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## **RIDGEVIEWTEL RECEIVES GRANT FOR WIMAX DEPLOYMENT TO UNSERVED RURAL COMMUNITIES**

CANTON, NY; May 6, 2009 - The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce in Canton, New York today announced the award of a \$120,000 grant to RidgeviewTel LLC of Longmont, Colo. to help fund the deployment of WiMAX broadband services to the Morristown and Waddington areas of St. Lawrence County.

Three WiMAX access points will be constructed in the Morristown and Waddington areas covering approximately 2,500 unserved and underserved homes. Total cost of the project is expected to be \$250,000 with the Chamber providing \$120,000 of the total.

“This project would not be possible without the Chamber’s support,” said RidgeviewTel CEO Vince Jordan. “The cost of WiMAX technology today is too high for rural areas, though it will come down over time as more WiMAX networks like this one are deployed across the country. Because of the Chamber’s grant we will be able to price our first level of broadband service at less than \$30 per month and our VoIP telephone service at \$24.95 per month which includes unlimited calls within the U.S. and Canada.” Download speeds of up to 7Mb will be possible on the network.

RidgeviewTel will use WiMAX base station and customer equipment manufactured by Aperto Networks of Milpitas, Calif. in the Silicon Valley. This will be one of the nation’s first 4G wireless networks in a rural area. Aperto Networks “PacketMax” was the first WiMAX base station to be certified by the WiMAX Forum.

RidgeviewTel is currently developing a proposal to extend its existing networks in Lewis, Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties. Funding for these projects will be requested from the National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) under the Broadband Telecommunications Opportunity Program. This network extension proposal will include 50 WiMAX access points to provide wireless broadband services to more than 20,000 unserved and underserved homes. The entire network will be an open access network and available to any broadband service provider to offer service to several or many potential new customers.

“If we are successful with our NTIA proposal,” said Vince Jordan, “we have committed to the Chamber and St. Lawrence County that we will join the network constructed under the Chamber’s grant to our overall North Country open access network. We are hopeful that the Morristown network, which will include an extension of the DANC fiber network to the Morristown water tower and WiMAX base stations, will serve as a showcase for our North Country proposal. “

## **About RidgeviewTel LLC**

RidgeviewTel™ (RVT) is a full-service broadband communications company based in Longmont, Colorado that provides affordable, high-speed, wireless Internet services to communities underserved by traditional telecom and cable providers. Fueled by the vision that everyone, no matter where they live, deserves access to the Internet and the opportunities that connection provides was founded in 2005 by President and CEO Vincent Jordan, a telecom industry veteran and entrepreneur. RidgeviewTel employs more than 30 people through three divisions, and provides wireless broadband to 14 communities in New York, 25 in Colorado, and 15 in Illinois. Customers in Jefferson and Lewis Counties total nearly 1,000. For more about RidgeviewTel, visit [www.ridgeviewtel.com](http://www.ridgeviewtel.com).

## **About Open Access Networks**

An Open Access Telecommunications Network (OATN) is a network architecture and business model that separates physical access and ownership of the network from service provisioning. The same OATN can be used by a number of different providers who share the maintenance costs of the network.

The shared maintenance costs makes it feasible to deploy networks in rural and low population density areas where an individual service provider could not obtain a sufficient return on investment to cover the high costs associated with trenching, right-of-way permits, and the requisite network infrastructure.

In contrast to traditional private networks an open access model allows multiple service providers to compete over the same network at wholesale prices. These service providers purchase access to the networks in order to serve customers. While the available bandwidth is a limitation, until that bandwidth is maximized, any service provider can purchase access to the network and provide service to end customers. Services to be offered could include Internet access, digital television, advanced email and web hosting services, VoIP or other services that can be provided over a high-speed broadband network.

The ability for multiple providers to use the network provides competition between providers and ensures customers a choice of services based on best price and best quality of service. This addresses the typical problem of rural consumers having to pay considerable more for services than urban dwellers.

## **About WiMAX**

The name "WiMAX" was created by the WiMAX Forum, which was formed in June 2001 to promote conformity and interoperability of the standard. The forum describes WiMAX as "a standards-based technology enabling the delivery of last mile wireless broadband access as an alternative to cable and DSL". Clearwire is currently constructing the nation's first urban WiMAX networks in Baltimore and Portland, OR.

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