

Nunavut to benefit from long-term satellite capacity and network-wide upgrades

IQUALUIT, September 23, 2015. Today the SSI Group of Companies, the premier broadband provider in Northern Canada, announced \$75 million of new investment in Nunavut's broadband future. This represents a significant milestone and an unprecedented effort to help bridge the digital divide between North and South. All of Nunavut – consumers, business, the education system, health-care providers and government – will soon benefit from SSI's commitment to upgraded capacity and next-generation communications technologies.

The investments start immediately and will continue over the next three years resulting in extensive network-wide improvements. Consumers will see the first benefits by March, 2016 when SSI activates major upgrades in last-mile capacity and implements increased service usage caps and burst speeds for Qiniq broadband service across Nunavut.

The Government of Canada is investing \$35 million through the Connecting Canadians Program to extend and enhance broadband service available to more than 8,600 homes throughout all 25 communities in Nunavut. Nunavummiut will have access to significantly increased usage caps and burst speeds at a price consistent with that of the past several years. SSI will provide all other funding required for new infrastructure, facility upgrades and operating expenses, including the signing of a new long-term contract with Telesat Canada for multiple transponders of C-band and Ka-band satellite capacity.

Key components of the investment program include:

- State-of-the-art mobile and "4G LTE" broadband wireless technologies in the communities, allowing customers to receive attractive new services, including mobile voice and broadband data, telemetry applications such as smart power metering and remote access security systems, and video conferencing;
- SSI's current broadband wireless system will continue to operate to support roaming between communities and transition to the new system;
- A massive upgrade to the current satellite backbone connecting Southern Canada to Nunavut, a vast Canadian territory that lies mostly above the Arctic Circle;
- New infrastructure on the ground to support use of high-throughput satellites ("HTS") now in planning that are expected to commence operations over Nunavut in the next few years;
- This will provide a platform to ensure secured capacity for Nunavut's growing communications needs well into the future; and
- New open gateway facilities in the communities, known as "PowerComm Hubs" - the first was recently installed in Iqaluit - with a revolutionary design that includes:
 - An energy saving passive cooling system,
 - Backup power generation capacity (diesel, solar and wind),
 - Systems able to be controlled on site or remotely,
 - Termination equipment for backbone connectivity,
 - Co-location areas for local service providers, and
 - A communications tower to support local distribution antennae.

"By laying this important groundwork today, SSI is proactively preparing to meet Nunavut's ever-growing broadband needs", said Jeff Philipp, Founder and CEO of SSI. "This commitment is only the beginning. We want to build a backbone that will support the delivery of advanced broadband services to ALL residents. So we need to invest now to lay the foundation for the future. This is the start of that investment, and we welcome others to join us in building a new Northern reality that will create opportunities for increased economic growth along with improvements in healthcare and the overall quality of life for communities throughout Nunavut. "

A key component of SSI's investment program is augmented satellite capacity, being delivered through a multi-year procurement contract with Telesat Canada.

"Telesat has worked closely with SSI for over a decade and we are excited to be supporting SSI as it embarks on this significant network expansion," said Michele Beck, Telesat's Vice President North American Sales. "With our new agreement, Telesat and SSI will ensure that that the communities of Nunavut have access to the most state-of-the-art, robust and high-performing advanced broadband communications infrastructure for years to come."

"We are excited by what this represents for Nunavut", said Dean Proctor, Chief Development Officer of SSI. "The investments will serve as a stepping stone, to build a base for Nunavut's present and future communications needs. They will also serve to move SSI well beyond our traditional role as an Internet service provider, and we will soon deliver to our customers a wide array of attractive voice, broadband data, mobile and multimedia services."

In Nunavut, SSI has operated the Qiniq network, providing Internet service to consumers and businesses in all 25 communities since 2005. SSI has also managed and maintained the Government of Nunavut's wide area network (WAN) since 2009. Today's announcement is a clear affirmation of SSI's commitment to Nunavut's broadband future, working to ensure that the high usage demands of government, consumers and business can be met over the coming years.

The Government of Canada announcement regarding the \$35 million investment awarded to SSI under the Connecting Canadians program is available at: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=997049>

About SSI: This is the 25th anniversary of the SSI Group of Companies. Headquartered in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and with our satellite network operations centre in Ottawa, SSI designs, builds and operates telecommunications networks around the world. We understand first-hand the challenges faced in providing effective and affordable communications services to remote and outlying areas.

SSI's history in Nunavut dates back 17 years, when we built our first satellite network linking the five communities of the Kitikmeot region. Ten years ago, SSI was the first company to launch broadband service in all 25 Nunavut communities, doing so under the "QINIQ" brand name, offering the same service level and pricing to Nunavummiut across the Territory. Since then, we have all seen the positive impact of broadband in the North:

- Educational opportunities previously denied are now available;
- Broadband has allowed commercial, banking and federal government services to be delivered "virtually" in regions where bricks and mortar facilities do not exist;
- Territorial government operations rely daily on broadband connectivity to plan and deliver services throughout the North;
- Family members spread over vast distances within Nunavut can now use social media to stay intimately connected, and people use broadband-enabled audio and videoconferencing as much as the system can support;
- Service sectors such as retail, airlines, banking and logistics are now able to offer a wider range of services that depend on broadband in the remote communities;
- Evidence of the preservation, expansion and dissemination of Inuit and Northern cultures and languages through broadband-enabled technologies are everywhere - with Inuktitut conversations commonplace in social media, new Inuit apps for mobile devices, and sharing and publishing of Inuit traditional knowledge in land use planning;
- Local trade between communities has increased, with country food and Inuit-made clothing bought and sold online, thereby stimulating local economies and supporting poverty reduction initiatives; and
- Global markets have been opened for local entrepreneurial ventures, connecting the original creators of Inuit Art to buyers around the world, expanding Inuit-owned fishing ventures, and allowing local companies to compete in the Nunavut mining industry by supplying mining companies whose head offices are located outside of Nunavut.

SSI firmly believes that the North must have access to a high quality and affordable communications system, and benefit from competitive choice across that system. For more on this, see SSI's recent intervention to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, "The Qimirluk Proposal: An Open Gateway to Deliver the Promise of Broadband", which details measures to provide long-term benefit for Canada's remote and outlying communities, and the businesses, governments and other organizations that serve the people living there. The Qimirluk Proposal can be found at: www.ssimicro.com/crtc-interventionTNC-2015-134

About Telesat: Telesat is a leading global satellite operator, providing reliable and secure satellite delivered communications solutions worldwide to broadcast, telecom, corporate and government customers. Headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, with offices and facilities around the world, the company's state-of-the-art fleet consists of 14 satellites and the Canadian payload on ViaSat-1 with another satellite under construction. Telesat also manages the operations of additional satellites for third parties. Privately held, Telesat's principal shareholders are Canada's Public Sector Pension Investment Board and Loral Space & Communications Inc. (NASDAQ: LORL). For more information on Telesat, see: www.telesat.com

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

[Click here for the September 23rd press conference presentation](#)

[Click here for a community information package regarding new communications facilities for QINIQ](#)

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