



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **New Dakota Carrier Network facility expands security, support for local clients operating in global business environment**

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(Bismarck, North Dakota) – Dakota Carrier Network (DCN) broke ground today on a new Network Operations Center in Bismarck, N.D. The new 42,000-square-foot, highly secure facility being built at 4202 Coleman Street, off of 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N, is designed to accommodate the company's expanding network and growing customer needs, as well as provide even greater assurance of business survivability.

"We appreciate the great public-sector, private-sector partnership we have forged with DCN, which has helped to make the latest communication technology available to the people of North Dakota," said Gov. John Hoeven.

### **Accommodates expanding network and customer needs**

DCN has experienced substantial growth over the past 12 years," said Evan Hass, DCN General Manager, "assuming an even more critical role in the survivability of a large part of the telecommunications infrastructure in North Dakota. This new facility provides us with additional space to accommodate our

growing customer base with Co-Lo space for their equipment needs as well as Data Center Services.”

With more than 16,000 miles of fiber optic cable in service, the fifteen companies that own DCN represent all the major local independent telephone companies and serve more than 164,000 customers in 250 communities – more than 85 percent of all the exchanges in the state.

“These companies are committed to delivering leading edge technology across the state, providing our customers with increased communications capabilities and business continuity,” added Hass, “and this building is one more component in achieving ultimate connectivity for North Dakota organizations.”

### **Built to ensure “survivability” during catastrophic events**

“The new DCN Network Operations Center will act as a “Fort Knox” for network connectivity, support and monitoring purposes,” said Hass, adding that the building is a carrier grade hardened facility, having been built to ensure 99.999% network uptime.

“DCN provides network connectivity to North Dakota’s most critical institutions, including health care, public safety, state government and financial organizations. While business continuity and survivability in the face of a catastrophe is important for any organization, it is especially critical for those entities that provide vital services,” said Hass.

The vital portion of the new center will be constructed to withstand F4 tornado force winds and will be backed up by a 1-megawatt generator and battery plant, which will provide power to the network in case of power failure. “This building provides reliability and redundancy that ensures business continuity for our customers now and in the future,” said Hass.

In addition to the business customers relying on DCN’s delivery of advanced technology, contractual arrangements provide services to government entities

including North Dakota's 171 school districts and the North Dakota healthcare Association with the bioterrorism Wide Area Network (BTWAN).

### **About DCN**

DCN currently operates 12 POPs (Point of Presence) across the multi-state region, each acting as an "on/off" ramp to the local service provider for making the connections. The company provides high-speed point-to-point connections, Ethernet and high-speed Internet services on a statewide fiber optic DWDM network. The fiber backbone makes it possible for all of North Dakota's businesses to obtain access to a network with high-speed capabilities. This high-speed digital facility is built as a diverse routed ring network, providing reliable high quality service with a single point of contact for ordering, installation, repair and billing.

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