

SCRPS Status Update

FCC Form 5640

OMB Control No. 3060-1270

File No. SC-SU0001907

Applicant Information

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Applicant Name Point Broadband Fiber Holdin Applicant City Opelika
Applicant Email chad.wachter@point-broadba Applicant State AL
Applicant Phone 7067732663 Applicant ZIP Code 36801

Contact Information

Is the contact the same as the contact listed on the Application Request for Funding Allocation? If not, please list below.

Contact Name Summit Ridge Group Contact Address 49 West 38th Street 12th Floor
Contact Email PointRR@SummitRidgeGroup Contact City New York
Contact Phone 2124334800 Contact State NY
Contact ZIP Code 10018

*Indicate which deadline you are meeting with this filing.

2023-07-10

Explanation of Effort and Availability of Commercial Equipment

*Provide an explanation of efforts undertaken, and challenges encountered, in permanently removing, replacing, and disposing of covered communications equipment or service.

During the past 90 days, we have made very good progress on the installation of the FTTH equipment in the last quarter, and we were able to start the first conversion in late June. Using muxing equipment between the Ciena and Huawei equipment, we have successfully migrated a handful of customers with minimal impact to the customer.

We have been reviewing all the Huawei routers in the core network. Unfortunately, we found an unfortunate number of complicated routes feeding the existing network. The amount of time that we estimate at this point to replace the almost 200 routers in our network will far exceed the allotted time schedule allowed in our FRNs for this project. The amount of internal labor that it will require, given the difficulty of finding contractors that are familiar with the Huawei routing protocols, is just one of the issues that we have discovered. In addition, there are numerous service-level agreements with businesses and carriers that require up to 160 days of notification. We are currently looking for additional data contractors that could be trained and perform at least part of the migrations, but this would incur a cost that we do not currently have in the greatly reduced budget from our allotment. We have our first FRN one-year timing issue at the end of October 2023; however, the same internal Point engineering resources also maintain the network for our entire company, which would not allow us to dedicate such a large amount of time just to the removal of the Huawei routers. Unfortunately, all of the router work will have to be done in maintenance windows which adds to the complexity.

On the 2.5 GHz Huawei wireless equipment removal, we ran into a shipping issue for the core system that will control all of the 2.5 wireless sites. The equipment was held up in customs for weeks. It has now arrived, and we are in the process of working with the vendor on getting it racked and ready to start the initial test that we are targeting for mid-August. If successful, we hoped to be able to turn up and test our first tower by September. We are putting a plan together at this time on how we would communicate to our customer base the fact that they will be down during the deinstallation and the installation of each tower site. The amount of time given no weather delays is estimated at one week per site. The impact on our customers working off of each site would be five to seven days. Once the Huawei equipment is removed from the tower site and the new equipment is installed, we will then have to visit every customer off of each site to replace their premise radios to bring them back online. Given the amount of involvement required by our internal resources as well as contractors, we do not think we will be able to accomplish the installation of all sites under the current timing constraints.

The replacement of the Huawei DC plant equipment has seen challenges due to the space constraints in the equipment huts. We reviewed the sites and formulated a plan on how to remove the existing DC plant while keeping all of the equipment in the site functioning. In the review process, we realized there will be cases where we have to take customers completely down for periods of time while removing the Huawei equipment to put the new DC plant equipment in the same footprint.

*Explain whether you are finding commercially available equipment in the marketplace. If not, then explain efforts taken to obtain replacement equipment.

At this point, all of our major equipment vendors have been identified and engaged. The equipment has been ordered and, in many cases, received. The major issue for us at this point is the amount of effort and time that it is requiring to integrate and start the removal without severely impacting our day-to-day operations.

* If there is additional information relevant to the preceding questions or that you believe the Commission should be aware of, please include the information below.

We have noticed a recent slowdown in reimbursement processing, presumably related to an increase in the number of invoices being submitted for reimbursement. If delays continue to grow, our reimbursements cash flow will lag and we may be forced to slow our RRD project schedule. We are also constrained by the funding limitation and difficulties moving allocated funds between FRNs - these challenges, unless resolved, will pose an increasing threat to our program in the coming months.

As we remove existing Huawei equipment from our network, we are documenting and placing it in a separate location in our R&R warehouse. It will be disposed of by a qualified agent we have identified and engaged.

We have ordered and received the majority of the equipment needed for the replacement, including core routers, FTTH equipment, microwave equipment, 2.5 GHz radio equipment and cables, and the DC plant equipment.

Our greatest concerns are the timeline constraints that we are under, given the resources available and the current underfunding of the program.

Program Compliance

*Indicate whether recipient has fully complied with (or is in the process of complying with) all requirements of the Reimbursement Program.

Yes No

*Indicate whether recipient has permanently removed from its communications network all covered communications equipment or services that were in the recipient's network as of the date of the submission of the recipient's application request for funding.

Yes No

If recipient has not yet completed the removal process, what estimated percentage of the removal process have you completed?

*Indicate whether recipient has replaced all covered communications equipment or services that were in the recipient's network as of the date of the submission of the recipient's application request for funding.

Yes No

If recipient has not yet completed the replacement process, what estimated percentage of the replacement process have you completed?

*Indicate whether recipient has disposed of all covered communications equipment or services that were in the recipient's network as of the date of the submission of the recipient's application request for funding.

Yes No

If recipient has not yet completed the disposal process, what estimated percentage of the disposal process have you completed?

*Indicate whether recipient has fully complied with (or is in the process of complying with) the timeline submitted by the recipient. If not, provide explanation for deviation.

Yes No

*The filer has indicated no to a question in this section, please provide additional information.

Certifications

*By checking the box and providing the electronic signature where indicated below, the Certifying Official on behalf of the filer certifies under penalty of perjury that:

(1) The Certifying Official is authorized to submit this status report on behalf of the above-named filer and, based on information known to me or provided to me by employees responsible for the information being submitted, the information set forth in this status report has been examined and is true, accurate, and complete, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. The Certifying Official acknowledges that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information or statement, or the omission of any material fact on this status report or on any other document submitted by the filer may subject the filer and the undersigned to punishment by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), 1606), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 1001, §§ 286-287, and § 1343), or can lead to liability under the False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733, and §§ 3801-3812). (2) The filer is in compliance with the statute, rules, and orders governing the Reimbursement Program, including but not limited to allocations, draw downs, payments, obligations and expenditures of money, and the Certifying Official acknowledges that failure to be in compliance and remain in compliance with those statutes, rules, and orders may result in the denial of funding, cancellation of funding commitments, and/or recoupment of past disbursements. The Certifying Official acknowledges that the filer will maintain detailed records, including receipts, of all costs eligible for reimbursement actually incurred for a period of 10 years; and will file all required documentation for its expenses. The Certifying Official acknowledges that failure to comply with the statute, rules, and orders governing the Reimbursement Program could result in civil or criminal prosecution by law enforcement authorities.

Certifier Information

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Date Signed 2023-07-10