

GPON dominates for new independent telco deployments, but the vote is certainly not unanimous.

Chibardun Telephone Cooperative (www.chibardun.net), an ILEC in Wisconsin, is planning to deploy fiber-to-the-home throughout its service area, a project it says will take many years to complete but one that is necessary to meet projected demand for Internet and television services. Construction will begin later this year in Cameron, the telco's largest exchange.

Consolidated Communications (www.consolidated.com), an independent operating company providing services in Illinois and Texas, has selected Zhone Technologies' GPON system for its FTTH deployment. GPON is expected to speed the company's rollout of high-definition video services.

Falcon Broadband (www.falconbroadband.net), a Colorado CLEC, selected Hitachi Telecom's AMN1220 GPON product to deliver video, high-speed Internet, and voice services in its service area in Colorado Springs and surrounding areas. Falcon Broadband has already trialed the Hitachi GPON solution, and will begin installation immediately. It will offer services in phases throughout its coverage area, starting with the Flying Horse community being developed by Classic Homes. Other communities and neighborhoods within the city will follow later this year.

Graceba Total Communications (www.graceba.com), an independent operator serving the Wiregrass area of southeastern Alabama, has selected Wave7's Trident7 Universal Access Platform for its new EPON FTTP network. Graceba provides digital television, high-speed data and telephone services to more than 25,000 homes and businesses in its ILEC and CLEC service areas. Graceba started deploying the network in January to greenfield developments in its existing CLEC service area. The company anticipates that the new network will reach about 1,500 residential subscribers by the end of 2007, and it hopes to have some business customers operational by that time as well.

James Etheredge, Graceba's COO, says, "For our residential customers, Wave7's ability to incorporate RF return enables a completely interactive video experience, and having a single-fiber system design will speed deployment and reduce our installation costs. For our business customers, support for all access standards, as well as line-rate L2 switching and line-rate L3 routing of traffic, will enable us to offer the type of SLAs necessary for advanced enterprise services."

Residential customers will receive a triple play of VoIP, video and high-speed data services. Video services will use RF overlay to begin with, but Etheredge anticipates migrating to IPTV. For business customers, Graceba intends to offer primary rate

interface (PRI) and T1 services over Ethernet, as well as VoIP and video on demand. Etheredge says Graceba hopes to partner with educational institutions to create corporate training packages that can be offered to business customers via VOD.

Momentum (www.momentum.net), a competitive service provider based in Birmingham, Alabama, has named Alcatel-Lucent as its exclusive GPON provider. Momentum markets a FTTH offering to developers of new master planned communities, including video, voice, data and security services. It is deploying the Alcatel-Lucent 7342 ISAM Fiber-to-the-User (FTTU) solution.

Taylor Telephone Cooperative (www.taylorlortel.com), an ILEC in Merkel, Texas, is deploying Zhone Technologies' GPON system. "Instead of installing single-purpose GPON in anticipation of future revenues, the system is delivering core voice and data services today," says Steve Singletary, Taylor's manager of operations. "We can still configure subscriber bandwidth in granular increments. Adding OLT line cards...enables us to serve more customers with less equipment and energy while ensuring scalable capacity to add IPTV, HD and VOD to our service portfolio as demand grows."

Triangle Telephone Cooperative (www.mtintouch.com) in northern Montana is reportedly upgrading its plant in Fort Benton, Montana, with FTTH.

Yadkin Valley Telecom (www.yadtel.net), a North Carolina provider, has selected GPON technology from Zhone Technologies to provide triple play services.

Vendor Spotlight:

Alcatel-Lucent	www.alcatel-lucent.com
Occam Networks	www.occamnetworks.com
Hitachi Telecom	www.hitachitelecom.com
Zhone Technologies	www.zhone.com