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PRESS RELEASE

Muskoka Community Network (MCN) announces vendor for the Regional Broadband Deployment Initiative.

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Through a public Request for Proposal (RFP) process, Muskoka Community Network has solicited bids from qualified vendors to supply broadband services in Muskoka.

After a comprehensive review process, Muskoka Community Network has chosen the proposal submitted by Muskoka.com Inc.

“Muskoka.com has proposed a consortium with support from other providers and partners. This partnership did a great job of meeting the requirements that we outlined in our Request for Proposal,” indicates Rob McPhee of the Muskoka Community Network. “Their submission proposes infrastructure development that will allow broadband to be delivered throughout the area in a way that is good for businesses and residents who need broadband. All service providers that supply broadband access can gain access to that infrastructure too. We see this solution as a win-win for the customers and suppliers in the area.”

The Vendor will be contributing a significant amount of capital to the project, and MCN will be requesting the remainder from public funding sources. “The success of MCN’s funding applications will be an essential step in completing this project,” McPhee points out. “That is the next hurdle we need to clear.”

McPhee also cautions that while the process is moving forward, it will take some time to know if the funding applications are approved. MCN has been very thorough with the groundwork required on this project, and as a result is very optimistic that the application will be approved. Once funding is confirmed, the infrastructure still needs to be built. McPhee adds, “We are very happy to be moving forward, however, businesses and residents probably shouldn’t expect to receive service under this program before next spring at the earliest.” McPhee also indicates that due to the nature of the geography in our area there will likely be some areas where service remains unattainable.

“We are thrilled to be selected by Muskoka Community Network as the vendor to bring this critical service to the businesses and residents of rural Muskoka,” stated Kevin Boyes of Muskoka.com. “This is exciting news for any current dial-up users who have been waiting for high-speed Internet to become available to them. The network will allow current dial-up users to perform basic Internet applications such as email and web surfing at much faster speeds than they are accustomed to. But, more importantly, it will pave the road for advanced applications that are not currently possible. For example, it will allow small business owners to work from home offices, enable the use of Voice Over IP telephone services and enable video surveillance for home and office security. We look forward to working with MCN and the other ISPs in the area to roll out this project.”

For more information regarding this release please contact

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