



NEWS RELEASE

## CenturyTel Expands Metro Ethernet Offering to Meet High-Bandwidth, High-Speed Business Demands

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MONROE, La., Aug. 21 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- CenturyTel (NYSE: CTL) is expanding its Metro Ethernet service to provide solutions to businesses requiring cost-effective and reliable high-speed data transport.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20060628/DAW039LOGO> )

Ethernet is a transport mechanism that supports multiple service offerings and products. With high-speed data transmission capabilities from 3 Mbps up to 1 Gbps, CenturyTel's Metro Ethernet product suite offers a broad range of speed and pricing options suitable for the entire business community.

"CenturyTel's Ethernet offering enables businesses to connect multiple locations, transmit data at high speeds, and simplify their networks," said Chad Winkle, director of enterprise markets. "Our Ethernet product helps customers gain efficiencies by giving them the ability to utilize centralized servers, email, imaging, database and file sharing, archiving and back-up and a variety of other applications among multiple locations."

The service is available in select CenturyTel markets in Alabama, Colorado, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Ohio and Wisconsin. CenturyTel expects to continue to add more markets throughout the year.

Metro Ethernet service can benefit a variety of businesses, large and small. Hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices can view x-rays and MRIs remotely, and consult with healthcare professionals in different locations. Financial and corporate institutions with large, secure data backup and file sharing requirements need increasingly advanced Ethernet capabilities. School systems and city governments can utilize Ethernet service to link different locations to function as one system for data and file transfer and Internet and distance learning.

"We are excited to offer our business customers the advanced solutions and advantages Ethernet services can

deliver," Winkle said. "We will consult with our customers to provide the best solution to meet their data and networking needs which allows them to manage and grow their businesses more efficiently."

CenturyTel (NYSE: CTL) is a leading provider of communications, high-speed Internet and entertainment services in small-to-mid-size cities through our broadband and fiber transport networks. Included in the S&P 500 Index, CenturyTel delivers advanced communications with a personal touch to customers in 25 states. Visit us at <http://www.centurytel.com> .

SOURCE CenturyTel

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