



October 18, 2004

Alberta SuperNet Gets Boost with New Certification Lab

**Axia/NEWT partnership gives Alberta businesses access
to global expertise for developing new Alberta SuperNet services**

Calgary, Alberta – Small companies and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) planning to use Alberta SuperNet to reach rural customers can now receive technical guidance at a state-of-the-art broadband laboratory and certification facility in Calgary.

The Alberta SuperNet Certification and Showcase Lab will help small- to medium-sized Alberta companies develop and test network services such as Internet access, Web hosting or centralized payroll systems before they are deployed across Alberta SuperNet, which enhances rural access. More than 400 communities – most of which have not had high-speed network access options to date – will be linked by the Alberta SuperNet broadband network.

The Lab is a joint initiative of Axia SuperNet Ltd. (Axia) and NEWT (Network for Emerging Wireless Technologies). Axia SuperNet Ltd. designed, operates, manages and markets the network for the Government of Alberta. NEWT provides hardware and software development support to suppliers and users of network products and services. While NEWT's primary focus is wireless technology solutions, the Centre will be available to all SuperNet service providers.

How the Lab leverages Alberta SuperNet

"This Lab, which links directly from NEWT's Calgary wireless test centre into the Alberta SuperNet on a protected and monitored circuit, will let smaller companies see exactly how their applications and services will perform on a powerful Real Broadband network," said Axia SuperNet Ltd. President Drew McNaughton. "One of the benefits of Alberta SuperNet is that it promotes rural economic development by giving communities and industry affordable access to broadband network connectivity. The Lab will help entrepreneurs deliver innovative and powerful services throughout the province, creating a showcase for Alberta firms to sell their capabilities worldwide."

"This alliance with Axia expands NEWT's capabilities to help small Alberta firms, including rural ISPs, prepare their products, services or applications for deployment on Alberta SuperNet," said NEWT Chief Operating Officer Duane Sniezek. "NEWT can help a company ensure its network services are reliable when deployed – a key factor in profitability and competitive advantage."

Mr. Sniezek expects the Lab's first "customers" will be ISPs that want to offer service to rural customers, followed by companies aiming to deliver online application services to Albertans ... and globally. "It may be an online game, Voice over IP, new security software or Web-based television," said Mr. Sniezek. "Alberta SuperNet allows companies anywhere in Alberta to take advantage of the business possibilities of the Internet."

How companies will use the Lab

A commercial Point of Presence (POP) installed at NEWT will connect to the Alberta SuperNet via a protected and monitored circuit. Companies will bring their equipment and/or applications to the Lab to test on the POP, at a nominal fee. NEWT technical advice and guidance will be available during the testing period.

About Alberta SuperNet

Alberta SuperNet is a Real Broadband network linking approximately 4,700 government, health, library and education facilities in 422 communities provincewide. Private service providers can buy bandwidth to deliver their services to rural retail customers. Axia SuperNet Ltd. designed, operates, manages and markets the network for the Government of Alberta.

About Axia

Axia SuperNet Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Axia NetMedia Corporation, designed, manages, operates and markets Alberta SuperNet for the Government of Alberta, on a 10-year renewable contract. Axia NetMedia helps organizations and individuals meet the needs of the Knowledge Economy by combining the power of next-generation, Real Broadband networks with high-end e-learning applications. Axia is a member of NEWT and Axia SuperNet Ltd. President Drew McNaughton has joined NEWT's advisory board. Axia has 176 employees and trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol AXX. For more information visit Axia's Web site at www.axia.com.

About NEWT

NEWT (Network for Emerging Wireless Technologies) is a not-for-profit wireless technology commercialization support centre providing hardware and software development and test support to developers and users of wireless products and services with lab facilities, test networks, technical staff and industry contacts. NEWT's 52 members reduce product development costs, shorten product development time, increase technical knowledge and gain competitive advantage through accelerated creation and adoption of wireless technology.

NEWT was established in Calgary in 2002 with five founding industry members (HP, IBM, Nortel, Sun and TELUS) with support from TRILabs, CRC, Calgary Technologies Inc., Alberta Innovation and Science, and Western Economic Diversification Canada. NEWT is a division of TRILabs. For more information visit NEWT's web site at www.newt.trilabs.ca.

-30-

For further information, please contact:

Dawn Tinling,
VP, Communications
& Human Resources, Axia
(403) 538-4074
dawn.tinling@axia.com

Eric Larson
Marketing Director,
NEWT
(403) 338-6380
eric.larson@newt.trilabs.ca

Statements contained in this news release describe the Corporation's objectives, projections and expectations and may be identified by the use of terms such as "should," "believes," "anticipates" and "estimates." By their nature, such forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty. These statements reflect the best estimates with respect to future events at any given point in time. Actual results could differ materially from the forward-looking statements, due to risks and uncertainties which include, among others, changes in customer markets, changes in demand for the Corporation's services, inability of the Corporation to deliver services in a timely and cost-efficient manner, technological change and general economic conditions.