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E-PORT OFFERS BUSINESSES A SPEEDY CONNECTION TO THE INTERNET

**New service avoids the public switched telephone company to ensure
swift, reliable and affordable access for businesses.**

Feb. 12, 2003, ST. LOUIS — Primary Network, an internet access solutions company, and Digital Teleport, Inc., a wholesale fiber optic transport service in the Midwest, announced today they are in discussions with the property managers of an additional six buildings to provide e-Port internet access for their tenants.

The four buildings in Clayton and two in downtown St. Louis would bring the total to 23 buildings in the metropolitan area. Currently 17 buildings in the St. Louis area already have e-Port with two buildings in Kansas City slated to come online in late February.

“This is the only internet access any business will ever need. Traditional internet connections require a new local loop any time you want to increase bandwidth. With e-Port, you can go from a 1 Mb to 100 Mb connection with just a phone call. It’s the network of tomorrow available right now,” said Douglas Reineri, Vice President of Access Sales for Primary Network.

e-Port is a unique broadband alternative because it bypasses the public switched telephone network. Whether it is a T-1, ISDN, DSL, or dial-up modem, the “last mile” for all connections is handled by the local telephone company before rerouting the request to the internet.

Most internet congestion occurs at this point of the connection. Once a connection navigates through all the traffic on its local loop, the phone company then directs the user’s request into one of several internet backbones.

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e-Port eliminates the local loop by wiring a building directly into a dedicated metropolitan fiber optic network lying beneath the street. The fiber is run into the basement level of a building and internal cabling within the walls connects to all floors providing direct access for tenants.

The connection within individual offices is as simple as a regular RJ45 telephone jack. Using a standard phone jack eliminates the need for additional hardware. A hub is all that is necessary to add computers to the e-Port connection.

Additionally, e-Port gives businesses a virtual local area network (VLAN) which allows for a secure internet environment especially for sensitive internet transactions. All businesses within the building can conduct transactions via their own VLAN without the risk of security breaches between offices.

“If you’re in one of those buildings where e-Port is available, your business can have tomorrow’s internet solution today and it won’t cost you anymore than you’re currently spending for access, stated Reineri. “And, in many instances, it will cost less.”

There is an additional cost savings as well. Businesses who currently have an internal network can plug into e-Port without purchasing any additional equipment. By using a company’s existing network, hub, and telephone jack, e-Port’s flexible connection is accomplished without expensive switches and routers.

Monthly cost for e-Port varies with the amount of bandwidth a company uses. A two-person office using only a small amount of bandwidth will pay less than the 200-person firm using a greater portion of the bandwidth. This approach makes internet access more like a utility than a premium service.

“One of the features that make e-Port unique is the ability to turn up or down the amount of bandwidth a user needs. If you need more bandwidth, just turn it up a notch or two. Just like your electric bill, you’ll only pay for the bandwidth you use,” added Reineri.

But don’t look to see buildings everywhere in the area equipped with e-Port. Besides obtaining the access rights with property managers, installation contractors must also have the appropriate permits from the city or municipality before they can begin digging up streets and sidewalks.

“It costs us about \$50,000 to ‘light up’ a single building, so not every building will have e-Port available,” said Reineri. “But, we’re currently looking into other ways to connect small buildings to the e-Port system. One of the methods we are considering is wireless technology to connect smaller buildings to one large building using a point-to-multipoint distribution system. That way we can offer e-Port to businesses in smaller or one tenant buildings,” he said.

“We are firmly behind this technology and we will continue to look for ways to improve it and expand. This is truly the next generation platform for internet access,” stated Reineri.

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Primary Network internet access solutions are available in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas. Primary Network is a Rivercity Internet Group company (RCIG). Other companies under the RCIG umbrella include CDM Fantasy Sports, PrimaryClick.com, Hostirian, Evad Solutions and various internet security products.

Digital Teleports, Inc. is a fiber optics transport service with more than 5,700 miles in its network throughout eight Midwestern states.