

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECFiber Announces Free Upgrades to 400 Mbps for all Schools, Public Institutions and Libraries in its Coverage Area; Over 30 Locations to Benefit; State Aid has been a Catalyst

Royalton VT – May 6, 2015

The East Central Vermont Community Fiber-Optic Network (“ECFiber”) today formalized its longstanding policy of giving extra bandwidth to schools, public institutions and libraries.

“Thanks to our high speed infrastructure and state-funded dark fiber and grants that have helped interconnect many of our hubs, ECFiber has excess bandwidth (particularly during daytime hours) and we are pleased to be able to offer it to all these institutions, many of which operate under tight budget constraints,” said Irv Thomae, Chairman of ECFiber and Governing Board delegate from Norwich. “Although 400 Mbps is currently the fastest speed we offer, we hope to be able to continue to provide these institutions the fastest speed we offer in the future. We hope to provide 1 Gigabit per second speeds within one year.” (For those who remember connecting at 56 kbps dial up speeds just a few years ago, 1 Gbps is 20,000 times faster than 56 kbps!)

In 2013, The Vermont Telecommunications Authority completed the 36-mile Orange County Fiber Connector that linked 5 of ECFiber’s hubs and allowed it to purchase bandwidth more efficiently. In 2015 116 miles of additional dark fiber will be available to connect 6 more hubs serving 9 additional towns. In 2013, the VTA also awarded grants that made possible certain network routes in Norwich and Thetford. This dark fiber and grants have made it possible to reach many of these institutions (see Exhibit.)

Recently announced grants by the Vermont’s Department of Public Services’ Connectivity Initiative will connect several other schools and libraries.

“ECFiber looks forward to serving ALL the schools, libraries and public institutions in our 24 towns once we secure sufficient additional financing,” said John Roy, ECFiber’s Treasurer.

ECFiber is a consortium of 24 towns in East-Central Vermont that have banded together to build a community-owned fiber-optic network to deliver high-speed Internet to every home, business, or civic institution in our territory. ECFiber offers real broadband: symmetrical internet access (same upload as download,) speeds of up to 400 Mbps that do not vary by time of day or according to the weather - as well as phone service with unlimited USA and Canada long distance calling.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ecfiber.net/> or email us at info@ecfiber.net.

Contact

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Partial List of Institutions to Benefit

Name	Type of Institution	Town	Connected	State Involvement	Hub Site
Barnard Academy	elementary school	Barnard	2012		
Barnard Library	library	Barnard	2012		
Danforth Library	library	Barnard	2012		
Broad Brook Volunteer Fire Dept	fire	Barnard	2012		
Barnard Town Garage	town office	Barnard	2012		
Barnard Town Offices	fire	Barnard	2012		
Bethel High School	high school	Bethel	2012		
Bethel Library	library	Bethel	2013		
Chelsea Fire Station	fire	Chelsea	2013	OCFC	hub
Chelsea Public School	elementary school	Chelsea	2013		
Marion Cross School	elementary school	Norwich	2013	VTA Broadband Grant/OCFC	hub
Norwich Public Library	library	Norwich	2014	VTA Broadband Grant/OCFC	
Pittsfield Library*	library	Pittsfield	2016	DPS Grant/OCFC Extension	
Pittsfield Town Offices*	town office	Pittsfield	2016		
Pomfret Elementary*	elementary school	Pomfret	2015	OCFC Extension	
East Valley Academy*	middle/high school	Randolph	2015	OCFC Extension	
South Royalton School*	elementary school	Royalton	2016	DPS Grant	
Sharon Elementary School	elementary school	Sharon	2014	OCFC	hub
Sharon Academy Middle School	middle school	Sharon	2014	OCFC	
Sharon Town Offices	town office	Sharon	2015	OCFC	
Newton School	elementary school	Strafford	2013	OCFC	
Morrill Memorial Library	library	Strafford	2013		
Strafford Town Offices	town office	Strafford	2013		hub
Latham Memorial Library	library	Thetford	2014	VTA Broadband Grant/OCFC	
Peabody Library	library	Thetford	2014	VTA Broadband Grant/OCFC	
Thetford Academy	middle/high school (semi-private)	Thetford	2014	VTA Broadband Grant/OCFC	
Thetford Elementary	elementary school	Thetford	2014		
Open Fields School	elementary school	Thetford	2014	VTA Broadband Grant/OCFC	
Vershire Town Offices	town office	Vershire	2013	OCFC	
Vershire Community Library	library	Vershire	2013	OCFC	
Vershire Community Center	community center	Vershire	2013	OCFC	hub
The Mountain School	high school (private)	Vershire	2013	OCFC	
Vershire Town Office	town office	Vershire	2013	OCFC	
Westshire School	elementary school	West Fairlee	2013	OCFC	
West Fairlee Town Office	town office	West Fairlee	2013	OCFC	
West Windsor	office, fire, garage, library, school	West Windsor	2015		
VTA - Vermont Telecom Authority					
OCFC - VTA Orange County Fiber Connector dark fiber					
DPS - VT Department of Public Service Connectivity Division					
* expected connection					