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Lumen Brings Big Bandwidth to the Big Hats: Powering the Kentucky Derby® with Network-as-a-Service

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DENVER, April 23, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- 'The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports®' just got a serious tech upgrade. As Churchill Downs Racetrack ("Churchill Downs") prepares to host the 151st running of the Kentucky Derby, the historic venue has teamed up with **Lumen Technologies** (NYSE: LUMN) to bring Network-as-a-Service (NaaS) capabilities to the racetrack, delivering enhanced connectivity for hundreds of thousands of guests, media outlets, and mutuel operations during Derby Week.

"When you're hosting one of the greatest sporting spectacles on Earth, speed matters — and not just on the track," said Mike Wood, Senior IT Director "With Network-as-a-Service technology, we can bring high-capacity, secure connections online in minutes to power everything from media coverage to vendor support and guest Wi-Fi. It's that kind of behind-the-scenes innovation that ensures Derby Week runs smoothly and delivers unforgettable experiences to fans in the stands and around the globe."

With more than 385,000 visitors descending on Churchill Downs each year, the digital demands of Derby Week have vastly increased —jumping from 2–3 Gbps on a normal day to nearly 200 Gbps daily. Streaming, seamless mutuel operations, high-definition live broadcasts, mobile point-of-sale transactions, and Wi-Fi access all require network connections with low latency and high reliability – especially when milliseconds matter.

"Churchill Downs is an iconic venue operating in a high-stakes, high-velocity environment," said Dave Ward, Lumen chief technology and product officer. "By replacing temporary, hardwired circuits with a dynamic, on-demand Network-as-a-Service platform, they're gaining a self-service, cloud-like network experience that scales to match the pace of the Derby. That's the future of connectivity—and we're proud to help bring it to the track."

With 83 race days annually, Churchill Downs requires year-round high-performance connectivity and by using Lumen NaaS, the team can dynamically scale bandwidth up and down as needed, delivering continuous connectivity for critical operations such as veterinary services, security systems, and mutuel platforms.

Beyond the track and grandstands, Lumen's network also supports the backside community, home to many equestrians and their families who need schooling, internet, and communication.

Get the full story of how Lumen is powering the Kentucky Derby. Watch the video and read the use case to discover how Network-as-A Service is elevating the experience at Churchill Downs: **https://www.lumen.com/en-us/resources/customer-stories/churchill-downs.html**

About Lumen Technologies

Lumen is unleashing the world's digital potential. We ignite business growth by connecting people, data, and applications – quickly, securely, and effortlessly. As the trusted network for AI, Lumen uses the scale of our network to help companies realize AI's full potential. From metro connectivity to long-haul data transport to our edge cloud, security, managed service, and digital platform capabilities, we meet our customers' needs today and as they build for tomorrow. For news and insights visit **news.lumen.com**, LinkedIn: /lumentechnologies, X: @lumentechco, Facebook: /lumentechnologies, Instagram: @lumentechnologies, and YouTube: /lumentechnologies.

About The Kentucky Derby

The $5 million Kentucky Derby takes place on the first Saturday in May at historic Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. Inaugurated in 1875, the legendary 1 ¼-mile race for 3-year-olds is the longest continually-held major sporting event in the United States and the first leg of horse racing's Triple Crown series. Also known as The Run for the Roses® and The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports®, the Kentucky Derby is the most attended horse race in the nation. The 151st Kentucky Derby will take place on May 3, 2024. For more information, please visit **www.KentuckyDerby.com**.

Tickets for the 151st Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby on May 2-3 are available by visiting **www.KentuckyDerby.com** and **www.DerbyExperiences.com**, or call (502) 636-4447 to be a part of the most extraordinary Kentucky Derby yet.

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