



June 7, 2021

Via E-Mail

Attn: Diane Steinour  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Room 4701  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Steinour,

Thank you for giving Lynk an opportunity to provide comments in Docket No. 210503–0097, the *Telecommunications/ICT Development Activities, Priorities and Policies to Connect the Unconnected Worldwide in Light of the 2021 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC–21)* proceeding.

Connecting the unconnected is a key mission at the core of our company. Lynk is creating a last-mile ubiquitous communications solution for mobile phones and Internet of Things (IoT) utilizing a constellation of small satellites. Lynk satellites will effectively operate as space-based mobile towers. Lynk intends to provide mobile service everywhere around the globe, expanding coverage for standard mobile phones to the 90% of the planet where terrestrial towers cannot economically or realistically cover.

It was an insight by Margo Deckard, one of our co-founders, which led to the creation of Lynk. As part of an Ebola 2014 Pandemic Crisis response, she realized that even a minimal level of connectivity would decrease response times, save lives, and connect whole populations to our global economy and society.

In Liberia and Sierra Leone, the responders had a complex and capable satellite communications system, but the majority of the time the health workers only used the system to send text messages. A minimal amount of capability and connectivity was all that was needed to prevent a local pandemic from becoming a global pandemic. The core insight is that “some connectivity” is infinitely more than no connectivity.

In developed countries and in cities around the world, most of the focus is on raising the ceiling for those who already have connectivity. More throughput is wonderful, but many people with connectivity don’t understand what it is to be unconnected. Efforts to connect the unconnected have limited resources. In the last two decades, the push has been to use those limited resources to try to raise some people up to the highest level – to raise them to the ceiling. Meanwhile, most of the unconnected remain unconnected, and are told they must wait longer, or are altogether forgotten.



*1. ICT Development Priorities*

*a. Over the next five years, what should the U.S. government priorities be for telecommunications/ICT development?*

If our limited resources could be prioritized to first raise the global connectivity floor so that everyone has some basic, minimal level of connection, the impact would be tremendous. Nobody ever again should die because they have a phone in their pocket that is not connected. Connecting everyone, everywhere, should be the top priority.

Basic connectivity enables emergency response, economic empowerment, emergency warnings, critical health access, personal connection, mobile money, and all the other U.S. development priorities. The U.S. government should prioritize raising the floor above “zero connectivity” for everyone around the world. After this we can focus on increasing connectivity speeds for everyone, and then keep raising it higher and higher over time. Get everyone connected, and then get everyone connected faster. The goal remains the same - but this path improves more lives more quickly than any other.

If you wish for additional insights into this approach or on the work that LYNK is doing, please contact us any time.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Very respectfully,

Tony DeTora  
VP, Government Affairs  
Lynk Global, Inc