



P.O. Box 449 • Wachapreague, Virginia • 23480

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cheryl Tyson 757 787-1908

Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Project Prepares to start construction in 2009.

16 October 2008 The Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority (ESVBA) project manager gave an update on the Broadband project this week at the Northampton and Accomack County monthly Supervisors meetings.

The goal of the ESVBA is to provide the most affordable, cost-effective and technologically up-to-date Broadband Internet service possible for all residents, businesses and institutions on Virginia's Eastern Shore. To this end the ESVBA has been working on developing a business plan that will ensure that the design of the network will best serve the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The ESVBA will oversee the construction of a fiber backbone and distribution networks to the community. This will allow private sector service providers to offer their products directly to the residents and businesses providing choice and competitive pricing of today's offerings.

"From movies-on-demand, distance learning and telemedicine, there is pent up demand on the Shore for competitive high-speed broadband service", said Cheryl Tyson, MBA, PMP., project manager of the Broadband Initiative. Tyson went on to say, "The significant economic impact of true broadband service is difficult to overestimate. This Open Access network will also allow competition and give companies and residents choice of their service provider."

Broadband access is critical to our local future and to ensure the quality of life for everyone on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The effort to expand economic development opportunities by promoting broadband access is an integral part of the state's economic development mission. Leadership by the Department of Housing and Community Development in providing tools and funding demonstrates their commitment to job creation, business growth, and empowerment for all of our communities. Broadband is also key to public safety and to enhancing current medical services.

Funding for the Broadband Initiative is provided by Federal, State and local agencies, including the Department of Housing and Community Development, NASA and the Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce. This Initiative is also underway due to the significant efforts of Virginia Senators Jim Webb and John Warner as well as State Senator Ralph Northam and Delegate Lynwood Lewis.

This complex Initiative is being managed as multiple projects. The Southern portion will install the fiber optic backbone across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel connecting the network to the world at the southern end and ending at Cape Charles in the North. This project is being managed by our partner Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative. They are currently preparing the construction bid document to be awarded by Mid-November and with construction to begin in January 2009.

The Northern portion of the fiber backbone is being managed by the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority. The ESVBA has engaged Adesta LLC as the engineering firm. This project will install the fiber backbone from Cape Charles to Wallops and connect to Maryland Broadband Cooperative's network and the world in the North. Adesta is preparing the construction bid document for this portion of the fiber backbone and will begin construction in January 2009. These two projects provide us with the 'superhighway' and the Last Mile project will build the networks into the communities of the Eastern Shore. The engineering for the Last Mile project and the overall design of the community networks will be done by the ESVBA and Adesta. Construction for Last Mile projects will also begin in early 2009.

About Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority (ESVBA)

The ESVBA is a not for profit Authority which was created by a resolution of Northampton and Accomack counties under the Virginia Wireless Services Authority Act. The ESVBA will oversee the construction and operation of the planned high-speed Internet fiber backbone and distribution networks on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

For more information about the ESVBA, including the network design, business plan or the Broadband Initiative in general, contact Cheryl Tyson at 757 787-1908 or ctyson@esvabroadband.net or our website at www.esvabroadband.net.

About Adesta, LLC

Adesta is a systems integrator that brings innovative, flexible and cost efficient thinking to the design, construction and maintenance of stand-alone or integrated communication networks and electronic security systems.

Adesta has deployed over 2 million fiber miles in more than 140 metropolitan and rural areas and completed over 800 electronic security systems in the United States, Europe, Asia, Central America, and the Middle East.

Headquartered in Omaha Nebraska, with offices located across the United States, Adesta is managed by executives from the telecommunications, construction and security industries. For more information

About Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC)

Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative is charged with implementing the Southern Portion Backbone Project for the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

MBC is a not-for-profit cooperative established with funding from the Virginia Tobacco Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. The MBC network is an advanced open-access wholesale optical transport network and is focused on accelerating economic development in rural and underserved areas by making Internet and telecom connectivity more affordable, diverse and scalable for telecommunications service providers. For more information, please visit www.mbc-va.com