

Sawtooth Technologies assigned \$3.7M in federal stimulus funds to expand rural broadband infrastructure in Skamania and Klickitat Counties

(Stevenson, WA) March 1, 2010 – Sawtooth Technologies, LLC (SawNet), a sub-applicant on a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant was informed by the lead applicant, Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet) that an \$84.3M award was approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Sawtooth's portion of this BTOP award, approximately \$3.7M, is to expand middle-mile fiber optic infrastructure to the unserved and underserved rural citizens in the areas of Skamania and Klickitat Counties.

“Sawtooth is thrilled to have these dedicated broadband infrastructure funds to help bridge the digital divide in our area. This will help provide our citizens and our rural region the same opportunities for economic growth that you see in metropolitan areas,” said Brian Adams, managing Partner of Sawtooth Technologies, LLC.

NoaNet CEO, Greg Marney, explains, “Sawtooth was instrumental in garnering in-kind and cash contributions and local support to assist in this application process. They assessed, designed and developed the middle-mile fiber infrastructure expansion plan that would meet the broadband needs of citizens of Skamania and Klickitat Counties.” Once Sawtooth completed the infrastructure design, they submitted their plan to be considered as one of the sub-applicants in the consortium for the BTOP grant submitted by NoaNet, August 20, 2009.

The primary purpose of the grant in this region is to build a fiber bridge to targeted medical facilities and libraries in Klickitat and Skamania Counties over the next three years. The new fiber lines will link these facilities to regional and statewide hubs so advanced telecommunication services may be brought into the counties to benefit research, learning and health applications locally. Once the fiber infrastructure is in place, private service providers (last-mile fiber builders) will have the opportunity to create fiber or wireless connections to residents and businesses. This connectivity will further allow for new job opportunities and enhance the local economy.

When the build is complete, gigabit fiber-optic broadband will be available at Wind River Nursery, Port of Skamania North Bonneville Business Park Snowden, Appleton and Ponderosa Park and 100 Mbps over microwave to Glenwood, Mill A and Willard.

Sawtooth would like to generously thank the supporting organizations in making this award possible. In-kind contributors and supporters are:

Skamania County

Skamania County Commissioner, Jamie Tollfree
Skamania County Economic Development Committee, Peggy Bryan, Executive Director
Washougal School District, Lester Brown, Technology Supervisor
Port of Skamania County, John McSherry, Manager
City of Stevenson, Mary Ann Duncon-Cole, Manager
Skamania Public Utility District #1, Bob Wittenberg, Manager

Klickitat County

Klickitat Horizons Telecom Committee, Linda Williams, Jay McLaughlin, Brian Wanless
Washington State University Extension, Susan Kerr and Monica Babine
Klickitat County Economic Development Department, Mike Canon, Director
Klickitat County Board of County Commissioners, Ray Thayer, Vice Chairman
Klickitat Valley Health, MaLisa Mudgett, Chief Executive Officer
Klickitat County Health Department, Kevin Barry, Director

About Sawtooth

Sawtooth Technologies, LLC (SawNet) is an internet service provider serving the northwest since 1996, headquartered in Stevenson, WA. SawNet provides fiber-optic and wireless broadband service to customers throughout Oregon and Washington. SawNet's forte is networks for commercial and government accounts requiring super high reliability.

SawNet works closely with NoaNet, a non-profit mutual corporation providing wholesale telecommunications transport and is headquartered in Tacoma, Washington. It operates a reliable public open-access broadband communication network totaling over 1,500 fiber miles that provides rural areas access to broadband services. NoaNet has been serving wholesale customers in Washington State since 2000.

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