



*M*innesota *A*ssociation for
*R*ural *T*elecommunications

Key Facts on Technology in Rural Minnesota

MINNESOTA'S RURAL INDEPENDENT TELCOS Committed to the Community -- Connected to the World

- ✓ Since 2000, Minnesota's rural independent telephone companies have invested more than **\$300 million** in new technology.
- ✓ Today, **90 percent** of access lines served by rural independent telephone companies have broadband, high-speed Internet available to them.
- ✓ Rural independent telephone companies have helped keep Minnesota communities at the forefront of communications opportunities.
 - Minnesota ranks 11th in percent of telco customers that have DSL high speed Internet available.
 - Minnesota ranks 1st nationally in online manufacturers, 2nd in online population, and 7th in technology in schools.
 - On a national basis, the US ranks first in total broadband connections and ranks only behind Canada in connections per population density.
- ✓ Almost 3/4 of our customers are provided broadband service with fiber within the local exchange network.
- ✓ 1/3 of our companies are providing customers broadband service with fiber all the way to their home or business (this is anticipated to jump to be 1/2 by the end of the 2008 construction season).
- ✓ We continue to increase bandwidth with demand. In fact, virtually every one of Minnesota's independent telcos is providing at least 1 MB of bandwidth – that's at a minimum 3 times faster than the fastest speeds available just a few years ago, and in some cases it has gone up 20 to 30 fold.



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Contributing to Minnesota's Rural Economy

MINNESOTA'S RURAL INDEPENDENT TELCOS ***Committed to the Community --*** ***Connected to the World***

- ✓ Rural independent telcos provide service for half of the geographic area of Minnesota.
- ✓ Minnesota's rural telcos are delivering high-quality, state-of-the-art service to their service communities, that's hundreds of the state's smallest towns.
- ✓ Rural independent telcos contribute at least \$160 million in taxes.
- ✓ Rural independent telcos employ more than 1,600 Minnesotans with some of the best paying jobs in rural communities.
- ✓ Rural independent telephone companies are playing a leading role in providing rural Minnesota with broadband, high-speed Internet and digital video.
- ✓ We know our customers – they're our neighbors, friends and family – and we listen.
- ✓ As we always have, rural telcos will continue to evolve and adapt with new technologies so we can meet the needs of the rural communities we serve.