



Northeast Service Cooperative

Collaborating to meet your changing needs

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For more information, contact Melissa Cox
at NESC at 218-748-7609 or
mcox@nesc.k12.mn.us

For more information, contact Kirk Lehman
at Frontier at 218-768-2821 or
Kirk.Lehman@ftr.com

“Landmark agreement” between Frontier and NESC

MOUNTAIN IRON – A milestone private-public partnership will expand broadband connectivity throughout Northern Minnesota.

Frontier Communications has signed an agreement with the Northeast Service Cooperative (NESC) for use of fiber as part of the NESC’s fiber optic network, the Northeast Minnesota Middle Mile Fiber Project (MMFP).

“We are delighted to complete this landmark agreement with Frontier Communications,” said Paul Brinkman, executive director of NESC. “We look forward to continuing our work with Frontier, our members and others to bring world-class fiber connectivity to Northeast Minnesota. This agreement has quickly become a national model for how public-private partnerships can work - and work well - in rural America.”

It was announced in April, during the project groundbreaking, that Frontier Communications signed a letter of intent to work toward an agreement with NESC. Since that time, details have been finalized for this agreement.

“We are very excited to announce that Frontier has executed an agreement with NESC regarding the building and usage of a fiber network in Northern Minnesota,” said Kirk Lehman, general manager for Frontier’s Northern Minnesota operations. “Together with NESC, we are planning a future for Northern Minnesota that boasts the benefits of technological diversity, incredible bandwidth, and lower cost bandwidth options.”

The MMFP will serve critical service sites along 915 miles of fiber within eight counties of Minnesota including St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Koochiching, Carlton, Pine, Itasca, and Aitkin. It will connect anchor sites including state, county, city, higher education, school districts, libraries, and health care.

The project makes dark fiber, wavelength services available to the public sector and private technology service providers.

“The agreement represents how publicly funded middle-mile projects are uniquely positioned to enhance and achieve the goals of last mile providers to provide new and improved broadband services to the consumer and private business communities,” said MMFP Manager Lyle MacVey, director of information technology at NESC.

The construction of the fiber build is well underway, and Frontier intends to become a major user of more than 450 miles of the overall network, stated Lehman.

“We will be supplying the electronics for the fiber, essentially ‘lighting it,’ deploying

sophisticated technology that offers huge bandwidth for our business and residential customers,” he added.

According to Lehman, Frontier anticipates its network to be fully operational in the latter half of 2012.

“The capabilities provided by this fiber network translate into cost-effective solutions, especially for businesses with ever-increasing data transport needs,” said Lehman. “The low-cost bandwidth and diverse routes will support higher Internet speeds, high-speed Internet growth, business Ethernet services and cell tower backhaul.”

Lehman noted that once Frontier’s new network is fully operational next year, the service enhancements will provide full redundancy (i.e., multiple voice and data routes), and broadband speeds up to 10 Gbps, among many others.

“Frontier is a company that is focused on delivering broadband to Minnesota and to rural America,” stated Lehman. “The benefits of this fiber network translate into an impressive economic future for Northern Minnesota, and Frontier is proud to help make that a reality.”

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) at the USDA awarded NESC \$43.5 million in federal funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in March 2010.

Construction of 415 miles of fiber for the MMFP, which is a broadband infrastructure project, is being constructed in the 2011 construction season. Critical service sites will start connecting to the NESC network in early 2012. Construction will continue in spring 2012.

Frontier Communications Corporation (NYSE: FTR) is included in the S&P 500 Index and offers voice, High-Speed Internet, satellite video, wireless Internet data access, data security solutions, bundled offerings, specialized bundles for small businesses and home offices, and advanced business communications for medium and large businesses in 27 states and with approximately 15,200 employees. It has a 100 percent U.S.-based workforce. Frontier’s landline service is reliable, safe and accessible in the markets it serves. More information is available at www.frontier.com and www.frontier.com/ir.

For more information on the Northeast Minnesota Middle Mile Fiber Project, visit www.nesc.k12.mn.us/broadband.

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