

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Telecommunications Loan Received By Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc.

RIVERTON, WV (March 19, 2008) Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone has begun a \$7,789,000 FTTH (fiber-to-the-home) project, bringing fiber driven technology to rural West Virginia.

SKSRT is a local non-profit cooperative. SKSRT is part of a group of small, rural, independent telephone companies across the US that are leading the way in deploying this new technology which will enable subscribers to have state-of-the-art voice, video and data services. SKSRT was one of the last companies in the US to have ring-down service, but will be the first in the state to provide FTTH to all customers in their serving area.

“At Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone we care about our customers. We care about the future and economic survival of our community. Fiber Optic connections are not a luxury, but a necessity. We think our customers deserve the best technology available, regardless of whether they live in a rural or an urban area,” said Vickie Colaw, General Manager.

The USDA Rural Utility Service has approved a loan for SKSRT to provide FTTH to all subscribers in their serving area. This loan will be used to upgrade all existing central office and electronic equipment, to incorporate PON (Passive Optical Network) technology, install a new softswitch and replace all existing copper with fiber optic cable. These digital enhancements position the company to deliver digital voice, data and video services throughout the exchange, enabling them to accommodate communications demands envisioned for the 21st century.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs and administers program assistance through its rural housing programs, rural business programs, and rural utilities programs.

