



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Announces Broadband Award

Arizona-based Company Receives \$39.2 Million Federal Grant to Build Statewide Broadband Network

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced that a \$39.2 million federal broadband infrastructure grant has been awarded to Scottsdale, Arizona based GovNET, Inc. to build a statewide 5 SONET-ring microwave and fiber network that will bring increased Broadband capacity and internet connectivity opportunities to all 15 counties in Arizona. This federal grant award is from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) as part of its ARRA broadband stimulus program.

"Arizona's vast stretches of missing middle mile infrastructure may soon become a thing of the past," said Governor Brewer. "Not only will this project create Arizona jobs, the broadband capacity it brings will help with everything from enhancing rural schools and libraries to networking hospitals and healthcare providers. The network also allows for direct communication channels between multiple law enforcement agencies with the potential to improve interoperability issues along the border."

The governors of the fifty states were asked by NTIA to provide comments and insights regarding the broadband grant applications that impacted their respective states. Governor Brewer created the Arizona Broadband Advisory Committee (ABAC), a committee consisting of representatives from ten different state agencies, chaired by state CIO and Director of the Government Information Technology Agency (GITA) Chad Kirkpatrick, to evaluate Arizona's BTOP grant applications.

"The results of this grant will bring high speed internet connectivity to many underserved areas of the State," said state CIO and ABAC Chair Chad Kirkpatrick. "This is a great day for Arizona's future."

The basic concepts identified in GovNET's grant application were originally identified eight years ago as part of a counties consortium for broadband expansion and to facilitate county emergency service needs. It was called SACCCNet (State of Arizona Counties Communication Network). The concept evolved to address additional governmental and rural broadband needs, and led to the creation of an expanded umbrella network called GovNET, of which SACCCNet has become an integral part. For more information on this award see www.broadbandusa.gov.

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