



NetworkBC



News Release

November 28, 2006

GwaiiTel launches high speed Internet services in Haida Gwaii *Individual homes, businesses connected to service today*

Masset, B.C. – Haida Gwaii residents have high-speed Internet service for the first time as GwaiiTel and its Haida Gwaii Community Network launched operations today. In collaboration with local Internet service providers, the network brings high-speed Internet service to about 5,000 people living in the Islands' seven largest communities.

The Gwaii Trust Society formed GwaiiTel earlier this year, partnering with the Province of British Columbia and TELUS to connect Haida Gwaii, also known as the Queen Charlotte Islands, to high-speed Internet via North America's longest over-water radio Internet transmission. GwaiiTel partnered with Alcatel and Navigata to translate that wholesale connection into service for individual homes and businesses. GwaiiTel invested more than \$1 million to build infrastructure connecting the Islands' communities, under the leadership of the Gwaii Trust Society and using capital from their fund with a \$500,000 grant from Industry Canada's Broadband for Rural and Northern Development Pilot Program (BRAND).

"This is an historic occasion for our Islands' communities," said Gwaii Trust Chairman Miles Richardson. "We had to overcome many technical and business challenges, but the Gwaii Trust is very proud to have brought this essential infrastructure into our communities, working with our government and business partners. As our community leaders now take over responsibility for operating the network, we look forward to continuing work with our partners to realize the opportunities and benefits for our Islands' people through improved health services, education, cultural development, quality of life and prosperity."

"Through the Broadband for Rural and Northern Development Pilot Program, Canada's new government continues to help Canadians in rural, remote and Aboriginal communities benefit from all the economic, business and social opportunities that broadband access can bring," said the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Industry.

"I congratulate GwaiiTel on its inauguration, and for having the vision and determination to bring high-speed Internet to homes and businesses on Haida Gwaii," said Olga Ilich, British Columbia Minister of Labour and Citizens' Services. "The Government of British Columbia is committed to bridging the digital divide across the province, and is pleased to partner with GwaiiTel to help connect the Islands' communities."

Joe Grech, TELUS Executive Vice-President of Network Operations, said partnering with First Nations to connect them to the knowledge economy is a critical priority for TELUS.

“TELUS is focused on delivering high-speed Internet access service across British Columbia creating opportunities for economic development, health care, and education within the communities that we serve,” said Grech. “TELUS is partnering with First Nations to build cutting edge communications tools that will help enrich and preserve their traditional cultures and to simultaneously build new futures. We are honored to support Haida Gwaii and the ongoing relationship we are building for the betterment of their communities.”

"As the world's broadband technology leader, Alcatel is committed to provide advanced communications services to people in remote communities. We are proud to play a part in launching a new era of communications for the people of Haida Gwaii," said Geoff Cowan, Senior Vice President of Alcatel's Canadian activities. "The imagination, initiative and broad industry involvement that led to the creation of GwaiiTel is a powerful illustration of the positive impact we can make when we work together to bridge the digital divide."

“Navigata is proud to be a part of this very worthwhile initiative to provide broadband connections between the seven Islands’ communities,” said Jim Pitt, Navigata President and CEO. “This project allows Navigata to showcase our in-house expertise and experience in designing and building leading-edge network infrastructure while delivering a very important educational, communications and entertainment service to the residents and businesses in these communities.”

GwaiiTel makes high-speed Internet service available to Haida Gwaii residents in Masset, Old Massett, Port Clements, Tlell, Skidegate, Queen Charlotte and Sandspit.

About GWAI TRUST

The Gwaii Trust is a not-for-profit society established to enhance environmentally sustainable social and economic benefits to Haida Gwaii/the Queen Charlotte Islands through the use of its perpetual trust fund. For more information about the Gwaii Trust, please visit www.gwaiitrust.com.

About Industry Canada/BRAND

More information about the Broadband for Rural and Northern Development Pilot Program can be accessed at www.broadband.gc.ca.

About Network BC

More information about Network BC can be accessed at www.network.gov.bc.ca.

About TELUS

TELUS (TSX: T, T.A; NYSE: TU) is a leading national telecommunications company in Canada, with \$8.5 billion of annual revenue and 10.5 million customer connections including 4.9 million wireless subscribers, 4.6 million wireline network access lines and 1.1 million Internet subscribers. TELUS provides a wide range of communications products and services including data, Internet protocol (IP), voice, entertainment and video. Committed to being Canada's premier corporate citizen, over the last five years TELUS has contributed more than \$62 million to charitable and non-profit organizations, and has established seven TELUS Community Boards across Canada to lead its local philanthropic initiatives. For more information about TELUS, please visit www.telus.com.

About Alcatel

Alcatel provides communications solutions to telecommunication carriers, Internet service providers and enterprises for delivery of voice, data and video applications to

their customers or employees. Alcatel brings its leading position in fixed and mobile broadband networks, applications and services, to help its partners and customers build a user-centric broadband world. With sales of EURO 13.1 billion and 58,000 employees in 2005, Alcatel operates in more than 130 countries. For more information, visit Alcatel on the Internet at <http://www.alcatel.com>.

About NAVIGATA

Navigata offers a full range of products to address the needs of businesses, including data networking, high-speed Internet, hosting services, data center co-location, managed security solutions, long distance and local phone services. Navigata is headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada with regional offices in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. Navigata is a member of the SaskTel group of companies, the leading full service communications company in Saskatchewan. Visit Navigata at www.navigata.ca.

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