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**YUKON RELEASES PLANS FOR NEW CELLULAR COVERAGE**

WHITEHORSE - The Government of Yukon is announcing its plans for the creation and implementation of a comprehensive and modern communications system that will dramatically increase cellular coverage throughout the territory.

The Mobile Communications Solution (MoCS) is comprised of two components. The first component is a public safety mobile radio system to be used by RCMP, health and safety professionals, public safety volunteers and other government personnel.

The second component of MoCS is comprised of an enhanced cellular coverage network for general public use throughout the Yukon.

These new services will increase cellular coverage in the Yukon and improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of present communications capabilities.

“The Mobile Communications Solution is government’s response to Yukoners who wish to see a more sophisticated and user friendly communications system within the North,” Highways and Public Works Minister Glenn Hart said.

“The government has identified two pre-qualified proponents who will be invited to prepare a formal response to a request for proposals, detailing how the proponents will satisfy the government’s requirements in the creation and operation of enhanced cellular coverage to 17 communities within the Yukon,” Hart added.

The two qualified proponents, Ice Wireless and NorthweTel Inc., are Yukon companies with strong First Nations partnerships expected in their proposals.

Economic Development Minister Jim Kenyon agreed with Hart that the MoCS project will be attractive to potential and existing business, industry and tourism, while maintaining the Yukon’s position as a progressive territory with the necessary infrastructure in place to maintain economic success.

An announcement in relation to the development of the public safety mobile radio component of the MoCS project will be forthcoming in the near future.

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Contact:  
Peter Carr  
Communications Advisor  
Cabinet Office  
Government of Yukon  
(867) 667-8688  
[peter.carr@gov.yk.ca](mailto:peter.carr@gov.yk.ca)

Darren Butt  
Communications Officer  
Highways & Public Works  
Government of Yukon  
(867) 667-3654  
[darren.butt@gov.yk.ca](mailto:darren.butt@gov.yk.ca)