



NEWS RELEASE

SkyComm to Build Nation's 'Third Coast' International Teleport

2003-03-27

HOUSTON, March 27 /PRNewswire/ -- SkyComm International broke ground today on a "third coast" international teleport and control center. This Gulf Coast teleport, near the Johnson Space Center at Ellington Field, will transport broadband data, voice and video services using satellite and fiber optic circuits. Expected to be fully operational during the third quarter of this year, this secure shared-use facility will be a multi-million dollar global hub/gateway for the energy, government, telemedicine, financial and aerospace industries.

SkyComm is installing 13.1-meter antennas, engineered with the most current components, during the first phase of construction. Each antenna will be about four stories tall and enable SkyComm to provide the highest utilization of satellite capacity, lowering customer costs at both ends, by increasing domestic efficiencies and reducing equipment costs on foreign soils. The lack of "long-haul" costs, due to the port's location near its clients, means even greater savings. Metro "last mile" problems are reduced through fiber agreements between SkyComm and its metro service providers.

"While these points are of interest to other industries as well, we are particularly excited about what this means to the energy industry in global offshore environments including the Gulf of Mexico," SkyComm President and CEO Bill B. McCrary, said. "The SkyComm teleport will serve as a bridge providing local companies with an enterprise Wide Area Network (WAN) spanning four continents and the oceans between."

SkyComm will provide turnkey communication services to clients who require particularly tight security for data. The presence of military and governmental interests at Ellington Field means the teleport site will be physically secure. The company accesses multiple satellites to provide digital connections to commercial and governmental entities in any environment in the world, including remote deserts, jungles and oceans. It includes redundant systems for electrical power and fiber optic circuitry. The thirty-year lease with the City of Houston includes an option for additional acreage and also provides for two five-year extensions.

SkyComm is headquartered in Houston. Its management team includes engineers and communication specialists who pioneered space communications at NASA during the Mercury, Apollo and Space Shuttle programs and who have experience in every phase of the domestic and international satellite industry.

CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE: CTL) and others hold interests in SkyComm. CenturyTel, headquartered in Monroe, La., is an Independent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) with annual revenues exceeding \$1.9 billion and serving customers in 22 states.

For more information about service availability or SkyComm's technology, contact McCrary, CTO Charles K. Stack or CFO Thomas S. Orem at (281) 272-7500, or write to SkyComm International, 2 Northpoint Drive, Suite 230, Houston, Texas 77060.

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SOURCE SkyComm International, Inc.

-0- 03/27/2003

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CO: SkyComm International, Inc.; CenturyTel, Inc.

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4229 03/27/2003 13:00 EST <http://www.prnewswire.com>