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Stronger Grids, Faster Connections: GPA Receives $500,000 to Strengthen Resilient Energy and Fiber Network Service

(Fadian, Mangilao) - In line with the Guam Power Authority's (GPA) commitment to ensuring that energy services meet the growing demands of the island, GPA has received a $500,000 Broadband Technical Assistance grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Office.

This funding will support a feasibility study aimed at increasing the resiliency of GPA's power network by enhancing its SMART grid infrastructure and exploring the potential to expand broadband access islandwide using GPA's existing fiber optic network. In the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar, the need for a resilient energy infrastructure has never been clearer. GPA's current SMART grid relies on a robust communication network to manage and restore power efficiently. By leveraging its existing fiber optic infrastructure, GPA aims to strengthen grid resiliency and reduce response times during emergencies. Additionally, expanding the reach of this network could provide the foundation for islandwide broadband access—helping to close Guam's digital divide.

"Reliability is at the core of GPA's mission, and this grant allows us to explore new ways to harden our grid while delivering benefits for the entire island**,"** said General Manager John M. Benavente, P.E. "By assessing how our SMART grid infrastructure can support broadband expansion, we can create a more secure and connected Guam," stated GM Benavente.

The feasibility study will evaluate the current SMART grid infrastructure, fiber optic network, radio mesh, and advanced metering infrastructure to identify opportunities to enhance grid communication and security. Simultaneously, it will explore how this infrastructure could support reliable, low-latency broadband services for underserved communities. Improving broadband access will not only benefit residents but also enhance GPA's ability to monitor, manage, and protect the electrical grid in real time.

This initiative aligns with GPA's ongoing efforts to integrate modern technology for better energy management, disaster resilience, and cybersecurity. By exploring dual-use capabilities for existing infrastructure, GPA aims to maximize efficiency, reduce costs, and support the energy and digital needs of Guam's communities.

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