

April 11, 2003

SuperNet's progress boosted by TELUS contribution

Major deal for installed fibre optic cable speeds connections to rural Alberta
Edmonton

- Nearly 30 per cent of the inter-community connections in Alberta SuperNet's 11,000 kilometre Extended Area are now in place, with today's conclusion of a transaction among TELUS Communications Inc., Bell West Inc., Axia SuperNet Ltd. and the Government of Alberta for installed fibre optic cable.

The Government of Alberta has acquired an indefeasible right of use to nearly 3,000 kilometres of fibre from TELUS Communications Inc., through a deal negotiated by Axia SuperNet Ltd., in its former role as sub-contract builder of Alberta SuperNet's Extended Area. The fibre will be used to inter-connect communities in the Extended Area network, the portion of Alberta SuperNet connecting 395 smaller communities. The \$35 million transaction is included as part of the government's total investment of \$193 million to build Alberta SuperNet.

"This is a significant milestone for SuperNet's Extended Area," said Victor Doerksen, Minister of Innovation and Science. "From the outset, we have made an effort to ensure that existing infrastructure is used. TELUS has made a considerable investment in Alberta's high-tech infrastructure, and their involvement today plays a significant role in bringing SuperNet to smaller communities around the province."

"TELUS supports the objective to deliver high-speed Internet access to all Albertans including those in rural and remote regions of the province," said Joe Grech, president of TELUS Partner Solutions. "This agreement with the Government of Alberta complements TELUS' high-speed infrastructure which will reach 80 per cent of Albertans by the end of 2003. Given that SuperNet will be available on an equal basis to TELUS, and all other service providers and carriers, it will help further TELUS' goal of leadership in the delivery of high-speed Internet services to Albertans."

The fibre optic cable will be integrated into the rollout schedule for Alberta SuperNet, which is currently undergoing revision. Alberta SuperNet is scheduled to be complete in mid-2004.

About Alberta SuperNet:

Alberta SuperNet is a Government of Alberta initiative to build a broadband network linking 4,700 libraries, schools, hospitals and provincial government offices in 422 communities province-wide by mid-2004. In addition, commercial service providers in areas which currently do not have high-speed connectivity options will be able to access Alberta SuperNet at current market rates, bringing competitive broadband services to most Alberta businesses and residences, whether they are in rural or urban areas.

The Government of Alberta is investing a maximum of \$193 million over three years to build the sustainable and scaleable network. As prime contractor, Bell West is building the Extended Area, which connects 395 smaller communities and investing a minimum of \$102 million to build the Base Area, linking Alberta's 27 largest communities. Axia SuperNet Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Axia NetMedia Corp. (TSE:AXX), has a 10-year renewable contract from the Government of Alberta to operate and manage access to the Alberta SuperNet. For more information about the Alberta SuperNet see www.albertasupernet.ca, www.supernetportal.com or www.bellwesternbusiness.ca.

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