

News Release

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FIBER TO THE HOME SERVICE EXPANDS IN HOULTON

Project for new Fiber Optic service means the fastest Internet, new TV and phone service for residents of Houlton, Maine.

HOULTON, ME (April 11, 2016) - Pioneer Broadband, a local telecommunications provider, is pleased to announce their new Fiber to the Home (FTTH) service in Houlton should be complete by mid-Fall 2016. The project includes 54 miles of new fiber optic lines with the potential to serve 3500 homes and businesses. Completion of the new network has been spearheaded by Pioneer's CEO, Timothy McAfee, "Within the 54 mile network, our plan is to enhance overall system reliability by creating multiple 10Gig and 40Gig self-healing rings. If a break occurs in one location, the data traffic will automatically flow in another direction across the network so our customer's service will remain connected, online and active."

McAfee also reported on Pioneer's plan to add Cable TV services, "Pioneer recently petitioned the Town of Houlton for the rights to become a Cable TV provider. Cable TV is easily distributed over the new fiber network and Houlton will be Pioneer's third community to have the video product. Sherman and Stacyville were completed earlier this year. Pioneer is positioned to be a wholesale Cable TV provider for municipal and competitive broadband operators throughout the state of Maine."

"I strongly support business investment in fiber infrastructure in Maine," said Governor Paul R. LePage. "While Maine has made tremendous progress with our broadband infrastructure, some areas, especially in rural Maine, require businesses stepping up to bring Maine to modern connectivity with the world. This announcement is very important for Houlton, and I applaud Pioneer Broadband's investment."

Chris Anderson, President of Pioneer Broadband reinforced the company's priority: "Making Houlton and the surrounding towns of Northern Maine 'high-tech ready' is a win-win strategy for Pioneer and the communities we serve!"

"Northern Maine has almost always been at a disadvantage with Southern Maine when it comes to economic development opportunities. Not so with Internet connectivity anymore. Pioneer Broadband has ushered in new opportunities for area businesses that need the ability to have increased speeds and capacity that true fiber connectivity offers. With their Canadian redundant backbone, increased capacity and resiliency they are putting Houlton on the technological map. Datacenter operators need to be aware that Houlton has the lowest electric costs in New England and a cool climate -an ideal location." - Jon McLaughlin, Executive Director, Southern Aroostook Development Corporation

New customers are being added daily in the Northeast section which was completed last year. There will continue to be service trucks on the roads as the new installations occur. Drivers should use caution in the traffic areas where the lift trucks and splice vans will be working. For a map of streets showing service availability see: www.PioneerBroadband.net.

Many municipalities in Maine have been searching for a way to get better Internet service. Over 30 new legislative bills were presented in Augusta in 2015 to see if public funds could be used to develop and deploy municipal networks. This project in Houlton is privately funded by Pioneer.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

About Pioneer Broadband

Pioneer Broadband is an industry leading provider of Internet and communications services to communities across Northern and Eastern Maine. Pioneer operates facilities in 80 locations and delivers residential and business connectivity solutions. Pioneer offers innovative and affordable broadband options, including DSL and fiber connectivity solutions, all with local technical support and service staff.

Pioneer's Datacenter in Presque Isle provides a secure co-location facility for web servers, data storage and disaster recovery purposes.

Pioneer is the only Internet Service Provider in Maine to have connections to the Canadian Internet backbone, thus offering International diversity and redundancy that is unique among Maine's providers.

Broadband delivery to rural Maine continues to be a core business strategy for Pioneer Broadband, serving rural Maine since its inception in 2001. Headquartered in Houlton, Maine, Pioneer Broadband is a privately owned, local Maine company. Learn more at www.PioneerBroadband.net.