NEWS RELEASE

CenturyLink Expands Fiber Network Across U.S. and Europe

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Project uses Corning fiber to create largest ultra-low-loss fiber network in North America, substantially adding to significant fiber network

MONROE, La., July 23, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- As customer demand for extreme high-capacity, low-latency data transport continues to grow, **CenturyLink, Inc.** (NYSE: CTL) is utilizing its global multi-conduit infrastructure to expand the company's intercity network by 4.7 million miles of fiber, making it the largest ultra-low-loss fiber network in North America.

"Our newly built intercity fiber network, created with the latest optical technology, is another example of how our diverse fiber assets differentiate us from other network providers," said Andrew Dugan, CenturyLink chief

technology officer. "Our multi-conduit infrastructure has a significant amount of capacity for supporting the growing demand for fiber and will allow us to quickly and cost effectively deploy new fiber technology now and in the future. This uniquely positions CenturyLink to meet the needs of companies seeking highly reliable, low-latency network infrastructure designed to move massive amounts of data."

The first phase of this overbuild fiber network, completed in June, connects more than 50 major cities throughout the U.S. and represents another powerful asset in CenturyLink's vast global fiber-optic network, which includes a purpose-built long-haul network and dense metro networks designed to stay ahead of the growing data demand. The second phase of this expansion will include areas in Europe and will be completed by early 2021. The expanded infrastructure, using the latest optical innovations from **Corning Incorporated** (NYSE: GLW), will enhance performance levels across CenturyLink's network, benefiting businesses, government agencies and providers seeking fiber to build their own secure, scalable networks for demanding next-generation applications. The investments in the first phase of this project are included in the full year 2019 capital expenditure outlook announced on CenturyLink's fourth quarter 2018 earnings call.

This project uses Corning's SMF-28® ULL fiber and SMF-28® Ultra fiber in a hybrid Corning® SST-UltraRibbon™ cable. With a silica core design, SMF-28 ULL fiber offers the lowest loss of any terrestrial-grade optical fiber and will provide the CenturyLink network with a boost in optical signal-to-noise ratio (OSNR) which can extend optical reach at very high data rates. The added capacity will further improve the scalability of the network to meet the high bandwidth demands of emerging technologies and applications such as 5G, augmented reality, high-definition video streaming and the Internet of Things.

"A next-generation network requires next-generation optical infrastructure, and we believe Corning's fiber and cable innovations will enable CenturyLink and its customers to unlock the opportunities presented by the Internet of Things and other transformative technologies," said Dr. Bernhard Deutsch, vice president and general manager, Corning Optical Fiber and Cable. "With the expanded optical reach and capacity provided by our ultra-low-loss fiber, CenturyLink will magnify the capabilities of their expansive, scalable fiber network."

CenturyLink was able to quickly and cost effectively complete the first phase of the project using multi-conduit infrastructure already in place. The company is currently selling routes to large enterprise companies and content providers in the U.S. and will work with customers to add additional routes as needed.

Key Facts:

- CenturyLink is creating an extensive 4.7-million fiber mile intercity fiber network across the U.S. and parts of Europe.
- The first phase, comprising 3.5 million fiber miles, was completed in June. An additional 1.2 million fiber miles

will be added by early 2021.

- CenturyLink is currently selling fiber routes to large enterprise companies and content providers in the U.S.
- Multi-conduit infrastructure allows CenturyLink to quickly and economically deploy new fiber technology or add network capacity as needed.
- The investments in the first phase of the fiber upgrade are included in CenturyLink's full year 2019 capital expenditure outlook.
- The expanded fiber network utilizes Corning's SMF-28® ULL fiber and SMF-28® Ultra fiber, creating the largest ultra-low-loss fiber network in North America.

Additional Resources

- See CenturyLink's expanded intercity network **map**
- Hear Andrew Dugan explain the benefits of the **fiber network expansion**
- Learn more about **CenturyLink Dark Fiber**
- Learn more about Corning's **SMF-28® ULL fiber** and **SMF-28® Ultra fiber**

About CenturyLink

CenturyLink (NYSE: CTL) is a technology leader delivering hybrid networking, cloud connectivity, and security solutions to customers located in more than 60 countries. Through its extensive global fiber network, CenturyLink provides secure and reliable services to meet the growing digital demands of businesses and consumers. CenturyLink strives to be the trusted connection to the networked world and is focused on delivering technology that enhances the customer experience. Learn more at **http://news.centurylink.com/**.

About Corning Incorporated

Corning (**www.corning.com**) is one of the world's leading innovators in materials science, with a more than 165-year track record of life-changing inventions. Corning applies its unparalleled expertise in glass science, ceramic science, and optical physics along with its deep manufacturing and engineering capabilities to develop category-defining products that transform industries and enhance people's lives. Corning succeeds through sustained investment in RD&E, a unique combination of material and process innovation, and deep, trust-based relationships with customers who are global leaders in their industries.

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