Building Alberta SuperNet

Construction of over 13,000 kilometres of fibre-optic and wireless connectivity is underway throughout Alberta, under the leadership of Bell West, prime contractor for Alberta SuperNet.

Base Area Network
(2,500-km backbone connecting Alberta's 27 largest communities, funded by Bell's $102 million investment)

- Bell has constructed Meet-Me facilities in all 27 Base Area communities.
- Eight of eight backbone connections have been constructed and seven are operational. All connections are expected to be operational by April 30, 2004
- Work is underway to build network access connections to 2,300 users in Base Area communities. More than 350 users are now readied.

Extended Area Network
(11,000-km portion connecting 395 smaller communities, funded by Government of Alberta's investment of $193 million)

- Construction is ongoing throughout the province.
- Almost 80 crews are building point of presence (POP) facilities, preparing connections to user locations, and completing links between communities. More than 50 per cent of the needed POP facilities have been installed. Construction of connections to user locations has begun in half of the communities and has been completed in about one quarter of all locations. More than 70 per cent of the fibre needed to link communities is in place.
- The first wireless links have completed construction and preliminary testing. These links, once turned up, will provide connectivity between four communities.
- Bell's construction partners have more than 730 individuals working on the Extended Area build. More than 725,000 project hours have been spent on Extended Area construction to date.

Operations

Axia SuperNet Ltd.

Performance Measures Up

- Axia SuperNet Ltd., which designed and manages Alberta SuperNet for the government, is now monitoring 240 services online, exceeding a performance target level of 99.95 per cent network availability.
- Nineteen Service Providers have signed Letters of Intent to purchase bandwidth on Alberta SuperNet to reach smaller communities in the Extended Area.
- Two Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are piggybacking on Alberta SuperNet to reach business and residential customers in smaller rural centres. Two other ISPs are also using SuperNet to reach government and learning institutions in rural areas.
- Fifteen schools in the Fort Vermilion School Division use Alberta SuperNet to share data and a videoconferencing/teaching system in an "island" of high-capacity connectivity. The affordable and available bandwidth of Alberta SuperNet enabled the school district to install a high-quality MPEG-2 videoconferencing system which, once the division is connected to the rest of SuperNet, will be able to reach any school in the province.
- Schools in the Red Deer Catholic Regional Division use SuperNet on a daily basis to offer a collaborative teaching program called Learning Live.