

Federal Communications Commission Workshop:
**Deployment in Unserved and
Underserved Areas**



 ***MetroCast***

The MetroCast logo is displayed on a light blue rectangular background. It consists of a stylized globe icon on the left, followed by the word "MetroCast" in a bold, italicized, blue sans-serif font.



- The Harron Family is among the pioneers of the cable television industry.
- Harron Communications is a privately owned and operated family business that provides a wide variety of communications and entertainment services to approximately 200,000 video subscribers, 100,000 internet subscribers, and 22,000 phone customers in nine states, doing business as *MetroCast*.
- MetroCast is a leading provider of digital television, high-speed Internet, digital phone and business services to 134 communities in the states of New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi, Alabama and South Carolina.



- Through the expansion of existing system clusters and investments in new technologies, MetroCast continues to expand services and products offered, resulting in subscriber growth and satisfaction.
- MetroCast is focused on providing superior local customer service and technical support along with state-of-the-art technologies and advanced service offerings.
- MetroCast is also a primary supporter of numerous local charitable organizations, events and community projects, donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to better the lives, economies and communities in which our employees work, live and provide service.

About MetroCast

- MetroCast's networks are the most up-to-date of any networks.
- Our service areas are primarily in rural America.
- MetroCast has approximately 10,000 miles of plant in nine states.
- Our Company's average homes passed density per mile of distribution plant is 38 homes per mile.
- MetroCast has made a business out of serving rural areas that were unserved and underserved with competitive prices and flexible services

Challenges to Serving Unserved/Underserved



- MetroCast has a few areas of our homes passed that are isolated communities because of geographical obstacles such as bodies of water, National Forrest, and Military Bases.
- In these instances, we have been able to overcome most of the obstacles by partnering with the local communities and other service providers.
- Because of the commitment to our service areas and as a result of significant capital investment, by the end of this year less than 1/10th of a percent of our homes passed will be without enhanced broadband services.
- We would like to be able to provide enhanced broadband services to all of the communities we serve.
- MetroCast currently is not applying for any Broadband Stimulus Funds.
- Many cable operators are focused on applying for Broadband Stimulus Funds as these funds would have a profound benefit to the communities they serve.



Solutions

- Low-interest loans that would be able to be subordinate to existing credit facilities
- Middle-mile grants that would allow for the interconnection of isolated communities that could be done in partnership with the local Communities
- Expansion of USF funds to more providers than LEC's