

September 13, 2010

## Sho-Me Technologies to Expand Rural Broadband Access

MARSHFIELD - Sho-Me Technologies, LLC received word today that their application for broadband stimulus funds through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) was approved for funding. Working with the Governor's MoBroadBandNow initiative and several partners throughout the state of Missouri the project will seek to expand broadband access to many rural communities throughout South-Central Missouri.

Sho-Me Technologies will use its grant of \$26.6 million from the U.S. Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to enhance and expand its fiber optic middle-mile network to 66,000 businesses and more than 260,000 households in 30 counties across southern and central Missouri. The 1,380-mile network will be the backbone infrastructure for last-mile providers to deliver broadband to homes, businesses, schools, libraries, hospitals, public safety agencies and other facilities. The company will provide a match of \$11.4 million to the federal grant, for a total project cost of approximately \$38 million.

"We are very pleased at the opportunity to be a part of the MoBroadBandNow initiative and the shared mission to expand affordable and reliable broadband access throughout rural Missouri," said Gary L. Fulks, the CEO of Sho-Me Technologies, LLC. "Our project will expedite the availability of broadband services to those south central rural communities who have not yet attained the broadband advantage that larger communities now enjoy. We'd like to thank the State of Missouri for their continued support and leadership as we work toward our shared common goal of serving the needs of rural Missouri."

The counties to be served by Sho-Me Technologies portion of the project include Benton, Camden, Christian, Cole, Cooper, Crawford, Dallas, Douglas, Franklin, Gasconade, Greene, Hickory, Howell, Laclede, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Oregon, Osage, Ozark, Pettis, Phelps, Polk, Shannon, Stone, Taney, Texas, Webster and Wright.

Sho-Me Technologies now has 30 days to review the Grant Award and decide whether or not to pursue project funding.

Updates and additional information can be found at <http://www.shometech.com>.