

Independent Telcos and FTTH

Our monthly summary of news of special interest to independent telephone companies

By Masha Zager ■ *Contributing Editor*

Albany Mutual Telephone Association (www.albanytel.com), an ILEC in Albany, Minnesota, has selected Pannaway's IP Ethernet-based Service Convergence Network to deliver triple-play services to its rural subscribers. The 55 year-old cooperative, which is running fiber-to-the-home to 70% of its 4,000 subscribers, is using an interoperable SIP solution from Nortel and Pannaway. The equipment deployed includes a new DMS-10 SIP upgrade from Nortel as well as Pannaway's fiber Broadband Access Switches, fiber Residential Gateway NIDs, Broadband Aggregation Routers, and Broadband Access Manager.

ComSpan USA (www.comspanusa.net), a facilities-based CLEC in Roseburg, Oregon, and its development partner Leducor Technical Services are deploying a FTTP network in Bandon, Oregon, with technology and support from MetaSwitch, a vendor of carrier switching and applications platforms. ComSpanUSA says it is positioned to expand regionally with an offering of services including IPTV and video on demand. Leducor Technical Services is participating as an equity partner in the project and is also responsible for designing, installing, integrating, and implementing the IP network.

EATEL (www.eatel.com) of Gonzales, Louisiana, which has supplied triple-play FTTH services to the Baton Rouge area since last year, is introducing a new video-on-demand service to its customers. EATEL's fiber TV offering already included access to more than 300 channels, including 47 digital music channels, sports, local and high-definition programming, and digital video recording capabilities. The company has now deployed software and servers from SeaChange International to offer movies and other programming with on-demand convenience.

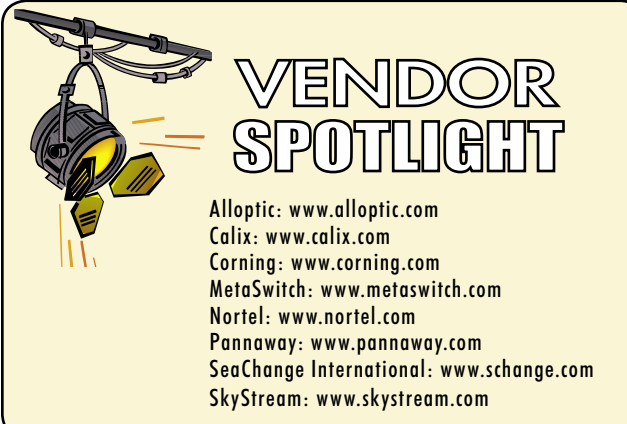
NTELOS Inc. (www.ntelos.com), a Waynesboro, Virginia-based ILEC, has selected SkyStream as its video headend partner for its new fiber-to-the-premises IPTV service. The IPTV service will feature high-definition TV, premium and local programming, video on demand, personal video recorder, and interactive services. NTELOS deployed the SkyStream Mediaplex-20 video headend at a new "super video headend" center.

PAXIO Inc. (www.paxio.com), an Anaheim, California-based CLEC providing Internet and VoIP services, has chosen PacketFront's unique BECS control and provisioning system for the deployment of advanced IP services in new residential developments in California.

TDS Telecom (www.tdstelecom.com), the seventh largest independent U.S. telco, has deployed the Calix C7 multiservice access platform to deliver FTTP and high-speed copper services to business and residential subscribers. The Calix platform is already widely deployed within TDS Telecom's subsidiary, TDS Metrocom. Now, the parent company will be also able to deliver an array of voice, data, and video services to its 1.1 million business and residential subscribers in 30 states.

TelCove (www.telcove.com), a provider of telecommunications services to enterprise customers, carriers, and government organizations, is expanding its Florida fiber optic network to 2,700 route miles, while upgrading and enhancing this local and intercity network to enable next-generation services like enterprise VoIP, business continuity/disaster recovery services, and 10-Gigabit metropolitan Ethernet service. TelCove is based in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, and serves 70 markets. In the Tallahassee market, TelCove's focus is providing customers with fiber to the enterprise – a direct fiber-based connection from the enterprise location to the TelCove metro backbone network.

Telepak Networks (www.telepaknetworks.com), a CLEC subsidiary of Telapex, Inc., an ILEC based in Jackson, Mississippi, is installing a FTTH network for approximately 2,750 homes in Crystal Springs, the second FTTH community in Mississippi. For the all-fiber network, Telepak chose Corning Cable Systems' Evolant Advantage Solution, including all of the backbone and distribution cable containing Corning optical fiber, as well as Corning Cable Systems' Eclipse Hardware with LCP splitters for the central office. By using the Corning solution in the central office, Telepak was able to reduce the passive optical footprint by 33 percent.



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