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Press Release

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Cascade Networks, Inc. teams with Clatskanie PUD to win ARRA Broadband award worth \$3.7 million

Today, Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, announced the awarding of funds to 126 broadband initiatives across the country. Locally, Cascade Networks, Inc. and Clatskanie PUD were awarded a combination Grant / Loan worth \$3.7 million to build out broadband access in the unserved areas of Columbia County, OR. The project will provide high speed internet service to over 3,100 people, 200 businesses and 5 community anchor institutions and, according to the award, "will help drive economic development and create jobs for decades to come." The build-out will likely commence this fall and must be completed in three years.

"We look forward to teaming with Clatskanie PUD to help Columbia County compete for more business and more opportunities for development," said Brian Magnuson, President of Cascade Networks. Both Cascade Networks and Clatskanie PUD will be contributing capital and/or facilities to supplement the overall cost of the project, which is estimated at \$5 million. The team application received strong support from Oregon State Representative Brad Witt, Oregon State Senator Betsy Johnson, the Columbia County Commissioners, the City of Clatskanie and U.S. Congressman David Wu.

"The fiber-optic backbone system will give us high-quality connections between the PUD headquarters, substations and generation to allow for more efficient use of the power grid, while also giving our rural customers the opportunity to access broadband service from Cascade Networks," explains Greg Booth, Clatskanie PUD General Manager.

The link to Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's press release is included below:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/agriculture-secretary-vilsack-announces-over-120-recovery-act-broadband-projects-br>

For Immediate Release