OFFICE OF BROADBAND ACCESS & EXPANSION

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Strategic Partnership Framework

Request for Information
RFI# OBAE-RFI-2026-001

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Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction ***3***

1.1 Three-Year Statewide Broadband Plan **3**

1.2 Importance of Partnerships for Infrastructure Development **3**

1.3 RFI Purpose and Outcomes **4**

1.4 RFI Outline **5**

1.5 Agency Background **5**

2.0 Administrative and Legal Guidelines ***6***

2.1 Key "Things to Know" **6**

2.2 Legal Guidelines **6**

2.3 Agency Point of Contact **7**

3.0 Request for Information ***8***

A) Network Types **8**

B) Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Models **9**

C) Middle-Mile and Long-Haul Networks **11**

D) 5G and Next Generation Wireless Networks **13**

E) Public Safety **14**

F) Research and Education Networks **15**

G) High-Capacity Enterprise and Strategic Industry Networks **16**

H) Integrated Communication and Energy Infrastructure **19**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Three-Year Statewide Broadband Plan

Since 2023, the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) has annually published a Three-Year Strategic Plan, which is a statutorily required document that outlines the strategic priorities, initiatives, and tasks to achieve the vision of a fully connected New Mexico. [1]

One of the six priorities in the 2026 Three-Year Statewide Broadband Plan ("Plan") involves "Strategic Infrastructure", which recognizes two critical requirements beyond the universal availability of last-mile broadband networks. First, enterprises and institutions – especially those offering services and/or consuming applications in artificial intelligence, scientific research, space and defense, and quantum technologies – require high-capacity, resilient networks. Second, networks supporting mobility, public safety, and backhaul should be widely available, reliable, resilient, and designed with redundant paths to withstand environmental threats, including wildfires, floods, and high winds. For example, long-haul networks should incorporate aggregation points in New Mexico's urban centers (e.g., Albuquerque, Las Cruces) to provide diverse, resilient routes throughout the state rather than relying on hub cities located in adjacent states (e.g., Denver, Phoenix).

To achieve these objectives, the Plan introduced the initiative entitled: "New Mexico Partnership Framework for Strategic Infrastructure Development" ("Partnership Framework"). Two other initiatives complement this initiative: a) Statewide Open Access Middle Mile Backbone (Middle-Mile Initiative); b) Emergency Broadband Operations Team (EBOT). [2]

1.2 Importance of Partnerships for Infrastructure Development

The Partnership Framework recognizes that government programs and initiatives can help unleash private investment and accelerate deployment, at scale, for a range of communication networks, including middle-mile and long-haul networks, public safety, 5G networks, research and education (R&E) networks, and high-capacity private networks to meet AI, hyperscale, space, defense, and quantum computing. The Framework further recognizes that infrastructure projects require multi-stakeholder collaboration among communities (residents, institutions,

[1] OBAE Vision: A fully connected New Mexico where every community has universal access to affordable, high-quality, future-ready broadband, while honoring the state's diversity and rich heritage, strengthening opportunity, propelling future technologies, and elevating quality of life for every resident.

[2] OBAE aims to publish RFIs for these two initiatives during the FY 2026-27.

Note: This is not a Request for Proposals. A contract will not be awarded based on submissions.

and local leaders), government agencies (state, local, tribal), private industry (service providers, vendors), higher education, research institutions, non-profit organizations, and, of course, the investors who are required to finance these networks. The private sector – led by service providers, equipment vendors, contractors, and other affiliated partners – plays an integral role across the planning, design, financing, deployment, and maintenance of advanced, next-generation networks. Nevertheless, these stakeholders can help attract private investment by reducing the risk profile of the business plan by supporting timely deployment, revenue certainty, cost efficiencies, etc.

1.3 RFI Purpose and Outcomes

- **Purpose**

This RFI aims to capture feedback on:

- **Public-private partnership models that are most effective** in reducing deployment risk and accelerating private capital investment
- **Key success factors and enablers** that can expedite the formation and implementation of these models
- **Specific examples of "shovel-ready" projects or planned networks** that can serve as pilots to test, refine, and scale these partnership models while addressing communication requirements and current gaps

- **Outcomes**

RFI responses will help OBAE in several ways, including:

- **Develop specific policies and programs** to catalyze private investment.
- **Advocate for the public funding roadmap** during the 2027 legislative session.
- **Shape future strategic priorities,** which will be especially relevant to the next State administration.
- **Guide the strategy, rules, and evaluation criteria for allocating the federally supported BEAD non-deployment funds** – subject to future NTIA guidance and authorization.

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1.4 RFI Outline

The format of this document involves providing an overview and context for several topics. That overview is followed by a series of indexed questions that solicit information.

- Section One: Introduction (including purpose and administrative guidelines)
- Section Two: Administrative and Legal Guidelines
- Section Three: Request for Information
  - A) Network Types
  - B) Public-Private Partnership Models
  - C) Middle-Mile and Long-Haul Fiber Networks
  - D) 5G and Advanced Mobility Networks
  - E) Public Safety Networks
  - F) Research and Education Networks
  - G) High-Capacity Enterprise and Strategic Industry Networks
  - H) Integrated Communication/Energy Networks

1.5 Agency Background

➢ **Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE)**

The New Mexico Broadband Access and Expansion Act created OBAE, which is administratively attached to the New Mexico Department of Information Technology (DoIT). The Office coordinates broadband deployment efforts among various stakeholders – state, local, and tribal governments, non-profits, and the private sector. Its mission is to lead New Mexico's broadband expansion through statewide planning and data-driven decision-making; to reinforce collaborative partnerships with New Mexico's Tribes, counties, and local communities; to ensure universal access to affordable, high-quality connectivity; and to support meaningful use of the Internet for all families, businesses, and community institutions.

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2.0 Administrative and Legal Guidelines

2.1 Key "Things to Know"

Summary	
Administrator	• Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE)
Participants	• Anyone can file comments.
Filing Comments	• Please provide comments via the submission form located at this link: RFI Portal. • Please state in the header: "RFI Response to Partnership Framework for Strategic Infrastructure Development"
Content Guidelines	• The comments should be relevant and responsive to the question, supported by clear, concise details. • Word counts are limited to 300 words for each response.
Deadline to Submit Comments	• November 25, 2026 (11:59pm MT)
Questions	• Please send any questions to mark.jacobs@connect.nm.gov. • Questions will be accepted until one week before the deadline (November 18, 2026).
Webinar	• OBAE will soon host a webinar to discuss the RFI and answer any questions.
Webpage	• Information about the RFI, including presentation materials and webinar recording, can be found at this link: Strategic Infrastructure Development.

2.2 Legal Guidelines

Submission of a response constitutes acceptance of, and consent to, the following guidelines.

➢ **No Obligation Created**

This RFI in no manner obligates the State of New Mexico, or any of its agencies, to the eventual provision of any services or equipment that may be described, implied, or proposed.

➢ **Governing Law**

This RFI and any subsequent RFP that the Office may issue, or any agency of the State of New Mexico, shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

➢ **Response Preparation Cost**

Any cost incurred by the respondent in the preparation, transmittal, or presentation of any response or material submitted in response to this RFI will be borne solely by the respondent.

- **Use of Information**

The State of New Mexico reserves all rights available to it by law. Respondents to this RFI are hereby notified that all information, documentation, and any specific content or approaches included in RFI responses will be analyzed, may appear in various reports, and may be used in any solicitation that may result from this RFI. Therefore, please do not submit any proprietary or confidential information. The State of New Mexico cannot and does not guarantee the confidentiality of information submitted.

- **Eligibility to Participate in Subsequent Procurement**

If the State of New Mexico decides to issue an RFP or other form of solicitation, the eligibility to participate in such will not be affected by the participation status in this RFI.

- **Ownership of Materials**

Ownership of all data, material, and documentation originated and submitted to the State of New Mexico, pursuant to the RFI, shall belong exclusively to the State of New Mexico and be subject to public inspection in accordance with the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. No documents will be returned once submitted to the State.

2.3 Agency Point of Contact

OBAE has designated the following Point of Contact. Contact information follows below.

Point of Contact	Mark Jacobs, Senior Broadband Project Manager
Office Address:	Office of Broadband Access and Expansion Department of Information Technology 715 Alta Vista Santa Fe, NM 87502-2550
Email Address:	mark.jacobs@connect.nm.gov

All requests for clarifications must be directed to the RFI Point of Contact.

3.0 Request for Information

A) Network Types

OBAE has implemented several programs to achieve universal access to affordable, high-speed broadband for residents, businesses, and community institutions. While last-mile broadband networks are essential to socioeconomic well-being and the advancement of New Mexicans, they complement several other critical networks. These include:

- **Middle-mile and long-haul transport networks** that aggregate and transport data traffic between last-mile broadband networks, carrier interconnection points, data centers, cloud infrastructure, and regional, national, and global Internet backbones (Note: Middle-mile networks provide regional connectivity and backhaul, while long-haul networks connect major aggregation hubs across extended distances and support high-capacity transport and route diversity.)
- **5G and next-generation mobile wireless networks** that enable advanced mobile broadband connectivity, support fixed wireless access alternatives to wireline broadband, and provide infrastructure for emerging applications requiring low latency and high reliability
- **Public safety and emergency communications networks** that leverage commercial and dedicated wireless technologies to provide mission-critical voice, data, interoperability, resiliency, and disaster-response capabilities for first responders and emergency management agencies
- **Research and education (R&E) networks** that provide ultra-high-capacity, low-latency, and highly secure connectivity for higher education institutions, national laboratories, healthcare systems, and scientific research communities, including support for advanced computing and data-intensive applications
- **High-capacity enterprise and strategic industry networks** that support the growing bandwidth, cybersecurity, and low-latency demands associated with artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, defense applications, hyperscale computing, advanced manufacturing, and data center development
- **Integrated communications and energy infrastructure**, including smart grid, utility fiber, renewable-powered communications facilities, and shared infrastructure deployments.
- **Competitive last-mile broadband networks** that expand consumer and business choice through the upgrade, overbuild, expansion, or greenfield deployment of wireline and wireless broadband infrastructure in served areas

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➢ **Request for Information: Types of Networks**

OBAE seeks input on the comprehensiveness of the network landscape, prioritization based on key needs and outcomes, and other feedback to ensure all critical networks are considered.

Question Number	Requested Input
A1	• What other specific network types, not mentioned above, should be considered given existing needs and infrastructure availability gaps critical to New Mexico's socioeconomic advancement and security? (Please explain the basis for your input).
A2	• Should the State prioritize certain categories of communications infrastructure investment based on their potential to deliver the greatest near-term impact and/or long-term social and economic benefits to residents, businesses, and community institutions? If so, which network types should receive the highest priority and why?
A3	• What specific actions and initiatives can the State take to foster facilities-based competition among broadband providers in markets where sufficient demand exists to support multiple economically viable networks – especially for last-mile and middle-mile?

B) Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Models

Partnerships have been integral to many of OBAE's successes across its broadband programs, including the Connect New Mexico Pilot Program, Connect New Mexico Fund, BEAD program, Student Connect, and the Community Wi-Fi program. Grant-based funding support catalyzed these partnerships, which were largely limited to last-mile networks. These programs demonstrated strong interest among private and publicly affiliated ISPs in deploying networks where market demand exists, but infrastructure gaps persist, with government funding enabling a financially viable business case and sustainable networks. In the realm of partnerships, several partnership models exist, many of which do not require upfront financial support.

➢ **Partnership Models**

The following table states a range of collaboration opportunities where the State of New Mexico, along with other levels of government, can help catalyze private sector investment in next-generation networks.

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Area	Specifics
Planning	
Opportunity Assessment	• Funding of studies and reports – e.g., feasibility studies, engineering assessments, demand analysis • Data sharing (e.g., demand maps, infrastructure inventories)
Formalizing the Opportunity	• Request for proposals (RFPs) for specific high-priority needs of the State (e.g., economic development, job creation, or resilience goals) • Facilitation of community buy-in to reduce opposition and delays
Financial Support	
Reducing Capex Burden	• Grant (subsidy) funding • Leverage of public assets (rights-of-way, ducts, poles, and land access) • Reduction of access costs can materially improve project economics (e.g., Dig Once)
Revenue Opportunity Enhancement	• Revenue guarantees (linked to market adoption) • Concessions (time-limited rights to serve a particular base of customers) • Availability payments (government as initial customer in broadband projects) • Demand aggregation (e.g., commitment from targeted base of customers) • Expand the availability of services and equipment on statewide price agreements
Financial Policy	• Tax policy (e.g., accelerated depreciation to improve early returns) • Tax credits (investment or production-based) • Low-interest loans / loan guarantees (reduce cost of capital)
Government-Affiliated Investment Platforms	• State infrastructure banks or funds • Public investment authorities that co-invest alongside private capital • Blended finance: combine public, private, and philanthropic capital • Green bonds / infrastructure bonds • Revenue securitization (e.g., future user fees)
Regulatory Support	
Surpassing Gating Factors	• Assistance with required approvals (e.g., permits, easements, rights-of-way, pole attachments, environmental review, railroad crossing, etc.) • Convening and mediation of disputes (e.g., make ready)
Regulatory Certainty	• Stable, long-term policy frameworks (e.g., 10–20 year horizons) • Transparent rate-setting or pricing mechanisms

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- **Request for Information: Partnership Models**

OBAE seeks input regarding the specific PPP models and collaboration approaches that have been proven to be successful for overcoming investment and other barriers.

Question Number	Requested Input
B1	• What other partnership models should be considered in catalyzing infrastructure investment? Note: Please be specific to the type of communication network – e.g., middle-mile, 5G, public safety, private enterprise, research and education networks, etc.)
B2	• Which ones of these mentioned approaches have been proven to be successful in driving private investment for the range of proposed communication networks? Please include specific case examples of successes.
B3	• In what cases have these models been applied yet failed to unleash private investment or yield a successful outcome (e.g., sustainable networks that serve the comprehensive needs of the targeted communities)? Note: Please cite specific case examples of failures and lessons learned.
B4	• Are there specific planned network infrastructure projects that are positioned to move forward in New Mexico but face obstacles which can be potentially addressed through one or more of these partnership models?
B5	• What forms of technical assistance can OBAE and/or other agencies provide to stakeholders interested in forming collaborative opportunities with the State to launch any one of these partnership models?

C) Middle-Mile and Long-Haul Networks

Many unserved and underserved communities lack access to high-speed middle-mile networks. Because of this gap, last-mile service providers cannot cost-efficiently upgrade or extend their last-mile networks, which must interconnect with the middle-mile networks to reach the Internet backbone. Moreover, several stakeholders depend upon dedicated high-speed backhaul, including mobile network operators (MNOs), data centers, research and education networks, public agencies, large enterprises, etc. Even where fiber exists, last-mile ISPs may lack affordable access to carrier-neutral meet-me points, internet exchange points, data centers, or aggregation facilities. Diverse routes matter for public safety, schools, hospitals, wireless towers, and ISPs, but redundant paths may not generate enough incremental revenue without public-sector support.

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- **2022 RFI**

In 2022, OBAE issued an RFI to obtain input on: a) the challenges and barriers to middle-mile; b) high-priority routes lacking middle-mile facilities or capacity; c) key options the State can pursue to unleash middle-mile investment. Approximately 20 entities filed comments.

- **Key Challenges**

Noteworthy Challenges to Middle-Mile and Long-Haul Deployment
Business Case
• Limited and/or uncertain downstream demand: Middle-mile routes in rural or high-cost areas may have too few last-mile ISPs, anchor institutions, towers, enterprises, or data centers to support a private business case. In some cases, middle-mile providers may hesitate to build where last-mile ISPs have not committed to expansion. • High upfront capital costs: Long-haul fiber construction requires major spending on conduit, poles, huts, electronics, make-ready work, railroad/utility crossings, environmental review, and splicing before revenue is realized. • Backhaul pricing risk: Existing incumbents may already control the best transport routes. New entrants face uncertainty about whether they can win enough wholesale customers at sustainable prices. • Coordination challenges: Last-mile providers, electric co-ops, municipalities, public safety networks, schools, towers, and state agencies often need the same middle-mile capacity but do not aggregate demand early enough to justify private construction.
Execution
• Permitting and right-of-way friction: Delays or uncertainty involving state DOT rights-of-way, railroads, federal lands, tribal lands, pole attachments, local permits, and environmental reviews can materially increase cost and risk.
Technology
• Technology and upgrade uncertainty: Investors may worry that future satellite direct-to-device, fixed wireless, or LEO backhaul options could reduce demand in some remote corridors, even though fiber remains the highest-capacity long-term asset.

- **Request for Information: Middle-Mile and Long-Haul Networks**

OBAE seeks input regarding the most effective PPP models and best practices to drive middle-mile and long-haul network expansion and upgrades.

Question Number	Requested Input
C1	• Which ones of the mentioned PPP models offer the greatest potential to catalyze middle-mile and long-haul investment and why?

C2	• Are any of these models particularly influential in driving neutrally managed, open access networks with dark fiber strands available for a long-term capital lease?
C3	• What best practices can the State pursue to aggregate demand among state and local agencies, higher education, and community institutions?
C4	• What specific challenges currently limit or prevent private investment into long-haul network facilities, especially across major transportation corridors including I-40, I-25, and I-10?
C5	• Public-sector entities and nonprofit institutions, including state and local governments and educational institutions, can serve as anchor customers by committing to long-term dark-fiber purchases through Indefeasible Rights of Use (IRUs). What best practices can guide the development and implementation of this purchasing model to attract private investment?

D) 5G and Next Generation Wireless Networks

Mobile network operators (MNOs) provide vital voice and broadband connectivity to mobile users. Moreover, several regional and national MNOs increasingly offer fixed wireless by leveraging existing towers and base stations. Over the last twenty years, MNOs in New Mexico have invested billions to improve coverage and capacity. Many areas of the state still lack an RF signal from one or more of the commercial mobile radio service operators (CMRS). Moreover, rural residents and businesses cannot rely on these networks for broadband data service, unlike those in urban and suburban settings, who have broadband choices and can use a mobile hotspot as an adequate substitute for fixed broadband service. Key limitations include the lack of towers and high-speed backhaul. OBAE aims to engage in several collaborative initiatives to address these limitations. Satellite direct-to-device solutions may address some of these coverage gaps in the future, especially in locations with limited traffic or challenging terrain where no technical and/or economically feasible solution is available. Other areas may be considered mission-critical with a need for high-capacity solutions (e.g., highly trafficked roadways).

➢ **Request for Information: 5G Networks and Next Generation Networks**

OBAE seeks input regarding the most effective PPP models and best practices to achieve widespread 5G coverage.

Question Number	Requested Input
D1	• What specific challenges currently limit private investment into 5G/6G mobile network facilities, thereby impeding wireless providers from expanding coverage or upgrading network performance?

D2	• What specific partnership programs and policies can the State pursue to attract private investment in neutral-host, multi-tenant towers that support multiple commercial mobile network operators? Other wireless facilities (e.g., backhaul)?
D3	• What factors should guide the State's prioritization of investments in terrestrial mobile wireless infrastructure versus coverage gaps that could be addressed more cost-effectively through satellite direct-to-device solutions?

E) Public Safety

Many areas of the state still lack an RF signal from the FirstNet network and other competing networks used by first responders. Some of these coverage gaps can be addressed by satellite direct-to-device solutions in the future, especially in locations with limited traffic (e.g., extremely remote wilderness, national forests/parks with minimal year-round population) or challenging terrain that prevents a technically and/or economically feasible solution (leading to extremely high cost per covered user).

In April 2026, the FCC granted AST SpaceMobile conditional authorization to deploy and operate its full constellation of 248 NGSO satellites and provide Supplemental Coverage from Space (SCS) in partnership with AT&T, Verizon, and FirstNet (DA 26-391, SB Docket No. 25-201). This approval builds on the FCC's August 2025 authorization of 20 additional satellites and represents a major step toward AST's commercial deployment of direct-to-device services using terrestrial mobile spectrum.[3]

Other regions of the State may be considered mission-critical with a need for high-capacity, terrestrial solutions (e.g., highly trafficked roadways). These may include wildfire corridors, major highways and evacuation routes, dense rural towns lacking coverage, and critical infrastructure areas (e.g., power plants, water systems). The latter requires investment in towers, fiber (and microwave) backhaul, specialized energy solutions (e.g., solar), etc.

➢ **Request for Information: Public Safety Networks**

OBAE seeks input on the most effective PPP models and best practices to achieve widespread public safety coverage, including emerging direct-to-device satellite solutions.

Question Number	Requested Input

[3] See Federal Communications Commission, AST & Science, LLC, Authorization and Order, DA 26-391, SB Docket No. 25-201 (Apr. 21, 2026), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-391A1.pdf

E1	• What specific challenges currently limit or prevent private and federal investment into public safety network facilities, the absence of which limits FirstNet and other wireless providers from expanding coverage or upgrading network performance?
E2	• What specific partnership programs and policies can the State pursue to foster private investment into terrestrial-based public safety facilities?
E3	• What near- and long-term technical, operational, and regulatory challenges must satellite direct-to-device solutions overcome to serve as viable alternatives to terrestrial public safety networks, rather than primarily providing complementary coverage, resiliency, and redundancy?
E4	• How should the State, in collaboration with the public safety community, prioritize areas lacking public safety coverage for investment in terrestrial-based facilities versus those coverage holes which can be more efficiently and effectively addressed by satellite direct-to-device solutions in the future?

F) Research and Education Networks

The higher education community and research centers benefit from high-capacity, fiber-based solutions. During a prior RFI, such institutions expressed interest in purchasing dark fiber, a preferred option compared to wavelengths. Dark fiber offers several advantages.

- Customization & Control: It allows organizations to operate their own equipment, choosing the protocols and transmission technology that best fit their specific data needs.
- Scalability: Institutions can upgrade their capacity (e.g., from 10 Gbps to 100 Gbps or more) by upgrading their own hardware without needing to deploy new physical fiber.
- Supporting Bandwidth-Intensive Work: It provides the high-speed, low-latency connectivity required for large datasets, VR/AR, and complex simulations.
- Cost-Effectiveness: For heavy users, it can be a more economical long-term solution compared to traditional managed services

(Source: Internet2)

➢ **Request for Information: Research and Education Networks**

OBAE seeks input on the most effective PPP models and best practices to both upgrade and expand R&E networks across the State.

Question Number	Requested Input
F1	• Which of the aforementioned or other partnership programs and policies can the State undertake to unleash private investment to expand and upgrade fiber

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	networks that connect the research institutions, including colleges and universities, government and private research centers?
F2	• How can the State effectively leverage existing infrastructure assets, and planned deployments, to support a statewide R&E network, given the unique needs of the research community (e.g., high capacity, purchase of dark fiber via IRUs, etc.)?
F3	• What best practices can the State pursue to aggregate demand for high-capacity connectivity among research and education (R&E) institutions to attract private investment and support cost-effective network expansion?

G) High-Capacity Enterprise and Strategic Industry Networks

A key economic development priority for New Mexico is to establish the state as a leading destination for advanced computing infrastructure and related industries. These needs cut across large and small/medium enterprises. Emerging technologies—including artificial intelligence, cloud computing, quantum research, advanced manufacturing, and hyperscale data infrastructure—are driving significant increases in enterprise demand for high-capacity, resilient, and low-latency communications networks. The broadband speed needs for enterprises continue to grow due to increased adoption of high-bandwidth applications, including:

- AI training and inference workloads
- Cloud computing and SaaS adoption
- Data center interconnection
- Real-time analytics
- Edge computing
- Video collaboration
- IoT and machine-generated data
- Cybersecurity monitoring and backup replication

➢ **Key Science and Technology Growth Areas**

New Mexico has identified three established and two emerging science and technology (S&T) growth areas where the state is especially well positioned to compete in expanding, innovation-driven markets. These five sectors include: Quantum Systems and Applications; Advanced Energy Technologies; Space, Aerospace, and Defense Systems; Biosciences Innovation; and Agricultural, Water & Ecosystem Technology Nexus.

The New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) published a report, “New Mexico’s S&T Roadmap: Prioritizing Investments for Enhanced Competitiveness in Science and

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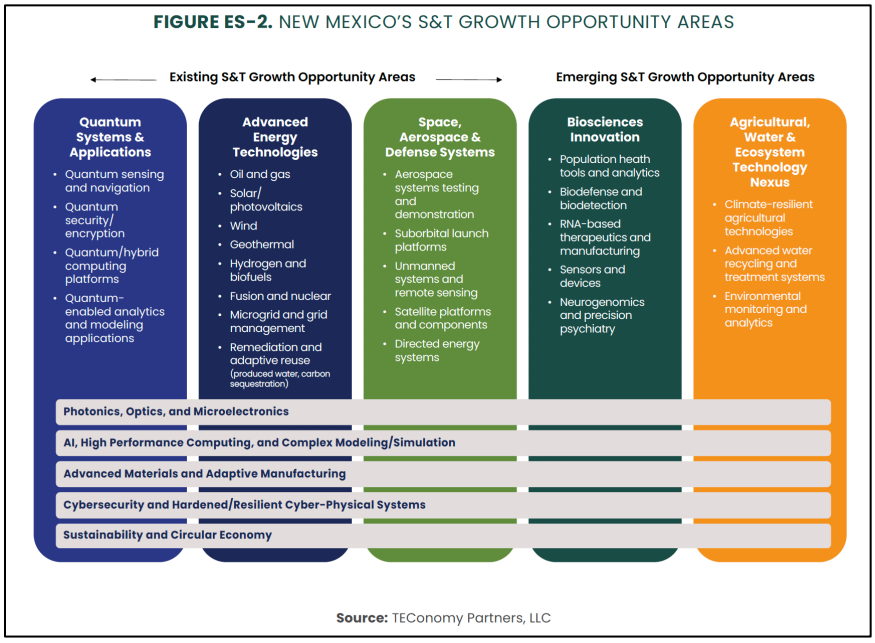
Technology, " which provides further context on the significance of these sectors.[4] Essentially, they help strengthen existing industries while also helping develop future industries and economic opportunities. Each growth area is supported by foundational technical expertise and cross-cutting capabilities that enable research, innovation, and technology commercialization. Although these enabling capabilities are not standalone growth sectors, they are essential to converting New Mexico's scientific and research strengths into broader economic development and market opportunities. The illustration below highlights specific fields under each sector.



➢ Trade Port Districts

The New Mexico Trade Ports Development Act (HB 19) aims to create a network of Trade Port Districts—large-scale logistics, manufacturing, distribution, and multimodal transportation hubs that leverage highways, railroads, airports, and border crossings to attract investment and jobs.[5] Broadband is an essential resource to support these commercial activities. The Act created the Trade Ports Development Fund to fund the development and growth of such districts, including:

- Planning, renovation, and construction of trade ports and related infrastructure

[4] New Mexico Economic Development Department, New Mexico's S&T Roadmap: Prioritizing Investments for Enhanced Competitiveness in Science and Technology (2026), https://www.edd.newmexico.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/New-Mexico-ST-Roadmap-Final.pdf

[5] Overview of EDD Trade Ports Program, please see https://www.edd.newmexico.gov/divisions-and-offices/international-trade/trade-ports/

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- Feasibility and cost-benefit studies
- Public-private partnership (PPP) development activities
- Infrastructure supporting logistics, manufacturing, warehousing, and freight movement

EDD manages this fund, which may include appropriations, grants, donations, loan repayments, and investment income. EDD and OBAE recognize broadband as a key enabler for these trade ports.

➢ **Request for Information: High-Capacity Enterprise and Strategic Industry Networks**

OBAE seeks input regarding the most effective PPP models and best practices to support the increasing high-bandwidth needs of private enterprises.

Question Number	Requested Input
G1	• What have been the key barriers to the design, financing, and deployment of advanced private enterprise networks?
G2	• What mentioned (and other) partnership programs and policies can the State undertake to unleash private investment to expand and upgrade fiber networks that connect private enterprises?
G3	• What best practices and successful use cases can help overcome institutional silos and facilitate shared network capacity among private enterprises, government agencies, higher education institutions, and research organizations?
G4	• Are there specific shovel-ready private network projects – across the five mentioned EDD-designated priority sectors – where public-private collaboration can expedite network deployment in the near-term? • What levers can the State pull to make this happen? What challenges must be addressed around legitimate barriers – e.g., network ownership, control, security, maintenance, etc.?
G5	• What specific broadband-related assets, capabilities, services and other features are essential to the operations and growth of trade ports? • What public and/or private-led strategies can help accelerate high-speed network deployment to designated and potential new Trade Port Districts where gaps exist? • If public-funds are used to support the deployment of broadband networks across these trade ports, what policies and other stipulations can ensure these networks support the broadband needs of the greater community and their constituents (e.g., residents, schools, institutions, etc.)?

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H) Integrated Communication and Energy Infrastructure

Broadband networks play an integral role in modernizing energy systems and enabling next-generation grid infrastructure. High-capacity communications networks support real-time data collection, monitoring, automation, and analytics through technologies such as advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), smart thermostats, distributed energy resource management systems, and remote utility grid monitoring.

These capabilities can improve operational efficiency, enhance grid resiliency, reduce energy consumption, and better balance electricity supply and demand. Broadband-enabled smart grid technologies are also increasingly important for integrating renewable energy resources, distributed generation, battery storage systems, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

Shared and integrated communications infrastructure—including utility fiber networks, smart grid communications systems, and renewable-powered communications facilities—can create operational efficiencies while supporting both energy and broadband policy objectives. Such infrastructure may also provide opportunities for public-private partnerships that leverage utility assets, rights-of-way, and existing network infrastructure to accelerate deployment and improve resiliency.

➢ **Request for Information: Integrated Communication and Energy Infrastructure**

OBAE seeks input regarding the most effective PPP-oriented models, policies, and best practices to help modernize New Mexico's energy infrastructure. Ideally, they would help expand and upgrade networks to address the full set of aforementioned requirements.

Question Number	Requested Input
H1	• Which regions or utility service areas face the greatest communications infrastructure limitations affecting grid modernization efforts?
H2	• With the recent and planned expansion of last-mile networks through BEAD and other investment programs, how can those efforts contribute to integrated communication/energy infrastructure?
H3	• What recent integrated energy/communication deployments and partnership models – in New Mexico or externally – can serve as model examples and best practices?

--- End of Document ---