



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel Wins Approval to Build Citywide Wi-Fi Network For Vail

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MONROE, La., Aug. 9 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Residents, businesses and visitors in Vail will soon have access to broadband wireless Internet service provided by CenturyTel and the Town of Vail. CenturyTel today announced that the Vail Town Council awarded the communications company a contract to build and operate a wireless broadband network for the Colorado ski resort destination.

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

Vail is the first Colorado city to move ahead with this type of partnership to build a municipal Wi-Fi network. The town selected CenturyTel to build its system following a competitive bid process that included proposals from six other companies. The agreement was unanimously approved by the Vail Town Council at its July 18 evening meeting.

CenturyTel will build a Wi-Fi mesh network in Vail and launch service by the end of 2006. Residents, businesses and visitors will be able to get free Internet access up to 300Kbps (kilobits per second) anywhere in town in one hour increments. Faster Internet service with speeds up to 3Mbps (megabits per second) will be available with pay plans for monthly, weekly or daily access.

"We applaud the Town of Vail for their forward thinking and initiative," Karen Puckett, CenturyTel president and chief operating officer, said. "This is a strategic step for CenturyTel to expand our technologically advanced business outside of our traditional local telephone markets."

CenturyTel and the Town of Vail worked together to develop additional services such as a Public Safety network and a private network for city workers. With these elements, the Town's first responders and other public safety officials, as well as town employees will be able to securely connect to their intranet network and the Internet.

"We will have a state-of-the-art system that benefits everyone -- residents, businesses, guests and our public safety personnel," said Vail Mayor Rod Slifer. "This is the kind of innovation that continues to differentiate Vail from other ski resort destinations."

The Wi-Fi network coverage will include the town limits/boundary of the Town of Vail. The network will deliver an affordable world-class Internet service to Vail residents, businesses and visitors. The citywide wireless system will use the latest in advanced carrier-grade mesh and wireless communications equipment to deliver high-speed wireless Internet access. Once the system is fully functional, it will be tested and fine-tuned to maximize the coverage area.

CenturyTel brings expert design and maintenance experience in building and operating communications networks. No capital will be required from the Town of Vail in the deployment or operation of the network. The company is committed to making the investment in capital and human resources to make the project a success. CenturyTel will bring advanced communications with a personal touch to the residents, businesses and visitors of Vail.

About CenturyTel

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 CenturyTel at www.centurytel.com.

SOURCE CenturyTel

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