an Internet backbone service provider.

Source: <http://www.benton.org/node/25598>

Last-mile Technology - is any telecommunications technology that carries **signals** from the broad telecommunication backbone along the relatively short distance (hence, the "last mile") to and from the home or business. Or to put it another way: the infrastructure at the neighborhood level.

Source: http://searchnetworking.techtargget.com/sDefinition/0,,sid7_gci213568,00.html

¹ <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/about.html>

² <http://www.usda.gov/rus/index2/aboutus.htm>

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Public Computer Center - Open to the public or a specific sub-set (such as children, unemployed, seniors)
Provides broadband access as defined in NOFA (at the workstation level) Offers education, support, and training relevant to community/constituency needs and interests

Source: <http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/presentations/PublicComputerCenters0721.pdf>