

focus BROADBAND



STIMULUS UPDATE

September 2011

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ION is attending the CompTel trade show in Orlando in October and NETS show at Turning Stone Casino in November
- Lending a hand: ION has been assisting with network repairs in Schoharie and Middleburgh as a result of the flooding from Hurricane Irene
- Look for an ION Project Launch Event in October



SPOTLIGHT:

Alfred University

Founded on Dec. 5, 1836, Alfred University was among the first institutions of higher education in the nation to educate women in the same classrooms as men. It was also among the first in the country to admit students regardless of ethnicity, religious preference or ability to pay.

Alfred University has grown into a comprehensive university now comprising five colleges or schools – Liberal Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Art & Design, Business and the Graduate School – with the broadband needs of a research institution. Through the Inamori School of Engineering, which offers bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees, Alfred University faculty work with industries and researchers around the world, making high-speed, high-volume Internet access critical. Additionally, the University is now offering master's degree programs in Brooklyn and Victor, NY, and is expanding its offerings internationally, initiatives that also require more broadband capacity.

"Communication technologies are essential to preparing New York's 21st century workforce and developing an information economy. It is no secret that Internet and Network connectivity drive the business and academic functions of higher education," said Gary Roberts, director of Information Technology Services for the University. "The ION BTOP award is improving Internet connectivity, decreasing bandwidth price, and providing redundancy for anchor institutions such as Alfred University all over New York State."

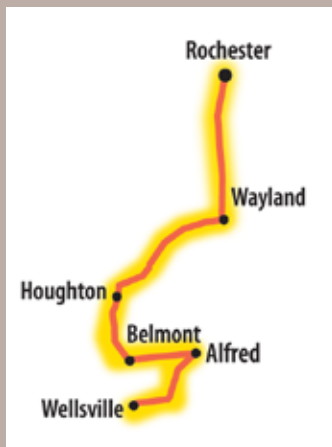
FAST FACTS:

- Undergraduate enrollment: ~2,000
- Graduate enrollment: 300
- Faculty: 176
- Average class size: 18
- Student/faculty ratio: 12:1

For more: <http://www.alfred.edu/>

Project 2: Western New York Redundant Fiber Ring (via Armstrong Tel, Empire Tel and Frontier Communications)

ION in conjunction with Empire Telephone, Armstrong Telephone, and Frontier Communications will construct a 152-mile route protected fiber broadband backbone to connect Whitesville, NY to Rochester, NY. The route will connect Wellsville, Alfred, Belmont, Oramel, Caneadea, Houghton, Filmore, Nunda, Dansville, Wayland and Rochester, NY. In addition, the build will make a connection at Wayland to complete the route protection through Odessa and Prattsburg. This build goes through 12 towns, with a total population of 47,990; representing 20,749 households, 2,677 businesses and 28 anchor institutions.



Partner Profile: EMPIRE FAMILY OF SERVICES

Empire Family of Services (EFoS) is a family owned operation located primarily in the Finger Lakes region of New York. The telephone company - Empire Telephone Corp. (ETC) operates in 6 counties and covers over 320 square miles of non contiguous territory. Through the various subsidiaries of EFoS we offer Voice, IPTV and Data services over both copper and Fiber To The Home facilities. In addition, EFoS provides high capacity data circuits to private businesses, state and local government agencies, law enforcement agencies, as well as cellular backhaul for many cellular companies.

"Working together with ION, Empire Family of Services has been able to expand our fiber networks as well increase our bandwidth requirements in order to meet our customer's demands" says VP/GM Brian Ketchum. EFoS has also expanded fiber facilities to our Pennsylvania network (North Penn Family of Services) which allows our companies to be connected together to create a better more robust network.

Empire is currently working with ION on additional fiber builds in several areas that will allow both ION and EFoS's to grow beyond our current footprint, and to add additional customers to our state of the art fiber network at reasonable cost. "EFoS's is committed to providing rural America with high capacity broadband networks using the very latest technology. Using fiber and FTTH networks will also ensure increased capacity for growth well into the future" stated Joe Gottwald, VP Network Operations.

Partnering with ION, Empire Family of Services has been able to provide our customers in rural areas with the very best telecommunications, broadband, and television services without the big city hassles.

AWARD UPDATE

Project 2

- Majority of make ready work underway
- Placement of fiber strand commenced in July 2011

Project 4b

- Majority of make ready work underway
- Placement of fiber strand commenced in June 2011

Project 1

- Make ready work partially underway
- Placement of support cables and fiber strand commenced in July 2011

Project 9

- Make ready work partially underway
- Placement of support cables and fiber strand in progress

DWDM Electronics RFP awarded in July

Anchor Institution



INDEPENDENT
OPTICAL
NETWORK

