

Press Release

Portage, IN—The Northwest Indiana Forum, ComControl, and the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) joined by US Representative Peter J. Visclosky (D-Ind) and US Representative Joe Donnelly (D-Ind) announced the completion and availability of South Shore Fiber Link. Fiber Link is the region's newest provider-neutral, dark fiber backbone.

Fiber Link stretches 75 miles from the South Bend Airport to the NICTD Kensington station (Illinois) along the South Shore Commuter Rail Line with a spur to Elkhart through an arrangement with Norfolk Southern Rail Road. Fiber Link will connect with the St. Joe Valley MetroNet as well as the Chicago fiber optic grid. The aerial and terrestrial (buried) lines allow for redundancy and looping capabilities.

Fiber Link is not a phone company, Internet service provider or cable company. South Shore Fiber Link is the business of leasing carrier grade, vendor neutral, dark fiber "circuits" to community and corporate consumers.

The project is primarily the result of thoughtful and careful planning for the integration of fiber in NICTD's information technology upgrades. Boris Matakovic, CIO at NICTD stated "Fiber Link has provided us with incredible capacity, a boost to service quality and security."

NICTD will maintain the asset while ComControl will manage agreements and connect users to the Fiber Link network. This infrastructure immediately provides the region with a fiber optic corridor and a competitive edge for tech-based businesses; it is a strong foundation for economic development.

Vince Galbiati, President and CEO of the Northwest Indiana Forum said, "Fiber Link's advantages and provider-neutrality coupled with communities' ability to exempt personal property tax on IT equipment, through SEA 448, positions the region as an ideal location for tech-based businesses."

"Communities and companies now have choices," says Brian Baker, Principal of ComControl. "This project immediately delivers options to companies and communities that will significantly reduce costs and drastically grow capacity."

Background information:

Northwest Indiana Forum:

Funded by membership contributions and grants, Forum membership translates into a direct investment in the region. The Northwest Indiana Forum is a non-profit economic development and business leadership organization serving Northwest Indiana (Lake, Porter, LaPorte and Starke Counties).

Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District:

NICTD is the operator of the South Shore Passenger Line, an electrically powered interurban commuter rail between Millennium Station in downtown Chicago and the South Bend Regional Airport in South Bend, Indiana.

ComControl, Inc:

CCI is a leader in the telemanagement marketplace bridging the gap between what service providers offer, and how organizations best utilize them. CCI was one of the initial companies that lead the creation of the St. Joe Valley Metronet in St. Joseph County.

Congressman Joe Donnelly:

Joe Donnelly is the congressman from Indiana's 2nd District. As a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, he is a Democrat committed to a moderate agenda that includes fiscal discipline and strong national security. He is also on two committees that meet the diverse need of Indiana's 2nd District: Financial Services and Veterans' Affairs. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a B. A. in Government in 1977. Donnelly also graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1981.

Congressman Peter J. Visclosky:

Born and raised in Northwest Indiana, Pete Visclosky represents the people of Indiana's First Congressional District. He Chairs the Steel Caucus and the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee and serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and the Subcommittee on Financial Services. He received a BS in Accounting from Indiana University Northwest and received a law degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Masters in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University.

Source: Northwest Indiana Forum