

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ECFiber Advancing Rapidly.

East Central Vermont Community Fiber Optic Network (“ECFiber”) connected its 600th subscriber last week. By the end of this year, the state-of-the-art fiber-optic network funded largely by local citizens, will extend over 200 miles with the capability to connect over 2,000 homes and businesses in the towns of Barnard, Bethel, Chelsea, Norwich, Pomfret, Randolph, Royalton, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford, Tunbridge, and Vershire. With the planned 2015 expansion to West Windsor and Reading more than half of the 24 member towns will have service from ECFiber. ECFiber’s expansion has been facilitated by the Vermont Telecom Authority’s Orange County Fiber Connector (“OCFC”), which passes through Chelsea, Vershire, West Fairlee, Thetford, Strafford, and Sharon. “In addition to offering us the possibility to connect more than 500 homes and business along the route, the OCFC will enable the interconnection of our remote hubs, allowing us to purchase more bandwidth and offer higher throughput to our subscribers,” said Stan Williams, CFO and interim CEO of ValleyNet, the Vermont non-profit charged with operating ECFiber. “By the end of the year, we expect to make available even more robust Internet service, at the 40 Mbps level by mid-year and ramping up to 100 Mbps by early 2015. These levels of connectivity enable efficient telecommuting, distance learning and distance medicine for rural areas that otherwise are being left behind.”

ECFiber also announced that ValleyNet has hired Tom Lyons as its Chief Operating Officer. Tom has 20 plus years of telecommunications experience at Sovernet and several other firms in Vermont and New Hampshire. Tom received his B.A. from University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont in 1990.

“Tom has excellent telecommunications skills and local experience, having spent the early part of his career expanding and then selling Sovernet, and he also brings experience with several other telecom startups,” stated Williams. “I’ve known Tom since Sovernet purchased ValleyNet’s dial up accounts in 2006 and I look forward to working with him to continue to expand and improve ECFiber.”

ECFiber is holding meetings in various towns to update citizens on ECFiber’s progress to date and future goals in

- Strafford Tuesday 3/18 7 PM United Church
- Norwich Thursday 3/19 7 PM Tracy Hall

with more meetings planned to be scheduled.

ECFiber is a community-owned, subscriber-funded group of towns building a Fiber-to-the-Home network providing ultra-high-speed Internet services and telephone to residents, civic institutions and businesses in 24 towns in East-Central Vermont. For more information, see www.ecfiber.net.

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