



NEWS RELEASE

SSi Micro applauds Canada's new Connect to Innovate program

YELLOWKNIFE, December 15, 2016. Today, the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, announced a new \$500 million program – known as Connect to Innovate - to enhance connectivity across the country.

SSi Micro Ltd. ("SSi"), a pioneer in delivering remote-area broadband solutions around the world, applauds the announcement as an important measure of national significance, which will help close the digital divide isolating many parts of the country.

When asked about the new program, Jeff Philipp, Founder and CEO, said: "SSi believes all communities must have access to affordable connectivity. We have been actively investing to meet Nunavut's ever-growing broadband needs, and this new program will enable transformative change in critical sectors such as education, healthcare and justice."

While the Government of Canada's past broadband programs have made significant contributions, connectivity gaps still persist in remote areas of the country. SSi is encouraged that the new Connect to Innovate program seeks to complement, not duplicate other investments. This will ensure past and current commitments serve as a stepping-stone, building a base so that future infrastructure investments in Nunavut and other remote areas go even further to bridge the digital divide.

SSi has developed "*Qimirluk: An Open Gateway Solution for Northern Broadband*" to make innovation and choice for consumers a reality. The Qimirluk (meaning backbone in Inuktitut) solution details the necessary 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 here. The *Qimirluk Executive Brief* can be found at: <https://www.ssimicro.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/qimirluk-executive-brief.pdf>

SSi's History of Success Connecting Nunavut

In 2015, SSi announced a \$75 million three-year investment program into Nunavut's broadband future, including \$35 million through the Government of Canada's Connecting Canadians program. This builds on some \$100 million invested by SSi into Nunavut communications infrastructure over the preceding 10 years, assisted with co-investments by the Government of Canada.



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, the positive impacts of broadband for consumers, organizations and small business have been clearly evident across the North.

For information on today’s announcement by the Government of Canada, please see:

<https://www.canada.ca/content/canadasite/en/innovation-science-economic-development/programs/computer-internet-access/connect-to-innovate/funding-broadband-infrastructure.html>

About SSi: Headquartered in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and with a satellite teleport and network operations centre in Ottawa, SSi designs, builds and operates telecommunications networks around the world. SSi understands first-hand the challenges faced in providing effective and affordable communications services to remote and outlying areas. SSi has launched broadband service into many markets where the Internet previously did not exist, and provides a competitive alternative to the incumbent operator in many other small and remote markets.

SSi has deployed advanced satellite and local broadband wireless facilities throughout Nunavut and in communities of the Northwest Territories, an area spanning over three million square kilometres. The network uses state-of-the-art full mesh connectivity and supports broadband Internet, voice and videoconferencing technologies. Over the years SSi has continued to develop its own unique provisioning and billing software, and today the 3rd generation of this management system seamlessly controls all aspects of the customer experience.

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