



Fact Sheet: Southern Tier Network

Overview

Southern Tier Network is a new not-for-profit, local development corporation (LDC) established to own, build and manage a \$12.2 million regional fiber optic backbone that will enable access to the highest speed broadband connectivity available in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties. Articles of Incorporation for Southern Tier Network have been filed with New York State, and a board of directors is in place, comprised of representatives from the three counties and other community stakeholders.

Benefits

The new broadband infrastructure will offer significant benefits to the region, including connecting public safety towers and 911 centers, and providing state-of-the-art telecommunications technology that will enable significantly greater bandwidth and the highest available connectivity speeds. Also, this network will allow service providers to enhance their broadband offerings to area residents and extend their service to underserved areas of the community. Additionally, the network will be a catalyst for future economic development within the region, and will drive new and improved capabilities including 4G wireless and fiber-to-the-home and fiber-to-the-premises services.

How It Will Work

Southern Tier Network will supply *access* to the new telecommunications network, not Internet connectivity itself. It will lease network capacity to telecommunication carriers, governments, educational institutions and healthcare organizations, as well as other commercial and industrial businesses. The initiative will focus on partnerships with service providers and encourage the use of the optical fiber backbone to expand competitive services throughout the region, including more rural areas. The optical fiber backbone will be open to any viable entity for use in supporting the creation and delivery of technologies and services. The network is meant to complement the established carrier infrastructure and not to devalue existing investments in the community.

Connecting With Other Open Access Networks

The Southern Tier Network ultimately will connect to other regional open access networks. STN's business plan mirrors the successful and nationally-recognized model now operational in Ontario County, N.Y. The Ontario County fiber ring is a model for rural communities seeking broadband access, and was implemented and facilitated by ECC Technologies, Inc., STC's technical advisor in the Southern Tier Network initiative.

Funding

The project has received funding commitments from Corning Incorporated and each of the three participating counties. The Corning Incorporated investment of \$10 million will cover the projected capital costs for the project, which will use Corning fiber and cables as specified during the final design

phases. The Counties have committed the following amounts: Chemung - \$789,947, Schuyler - \$188,370 and Steuben - \$1,227,786. In exchange for this financial support, each of the counties will use the new network to reduce existing communications costs for public safety and interoffice communications.

Timing

Construction is expected to begin by June 2011 on the 235-mile optical fiber backbone, and will take approximately 30 months to complete.

STN Board of Directors

Mark Alger, Steuben County Administrator

David Hopkins, Director, Steuben County Enhanced 911 Department

Steven Manning, Computer Services Program Manager, GST BOCES

Mark Middaugh, Chief Systems Architect, Guthrie Healthcare System

Timothy O'Hearn, Schuyler County Administrator

Mark Rogus, Treasurer, Corning Incorporated

Thomas Santulli, Chemung County Executive

Marcia D. Weber, Executive Director, STC

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