



Maine Fiber Company Subsidized Internet Connections

Portland, ME – July 27th, 2010 – Maine Fiber Company, Inc. in conjunction with the Maine Fiber Company Advisory Board and as part of the Three Ring Binder Project, has begun an initiative to install federally-supported fiber optics (internet connections) to Community Anchor Institutions (“CAI’s”) along the Three Ring Binder route. The goal of this initiative is to provide internet connectivity to unserved and/or underserved public institutions by providing a fiber optic cable connection from the Three Ring Binder route to the selected CAI’s. Any internet service provider/telecom company could then use the fiber to provide commercial service to the CAI’s for a fee. CAI’s may include, but are not limited to: schools, libraries, government offices, community centers, and healthcare facilities throughout the state of Maine.

The first part of the initiative is a data gathering phase where CAI’s and service provider/telecom companies will have the opportunity to self-identify their needs for federally supported connectivity from the Three Ring Binder route. With such a large number of CAI’s in the state and a very limited budget, it is unlikely that all CAI’s who show interest will be able to benefit from this initiative. Accordingly, Maine Fiber Company has created a ‘CAI Questionnaire’ which will allow each CAI with a need for connectivity to outline the details of their situation to Maine Fiber Company. The questionnaire consists of ten screening questions and will allow a review committee to better understand the CAI’s individual needs as well as Maine Fiber Company’s potential to offer a solution.

The Maine Fiber Company Advisory Board has developed several areas of primary consideration that will form the basis for determining eligibility for federally supported connectivity. The CAI must exhibit a need for the connectivity, as unserved or underserved. The CAI must demonstrate long-term sustainability and feasibility for installation, such as comparative location to the Three Ring Binder route and pole utilization ability. A fitting CAI would have other private or public institutions, homes or business nearby that could use the fiber to obtain connectivity. Finally, a CAI should consider if a local internet service provider or telecom company would be willing to provide service over the fiber at a price that the CAI could sustain over time.

These factors will all aid the determination of overall benefit of providing fiber connectivity to a CAI, and the questionnaire is the first step in establishing that. Maine Fiber Company will build federally supported connections to the CAIs that best fit the criteria and that align with the Three Ring Binder Project’s goal to create a state-of-the-art telecom infrastructure available to all telecom carriers and as much of rural Maine as possible. The questionnaire will be posted at www.MaineFiberCo.com and sent out on **July 23rd**, with Maine Fiber Company asking for responses by **August 20th**. Responses to the Questionnaire will be reviewed by the Maine Fiber Company Advisory Board and the Maine Fiber Company.





Maine Fiber Company is overseeing the construction, maintenance and leasing of the Three Ring Binder, a new fiber network. The company was formed after the U.S. Department of Commerce awarded \$25.4 million to build the Three Ring Binder Project in December 2009. Private investors are providing \$6.5 million toward the project

The Maine Fiber Company Advisory Board was formed in April of this year to provide advice to Maine Fiber Company on 1) the CAI selection process, 2) maximizing the economic benefit of the Three Ring Binder to the State of Maine and 3) helping to ensure the Three Ring Binder project was constructed in a manner consistent with federal grant obligations and public purposes. The advisory Board includes members from the private sector, the non-profit sector and the public sector.

A copy of the CAI Questionnaire and information about the Questionnaire, The Three Binder, The Maine Fiber Company and the Maine Fiber Company Advisory Board may be found at www.MaineFiberCo.com.

Contact:

Mailing Address:

Maine Fiber Company, Inc.
RE: CAI Questionnaire
245 Commercial Street, Suite 203
Portland, ME 04101
207-591-6427

Email Address:

CAIApp@tilsontech.com

