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## **CCM establishes partnership with Digital Back Office to lead the Municipal Charge in Maximizing Benefits and Access to the State Broadband Network**

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) announced today, Tuesday, November 12, 2013, that it has established a new strategic partnership with Digital Back Office, a Connecticut company headquartered in Milford, Connecticut, to work exclusively with CCM to assist its 156 member towns and cities in gaining the access to the State's broadband Nutmeg Network in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.

"CCM's partnership with Digital Back Office will be the linchpin of a new service program – CCM's Nutmeg Network Initiative -- that will guide members through connecting and utilizing the Nutmeg Network - A to Z- including assessing service needs, building out connections, "going live" on the network, and providing technical support once they are up and running to ensure they are able to realize the full benefits of their connection to the network," said Jim Finley, CCM Executive Director and CEO.

"CCM worked hard on behalf of municipalities and collaborated with the Governor and the General Assembly last session to enact legislation that vastly improves municipal access to the State's broadband "Nutmeg Network," Finley stated. These advocacy efforts resulted in greater municipal representation on the network's governing body, increases in the amount of state grant funding for municipal connections, and reductions in the rates municipalities are charged for network services. As is the case with any new technology, there is still more work to be done to maximize the municipal benefits of this network.

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On the advocacy front – CCM is seeking to extend the December 31, 2013 deadline for submitting municipal applications to OPM for funding to build out local connections the network – more time is needed to do this right – as well as to increase grant funding to build out municipal networks, expand and define criteria used in awarding and distributing grant funding, and ensure that rates are set through an open and fair system.

On the education and information front – CCM is offering an on-site half day workshop in Meriden December 4<sup>th</sup>. This three track workshop will feature a look at financing options, an interactive technical session, and an overview of the process to connect and the benefits of connecting to the network, including information about the application process for access to the Nutmeg Network, the fees for access and connection, and how CCM and DBO will work closely with each municipality to navigate the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) Grant application process in order to expedite connection to the Nutmeg Network.

Dale Bruckhart, Vice President of Digital Back Office, said “We are committed to working hand-in-hand with CCM to provide information and services to CCM member towns that will expedite their connection and access to the Nutmeg Network and help them secure grant funding.”

Connecting to the network will provide a platform for municipalities to share services such as payroll and accounting, human resources, GIS, fleet management, public safety operations, and crime analytics. Other application available to municipal governments include disaster recovery / business continuity, video teleconferencing, web content filtering, domain name services, enhanced DNS firewall and network performance monitoring, redundant internet connection, and virtual private network between local governments and RPOS.

CCM and Digital Back office are ready, willing and able to work closely with all interested CCM member communities to assist in applying for RPIP grant funding and to provide cost effective and expedient access to all of the benefits of the Nutmeg Network.

## Attachment – List of Services

### A. The CCM-DBO Partnership will provide the following services to ALL CCM MEMBERS AT NO CHARGE:

#### RPIP Grant Application Assistance (application deadline 12-31-13)

- Evaluating municipal needs and formulating a site location map, project schedule and cost analysis needed to complete the Regional Performance Incentive (RPIP) Program Grant Application process.

#### Project Design Assistance

- Identifying all physical sites to be connected to the network including town owned towers or public works facilities if required.
- Reviewing existing CEN or PSDN facilities for possible connection points and potential cost savings.
- Reviewing security requirements and infrastructure for compliance with HIPPA, CJIS, and other federal and state regulations.
- Determining the desired service level:
  - Will connectivity be required between the Nutmeg Network, CEN and the PSDN for any applications?
  - Is wireless access desired in some or all town facilities?
  - Is 100% coverage required for each building?
- Identifying additional services:
  - Offsite Back-up
  - Disaster Recovery
  - Hosted E-mail
  - Co-located Services
  - VOIP
  - Network Help Desk
  - Network Access Control

#### Expense Audit -- We'll review your existing budgets for obsolete or avoidable expense items:

- Telephone lines or cable connections for internet services
- Unnecessary copier expenses/leases
- Long distance charges, cell phone internet usage, fax lines and equipment.
- Removing unnecessary expenditures may offset the cost of upgrading your network infrastructure to take full advantage of the Nutmeg Network.

#### B. Fee for Services

##### Tailored Project Management from A-Z -- Once a municipality receives state approval, CCM-DBO offers customized project management at SPECIAL RATES FOR ALL CCM MEMBERS:

- Take on turn-key responsibility for connecting all sites to a hub location determined by the town and preparing the hub location for connection to the Nutmeg Network.
- Communicate project timelines and progress.
- Develop IP addressing and routing plan if required.
- Bench test the network hardware before cutover to ensure that all applications will work on the new wide area network infrastructure and access the Nutmeg Network.
- Integrate dedicated or shared services as needed.

- **CCM's 156 member towns and cities comprise 95 percent of CT's population.**

