



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyLink Completes \$258 Million New Mexico Broadband and Network Investment

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Exceeds New Mexico Public Regulatory Commission Commitment by \$3 Million - Completed Early

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., July 6, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- CenturyLink, Inc. (NYSE: CTL), which acquired Qwest Communications on April 1, today announced that it completed ahead of schedule a \$258 million capital investment within specific categories ordered by the New Mexico Public Regulatory Commission (PRC) under the 2007 Second Amended Settlement Agreement (SASA), and added \$3 million above the \$255 million required investment per the SASA.

(Logo: <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20090602/DA26511LOGO>)

"We are proud that these particular investments are complete, were done early and that we invested an additional \$3 million. As a result, our network is more reliable, we have more connected cities with greater redundancy and improved access to higher broadband speeds," said Valerie Dodd vice president and general manager for CenturyLink in New Mexico. "We look forward to continued investment in bringing innovative products and services to this marketplace."

In February 2007, CenturyLink (at that time Qwest) committed to the PRC to invest \$255 million throughout New Mexico in five specific categories, including broadband expansion. That effort focused on increasing availability by interconnecting each of its central offices in New Mexico. The goal was to expand broadband to 83 percent of New Mexico's residents, and the company has reached 85 percent. In addition, CenturyLink's broadband service now reaches an average of 75 percent of customers in rural areas.

The second category, central office redundancy and diversity, involved building fiber routes and creating a secondary backbone to enhance network reliability. The third category, cable rehabilitation, focused on replacing

more than 150 miles of aging cable throughout New Mexico. The fourth and fifth categories were for network and advanced telecommunications technology, in which investments for network improvement and capacity augmentation were made.

About CenturyLink

CenturyLink is the third largest telecommunications company in the United States. The company provides broadband, voice and wireless services to consumers and businesses across the country. It also offers advanced entertainment services under the CenturyLink™ Prism™ TV and DIRECTV brands. In addition, the company provides data, voice and managed services to business, government and wholesale customers in local, national and select international markets through its high-quality advanced fiber optic network and multiple data centers. CenturyLink is recognized as a leader in the network services market by key technology industry analyst firms. CenturyLink customers range from Fortune 500 companies in some of the country's largest cities to families living in rural America. Headquartered in Monroe, La., CenturyLink is an S&P 500 company and is included among the Fortune 500 list of America's largest corporations. For more information, visit www.CenturyLink.com.

SOURCE CenturyLink, Inc.

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