







Serving rural communities for over 119 years focused on delivering broadband, video and voice.



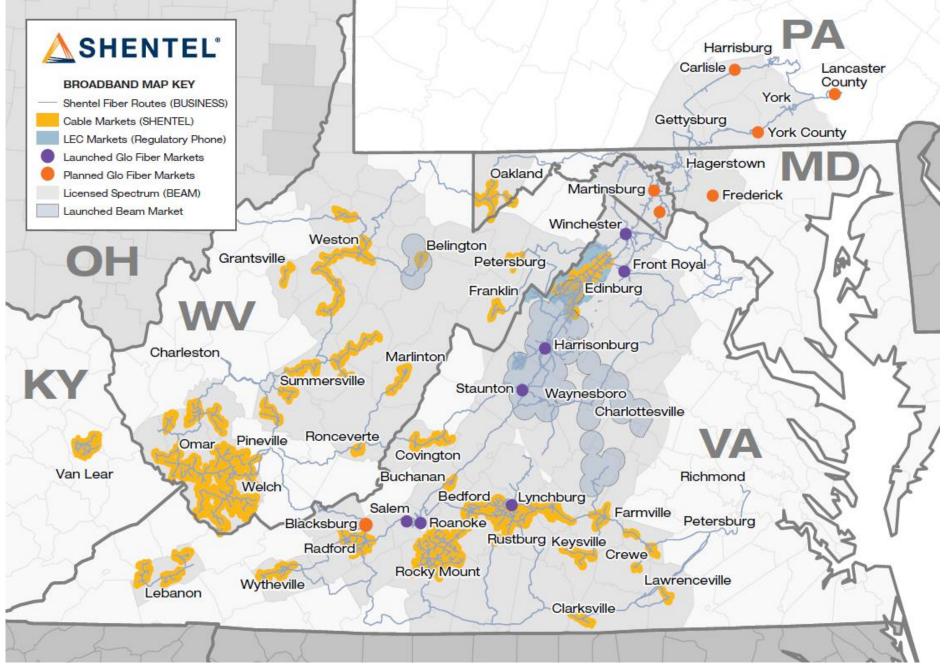
860 employees | \$241M in revenue | Publically traded on NASDAQ

Significant resources, delivering speed and efficiency in operations

- Broadband delivered to over 58,000 new households in the past 12 months
- Extensive existing network
- Speed to market
- Cost efficiency
- Local community investment & partnership
- Over 7,000 miles of fiber

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Grant Funding Overview

Bridging the Digital Divide

- Affordability
- <u>Accessibility</u>

Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)

- Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- Broadband infrastructure grant program
- Announced \$700M through 2024
- Goal of functional universal coverage
 - Broadband: 25/3 (100/20 scalable to 100/100 for ARPA funding)
 - Technology Agnostic
 - Cost efficiency

Federal Infrastructure Bill in progress (\$65B for broadband)

• Additional funding opportunities on the horizon

Proposed VATI Plan

Eliminate the Digital Divide in by delivering an advanced, cost-effective, and scalable solutions.

July 27	Submit Letter of Intent by July 27th deadline (DHCD clarification)
Jul - Aug	Collaboratively work with Counties and DHCD to refine plans
Sept 14	Submit final, detailed plan and application to DHCD by September 14 th deadline
Dec 31	VATI Project award by 12/31/2021 – Enter into contract in Q1 2022
2023	VATI project timeline is 18 months

Proposed VATI Plan

Available solutions that deliver universal coverage

- Full Fiber-to-the-Home network
 - High cost
 - Longer lead time
- Hybrid Fiber/Fixed Wireless small cell network
 - Fiber dense network
 - Licensed wireless for long drops
 - Cost effective
 - Speed to market
 - Upgradable

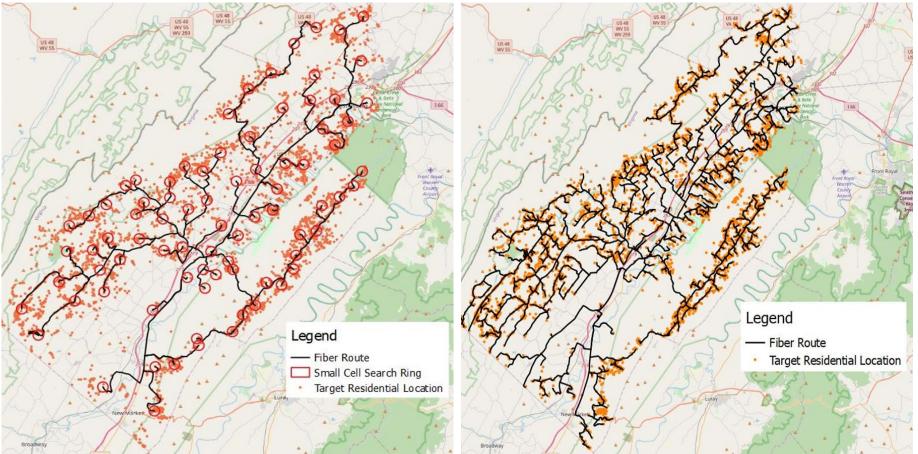
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Universal Broadband Proposal

Hybrid Solution

FTTH Solution



Lessons Learned (and learning)

- RFP's are very helpful (but take time)
 - Vet the existing "ecosystem" (innovative ideas, due diligence on providers, proven track record)
 - County engagement (areas of focus, understand risks, timelines, high level cost estimates)
 - There will be delays, and failures (labor/supply shortages, over commitments, start-up challenges)
- Determine if a regional approach is appropriate, and which "partners" create the best solution in your area
 - Define project management team/leadership
 - Partnerships can include power companies (counties should provide direction), and other community stakeholders (schools, United Way, Economic Development groups)
 - Dominion/AEP, SVEC all have active "utility leverage" programs, and will work with Shentel or other ISPs
 - Identify all available grants (federal/state), or other funding sources that are appropriate
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Lessons Learned (and learning)

- Start early, and refine grant proposals through weekly communication
 - Select a provider (or providers) more detailed mapping, timelines, etc.
 - Input from Board of Supervisors, and municipal Staff
 - DHCD/VATI or other federal agencies confirm important assumptions (very dynamic process)
 - Partnerships matter
- Project monitoring and "management"
 - On-going monitoring of important milestones, and reporting
 - Contractual language protections for project scope (projects that 25-50% complete)
 - Bonding, letter's of credit, and penalties for lack of performance
- Functional Universal Coverage in 2023 under current VATI timelines
- Federal Infrastructure Bill (access and affordability) ▲ SHENTEL*