

Reading Board of Selectmen Grants Verizon Authority to Offer FiOS TV to More Than 23,000 Potential Viewers

Board's Vote for Cable Competition Will Bring Citizens Choice, Innovation and Value

January 26, 2006

Media contacts:

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READING, Mass. – The long wait will soon be over for Reading residents eager for cable-TV competition, thanks to a unanimous Board of Selectmen vote Wednesday night (Jan. 25) authorizing Verizon to offer its fiber-optic-powered FiOS TV in the town.

With its more than 23,000 potential viewers, Reading is the second Massachusetts municipality to grant Verizon a cable franchise. The company also offers FiOS TV in Woburn, Mass., as well as other locations in New York, Texas, Florida and Virginia.

Verizon launched FiOS TV Sept. 22, 2005, in Keller, Texas, unveiling a broad collection of all-digital programming with more than 330 total channels and more on the way. Availability plans for FiOS TV in Reading will be announced soon.

"We applaud the selectmen and the town manager for moving Reading to the forefront of communities nationwide where consumers will be able to choose their cable provider as easily as they choose their phone company," said Donna Cupelo, Verizon region president for Massachusetts and Rhode Island. "Competition drives innovation, value and service quality, and it puts the consumer in control.

"Verizon will compete aggressively for subscribers in Reading with our FiOS services, which are fueled by our lightning-fast fiber-optic network."

Under the 15-year agreement, which became effective January 25, Verizon will begin to provide FiOS TV to potential subscribers. In addition, the agreement contains provisions for the network's future growth; financial support and capacity for educational and government access channels; cable service to government buildings; and other important benefits to the town, including insurance, indemnification and enforcement protections.

FiOS TV is designed to be a formidable competitor to cable and satellite. It is delivered over Verizon's fiber-to-the-premises network, which has industry-leading quality and reliability. Fiber delivers amazingly sharp pictures and sound, and has the capacity to transmit a wide array of high-definition programming that is so clear and intense it seems to leap from the TV screen. Verizon's network design includes backup facilities not common to traditional cable systems, such as duplicate "head ends" where the TV service receives national programming. In addition to FiOS TV, Verizon's fiber network also allows the company to offer consumers and businesses high-speed FiOS Internet Service at download speeds of up to 30 mbps (megabits per second) and upload speeds up to 5 mbps.*

NOTE: actual (throughput) speeds will vary.

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE:VZ), a Dow 30 company, is a leader in delivering broadband and other communication innovations to wireline and wireless customers. Verizon operates America's most reliable wireless network, serving 51.3 million customers nationwide; one of the most expansive wholly-owned global IP networks; and one of the nation's premier wireline networks, serving home, business and wholesale customers. Based

in New York, Verizon has a diverse workforce of approximately 250,000 and generates annual consolidated operating revenues of approximately \$90 billion. For more information, visit www.verizon.com.

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Verizon Brings Blazing-Fast Computer Connections to Customers in Westboro

New Fiber-to-the-Premises Network Delivers FiOS Broadband Services to Consumers, Small Businesses

December 6, 2005

Media contacts:

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WESTBORO, Mass. -- Verizon customers in Westboro can experience breathtaking high-speed Internet access as the company unveils its Verizon FiOS (FYE'-ose) suite of Internet services to homes and small business here.

The company is offering several tiers of the industry's premier mass-market, broadband services, with downstream (download) speeds of up to 5, 15 and 30 Mbps (megabits per second) and upstream (upload) speeds of up to 5 Mbps.*

Verizon is already delivering Fios services over its new fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) networks in more than half the states where it offers landline communications service. In Massachusetts, FiOS Internet Service now is widely available to customers in 23 communities.

Residential customers who want to determine whether they can order FiOS Internet Service can call **888-GET FIOS (888-438-3467)** or visit Verizon's FiOS Web site at www.verizonfios.com. Small businesses can contact their local Verizon business office or account manager to determine if they qualify for FiOS Internet Service for Business.

FTTP technology utilizes fiber-optic connections - instead of copper wire - directly into homes and businesses to enable a broad array of voice, data and video applications. In addition to its current FiOS Internet Service, Verizon plans to launch FiOS TV to compete directly with cable-TV providers. Once the necessary network equipment is in place, FiOS TV will be available in markets where Verizon has negotiated cable franchise agreements with local authorities.

"FiOS is setting the new standard for consumer and small-business broadband services in America," said Donna Cupelo, Verizon president of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. "Customers who already subscribe to FiOS services are astounded at what they now can do with their online experience. Video chats and conferencing, purchased digital movie downloads and interactive multi-player games have become a part of their daily lives.

"And FiOS for Business gives companies robust connection speeds for bandwidth-intensive applications at prices close to those the companies pay for ordinary broadband services," said Cupelo.

For Consumers, Blazing Speeds at Affordable Prices

Each FiOS service for consumers is available either as part of a bundle of local and long-distance calling services from Verizon, or as a stand-alone Internet access service. Consumers can receive a discount with a one-year commitment to FiOS, along with free installation of their primary computer.

There are three tiers of Verizon FiOS Internet Service for consumers:

- 5 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Suited for Internet surfing and basic computer functions. \$34.95 a month with a one-year agreement or as part of a calling package, or \$39.95 a month stand-alone.
- 15 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Appealing to families that have multiple computers and various needs such as media downloads and the ability to access or share large files. \$44.95 a month with a one-year agreement or as part of a calling package, or \$49.95 a month stand-alone.
- 30 Mbps downstream and 5 Mbps upstream. Designed for communications-intensive power users with significant bandwidth needs, such as telecommuters or work-at-home households and avid online gamers. \$179.95 a month with a one-year agreement or as part of a calling package, or \$199.95 a month stand-alone.

Each consumer data offer includes the suite of services currently available to Verizon Online DSL customers at no additional charge, including: MSN Premium content and features; Verizon's new Broadband Beat entertainment portal optimized for high-speed access featuring news, games, streaming video and more; up to nine e-mail accounts with 30 megabytes (MB) of storage for the primary account and an additional 10 MB for each sub-account; address book and calendar; 10 MB personal Web space and a Web-site building tool; and access to newsgroups.

Small Businesses Can Get Big-Biz Speeds

Small-business owners can choose from three flavors of service and either a dynamic Internet protocol (IP) address or a static IP address. Dynamic IP addresses are best suited for small businesses that do not have a Web site but still use the Internet for research or light to moderate e-mail. Static IP addresses, where a specific Internet routing code is assigned for exclusive use, are ideal for small businesses that:

- Are highly automated.
- Need to host Web or e-mail servers, or both.
- Use e-mail extensively to send large files with attachments.
- Have e-commerce capabilities.
- Have employees who telecommute.

The three tiers of Verizon FiOS Internet Service for Business are:

- 15 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Ideal for companies performing significant amounts of online research. Its upstream speed accelerates transactions and large-file transfers. \$59.95 a month with a dynamic IP address and \$99.95 a month with a static IP address.
- 5 Mbps downstream and 5 Mbps upstream. A powerful symmetrical service, with the same high capacity downstream and upstream. Suited for companies with multiple computers needing Internet access and e-mail. \$169.95 a month with a dynamic IP address and \$209.95 a month with a static IP address.
- 30 Mbps downstream and 5 Mbps upstream. Designed for communications-intensive companies with bandwidth-hungry needs such as video streaming, network storage applications and Web hosting. \$349.95 a month with a dynamic IP address and \$389.95 a month with a static IP address.

Business customers can receive discounts by buying the service as part of a Verizon package that includes local and long-distance service. The Freedom for Business package offers a 20-percent discount off the monthly charge, making the 15/2 Mbps service only \$47.95 with a dynamic IP address. Variations for Business offers a 10-percent discount off the monthly charge for a dynamic or static IP address. A one-year agreement is required for any service tier, with or without a package.

All business service tiers include free professional installation and 24x7 business-grade technical support. Companies also receive 20 Mb (megabytes) of Web space and unlimited remote dial-up access that keeps employees connected when they're on the road.

** NOTE: Actual (throughput) speeds will vary.*

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE: VZ), a Dow 30 company, is a leader in delivering broadband and other communication innovations to wireline and wireless customers. Verizon operates America's most reliable wireless network, serving 49.3 million customers nationwide, and one of the nation's premier wireline networks, serving home, business and wholesale customers in 28 states. Based in New York, Verizon has a diverse workforce of nearly 215,000 and generates annual revenues of more than \$71 billion from four business segments: Domestic Telecom, Domestic Wireless, Information Services and International. For more information, visit www.verizon.com.

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Verizon Brings Blazing-Fast Computer Connections to Customers in Georgetown

New Fiber-to-the-Premises Network Delivers FiOS Broadband Services to Consumers, Small Businesses

November 9, 2005

Media contacts:

Patricia Harty, 781-224-2005

Jack Hoey, 617-743-4760

GEORGETOWN, Mass. -- Verizon customers in Georgetown can experience breathtaking high-speed Internet access as the company unveils its Verizon FiOS (FYE'-ose) suite of Internet services to homes and small business here.

A growing number of residents and small businesses in Georgetown now can order the industry's premier mass-market broadband services.

The company is offering several tiers of service with downstream (download) speeds of up to 5, 15 and 30 Mbps (megabits per second) and upstream (upload) speeds of up to 5 Mbps.*

Verizon is already delivering Fios services over its new fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) networks in half the states where it offers landline communications service. In Massachusetts, FiOS Internet Service now is widely available to customers in 22 communities.

Residential customers who want to determine whether they can order FiOS Internet Service can call **888-GET FIOS (888-438-3467)** or visit Verizon's FiOS Web site at www.verizonfios.com. Small businesses can contact their local Verizon business office or account manager to determine if they qualify for FiOS Internet Service for Business.

FTTP technology utilizes fiber-optic connections - instead of copper wire - directly into homes and businesses to enable a broad array of voice, data and video applications. In addition to its current FiOS Internet Service, Verizon plans to launch FiOS TV to compete directly with cable-TV providers. Once the necessary network equipment is in place, FiOS TV will be available in markets where Verizon has negotiated cable franchise agreements with local authorities.

"FiOS is setting the new standard for consumer and small-business broadband services in America," said Donna Cupelo, Verizon president of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. "Customers who already subscribe to FiOS services are astounded at what they now can do with their online experience. Video chats and conferencing, purchased digital movie downloads and interactive multi-player games have become a part of their daily lives.

"And FiOS for Business gives companies robust connection speeds for bandwidth-intensive applications at prices close to those the companies pay for ordinary broadband services," said Cupelo.

For Consumers, Blazing Speeds at Affordable Prices

Each FiOS service for consumers is available either as part of a bundle of local and long-distance calling services from Verizon, or as a stand-alone Internet access service. Consumers can receive a discount with a one-year commitment to FiOS, along with free installation of their primary computer.

There are three tiers of Verizon FiOS Internet Service for consumers:

- 5 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Suited for Internet surfing and basic computer functions. \$34.95 a month with a one-year agreement or as part of a calling package, or \$39.95 a month stand-alone.
- 15 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Appealing to families that have multiple computers and various needs such as media downloads and the ability to access or share large files. \$44.95 a month with a one-year agreement or as part of a calling package, or \$49.95 a month stand-alone.
- 30 Mbps downstream and 5 Mbps upstream. Designed for communications-intensive power users with significant bandwidth needs, such as telecommuters or work-at-home households and avid online gamers. \$179.95 a month with a one-year agreement or as part of a calling package, or \$199.95 a month stand-alone.

Each consumer data offer includes the suite of services currently available to Verizon Online DSL customers at no additional charge, including: MSN Premium content and features; Verizon's new Broadband Beat entertainment portal optimized for high-speed access featuring news, games, streaming video and more; up to nine e-mail accounts with 30 megabytes (MB) of storage for the primary account and an additional 10 MB for each sub-account; address book and calendar; 10 MB personal Web space and a Web-site building tool; and access to newsgroups.

Small Businesses Can Get Big-Biz Speeds

Small-business owners can choose from three flavors of service and either a dynamic Internet protocol (IP) address or a static IP address. Dynamic IP addresses are best suited for small businesses that do not have a Web site but still use the Internet for research or light to moderate e-mail. Static IP addresses, where a specific Internet routing code is assigned for exclusive use, are ideal for small businesses that:

- Are highly automated.
- Need to host Web or e-mail servers, or both.
- Use e-mail extensively to send large files with attachments.
- Have e-commerce capabilities.
- Have employees who telecommute.

The three tiers of Verizon FiOS Internet Service for Business are:

- 15 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Ideal for companies performing significant amounts of online research. Its upstream speed accelerates transactions and large-file transfers. \$59.95 a month with a dynamic IP address and \$99.95 a month with a static IP address.
- 5 Mbps downstream and 5 Mbps upstream. A powerful symmetrical service, with the same high capacity downstream and upstream. Suited for companies with multiple computers needing Internet access and e-mail. \$169.95 a month with a dynamic IP address and \$209.95 a month with a static IP address.
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Business customers can receive discounts by buying the service as part of a Verizon package that includes local and long-distance service. The Freedom for Business package offers a 20-percent discount off the monthly charge, making the 15/2 Mbps service only \$47.95 with a dynamic IP address. Variations for Business offers a 10-percent discount off the monthly charge for a dynamic or static IP address. A one-year agreement is required for any service tier, with or without a package.

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City of Woburn Awards Video Franchise to Verizon, Providing More Choice and Benefits to Consumers

Massachusetts Municipality Is First in State to Grant Local Franchise Agreement, Opening the Door to Improved Competition; Verizon to Offer FiOS TV to Woburn's 15,000 Households

September 30, 2006

Media contacts:

Jack Hoey, 617-743-4760

WOBURN, Mass. – The city of Woburn has become the first community in Massachusetts to award a video franchise to Verizon, providing consumers with more choice for video entertainment. Mayor John C. Curran approved the franchise. As a result, Verizon will offer its technologically advanced FiOS TV product via the company's new, fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network.

Residents in this city of 37,000 will soon be in the unusual situation of having choices from three landline providers of video services. Only 4 percent of Americans nationwide have even two cable-TV providers.

"This is great news for the residents of Woburn, who will have even more choice for their video entertainment," said Donna Cupelo, region president for Verizon in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. "We commend Mayor Curran and the city's Cable Advisory Committee for their dedication and hard work throughout this process. They recognize and support the technological advantage and competitive benefits, as well as the distinctive edge in economic development and quality of life that fiber will bring to Woburn."

Myles Calvey, business manager for Local 2222 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), said, "This new technology is not only good for consumers, it's also good for our membership. Verizon is adding in Massachusetts alone 200 new union jobs as the result of this multi-year investment to bring fiber directly to homes and businesses."

Mayor Curran approved the franchise following a favorable recommendation Sept. 28 by the advisory committee.

Curran said, "We are very excited to keep Woburn on the cutting edge for consumer choice in video services and for new technology that makes our city an even more attractive place to live and do business. At the same time, this is a fair and equitable contract. It treats all video providers equally; protects consumer rights; and ensures continued financial support for our public, educational and governmental access channels."

The mayor's decision gives Verizon the authority to offer FiOS TV to the 15,000 households in Woburn. Many Verizon customers here are already enjoying FiOS Internet Service, which delivers blazing-fast download speeds ranging from up to 5 Mbps to up to 30 Mbps (megabits per second).*

Verizon launched FiOS TV Sept. 22 in Keller, Texas, unveiling a broad collection of all-digital programming with more than 330 total channels and more on the way. Availability plans for FiOS TV in Woburn will be announced soon.

In addition to Texas and Massachusetts, Verizon has also obtained video franchises in California, Florida and Virginia.

Under the franchise agreement for Woburn, which covers 15 years, Verizon will provide service to the entire city. In addition, the agreement contains provisions for financial support and capacity for public and governmental access channels and other important provisions.

FiOS TV is a state-of-the-art video service designed to compete with cable and satellite and win. It is delivered over Verizon's fiber-to-the-premises network, which has industry-leading quality and reliability. Fiber delivers amazingly sharp pictures and sound, and has the capacity to transmit a wide array of high-definition programming that is so clear and intense it seems to leap from the TV screen. Verizon's network design includes backup facilities not common to traditional cable systems, such as duplicate "head ends" where the TV service receives national programming.

Verizon currently is constructing FTTP networks in more than half the states where it offers landline communications services, including 40 communities in Massachusetts.

FiOS TV will deliver a wide range of programming designed to meet the entertainment and information needs of all customers. They will be able to buy FiOS TV as a stand-alone service or packaged with voice and FiOS Internet Service. Verizon has announced video content agreements with major and independent network groups, including The Walt Disney Company, NBC Universal Cable, Starz Entertainment Group, Showtime Networks, Turner Broadcasting System, A&E Television Networks, Discovery Networks, Si TV and NFL Network.

** NOTE: Actual (throughput) speeds will vary.*

With more than \$71 billion in annual revenues, Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE:VZ) is one of the world's leading providers of communications services. Verizon has a diverse work force of more than 214,000 in four business units: Domestic Telecom provides customers based in 28 states with wireline and other telecommunications services, including broadband. Verizon Wireless owns and operates the nation's most reliable wireless network, serving 47.4 million voice and data customers across the United States. Information Services operates directory publishing businesses and provides electronic commerce services. International includes wireline and wireless operations and investments, primarily in the Americas and Europe. For more information, visit www.verizon.com.

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Verizon Brings Blazing-Fast Computer Connections to Customers in 5 Additional Massachusetts Communities

New Fiber-to-the-Premises Network Delivers Fios Broadband Services, With Prices as Low as \$34.95

July 11, 2005

Media contact:

Jack Hoey, 617-743-4760

BOSTON – Verizon customers in three additional Massachusetts communities now can experience breathtaking high-speed Internet access as the company begins to offer its Verizon FiosSM (FYE'-ose) Internet Service to homes here.

Verizon is rolling out the industry's premier consumer broadband services to customers in Dedham, Marlborough, Medway, Middleboro, and Newton. The company is offering three tiers of service with downstream (download) speeds of up to 5, 15 and 30 Mbps (megabits per second).*

Verizon is already delivering Fios services over its new fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) networks in half the states where it offers landline communications service. In Massachusetts, Fios also is available in Andover, Bedford, Belmont, Burlington, Holliston, Hopkinton, Lexington, Lynnfield, Natick, North Reading, Reading, Topsfield and West Newbury and Winchester.

Customers who want to determine whether they can order Fios can call 888-GET FIOS (888-438-3467) or visit Verizon's Fios Web site at www.verizon.net/Fios.

FTTP technology utilizes fiber-optic connections – instead of copper wire – directly into homes to enable a broad array of voice, data and video applications. In addition to its current Fios Internet Service, Verizon plans to launch Fios TV in 2005 to compete directly with cable TV providers. Fios TV will be available in markets where Verizon has negotiated cable franchise agreements with local authorities.

"Fios is setting the new standard for consumer broadband services in America," said. Bob Ingalls, president of Verizon's Retail Markets Group. "Our customers who already subscribe to Fios services are astounded at what they now can do with their online experience. Video chats and conferencing, purchased digital movie downloads and interactive multi-player games have become a part of their daily lives."

Customer reaction to Verizon's new fiber-based Internet access service has been very positive, with broadband subscribers already more than doubling in the company's inaugural Fios market of Keller, Texas, just outside Dallas/Fort Worth.

Ingalls added that Verizon is using the most advanced technology to deliver downstream and upstream speeds that will give customers truly interactive, two-way broadband capabilities.

"The Internet is an increasingly interactive place where quickly sending information is just as important as quickly receiving it," Ingalls said. "From uploading multi-megabyte e-mails with photo attachments, to interacting with the office from home, Fios gives customers unprecedented speed, efficiency and productivity at very competitive prices."

Each Fios service is available either as part of a bundle of local and long-distance calling services from Verizon, or as a stand-alone Internet access service.

There are three tiers of Verizon Fios Internet Service for consumers:

- 5 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Suited for Internet surfing and basic computer functions. \$34.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$39.95 a month stand-alone.
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- 30 Mbps downstream and 5 Mbps upstream. Designed for communications-intensive power users with significant bandwidth needs, such as telecommuters or work-at-home households and avid online gamers. \$179.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$199.95 a month stand-alone.

"In addition to an outstanding array of high-speed access options, we will provide our customers with a first-class installation experience, in which a Verizon technician visits the home, sets up the connection and configures the service," said Ingalls.

Each consumer data offer includes the suite of services currently available to Verizon Online DSL customers at no additional charge, including: MSN Premium content; Verizon's new Broadband Beat entertainment portal optimized for high-speed access featuring news, games, streaming video and more; up to nine e-mail accounts with 30 megabytes (MB) of storage for the primary account and an additional 10 MB for each sub-account; address book and calendar; 10 MB personal Web space and a Web site building tool; and access to newsgroups.

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May 9, 2005

Media contact:

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Verizon is rolling out the industry's premier consumer broadband services to customers in Lexington, Natick and Winchester. The company is offering three tiers of service with downstream (download) speeds of up to 5, 15 and 30 Mbps (megabits per second).* Verizon is already delivering FiOS services over its new fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) networks in half the states where it offers landline communications service. In Massachusetts, FiOS also is available in Andover, Bedford, Belmont, Burlington, Holliston, Hopkinton, Lynnfield, North Reading, Reading, Topsfield and West Newbury. Customers who want to determine whether they can order FiOS can call 888-GET FIOS (888-438-3467) or visit Verizon's FiOS Web site at www.verizon.net/fios.

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Verizon Brings Blazing-Fast Computer Connections to Customers in 8 Additional Massachusetts Communities

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April 11, 2005

Media contact:

Jack Hoey, 617-743-4760

BOSTON –eight additional Massachusetts communities now can experience breathtaking high-speed Internet access as the company begins to offer its Verizon FiOSsm (FYE'-ose) Internet Verizon customers in Service to homes here.

Verizon is rolling out the industry's premier consumer broadband services to customers in Andover, Bedford, Belmont, Burlington, Hopkinton, Lynnfield, North Reading and Topsfield. The company is offering three tiers of service with downstream (download) speeds of up to 5, 15 and 30 Mbps (megabits per second).*

Verizon is delivering FiOS services over its new fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network, which the company is currently building in portions of Massachusetts and 13 other states. The company also is offering FiOS in Holliston, Reading and West Newbury, and will announce other areas as the service becomes available.

Customers who want to determine whether they can order FiOS can call 888-GET FIOS (888-438-3467) or visit Verizon's FiOS Web site at www.verizon.net/fios.

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Customer reaction to Verizon's new fiber-based Internet access service has been very positive, with broadband subscribers already more than doubling in the company's inaugural FiOS market of Keller, Texas, just outside Dallas/Fort Worth.

Ingalls added that Verizon is using the most advanced technology to deliver downstream and upstream speeds that will give customers truly interactive, two-way broadband capabilities.

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“In addition to an outstanding array of high-speed access options, we will provide our customers with a first-class installation experience, in which a Verizon technician visits the home, sets up the connection and configures the service,” said Ingalls.

Each consumer data offer includes the suite of services currently available to Verizon Online DSL customers at no additional charge, including: MSN Premium content; Verizon’s new Broadband Beat entertainment portal optimized for high-speed access featuring news, games, streaming video and more; up to nine e-mail accounts with 30 megabytes (MB) of storage for the primary account and an additional 10 MB for each sub-account; address book and calendar; 10 MB personal Web space and a Web site building tool; and access to newsgroups.

* NOTE: Actual (throughput) speeds will vary.

With more than \$71 billion in annual revenues, Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE:VZ) is one of the world’s leading providers of communications services. Verizon has a diverse work force of more than 210,000 in four business units: Domestic Telecom serves customers based in 29 states with wireline telecommunications services, including broadband and other services. Verizon Wireless owns and operates the nation’s most reliable wireless network, serving 43.8 million voice and data customers across the United States. Information Services operates directory publishing businesses and provides electronic commerce services. International includes wireline and wireless operations and investments, primarily in the Americas and Europe. For more information, visit www.verizon.com.

Verizon Brings Fiber to Consumers and Small Businesses in 11 Additional Massachusetts Communities

Industry-Leading Verizon Fiber-to-the-Premises Network Means Blazing-Fast Data, Crystal Clear Voice and Video Capability. Company's Transformational Technology to Benefit Residential and Business Customers, Boost Economic Development.

April 4, 2005

Media contact:

Jack Hoey, 617-743-4760

BOSTON – Verizon is bringing to 11 additional communities in Massachusetts one of the most significant advancements in telecommunications technology in the past 100 years.

The company today announced it is rolling out a fiber-optic network – known as fiber to the premises, or FTTP -- to many customers in the communities of Georgetown, Hamilton, Littleton, Marlborough, Middleboro, Needham, Stoneham, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Wakefield and Wenham.

The all-fiber network will deliver faster data speeds and crystal clear voice, and also has the capability to offer a full suite of video services, a competitive choice to existing cable television providers. The company will seek a franchise agreement before offering cable TV service in a selected community.

Today's announcement brings to 39 the number of communities in eastern Massachusetts identified by the company for deployment of its all-fiber network. The others are Andover, Bedford, Belmont, Boxford, Burlington, Canton, Dedham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Lakeville, Lexington, Lincoln, Lynn, Lynnfield, North Reading, Nahant, Natick, Newton, Reading, Sherborn, Swampscott, Topsfield, Wellesley, Westborough, West Newbury, Westwood, Winchester and Woburn.

FTTP uses hair-thin strands of fiber and optical electronics to directly link homes and businesses to Verizon's network. The state-of-the-art network upgrade will unleash a range of advanced communication services.

"We are building the communications network of the future to provide customers unmatched network reliability, incredible speed and exciting new options for voice, data and video connections," said Donna Cupelo, Verizon region president for Massachusetts and Rhode Island. "Our FTTP project will help stimulate economic development and enhance these communities as great places to live and do business."

Although the use of fiber optics is common for long-distance and inter-city communications throughout the telecommunications industry, Verizon is one of the first major telecom companies to begin using it to directly connect homes and businesses to the network on a widespread scale.

Verizon has announced it is deploying its FTTP network in 14 states: California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon,

Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia. To help build the network across the country, Verizon will hire between 3,000 and 5,000 new employees by the end of this year, including hundreds in Massachusetts.

Fiber offers tremendous advantages to network operators, in addition to new and superior services for customers. For example, fiber offers reliable service in stretches of wet weather that can affect copper-based networks and coaxial cable systems.

"Verizon's fully fiber-optic network is technically superior to other communication platforms because it offers faster data speeds than those currently available, as well as voice and video capability," said Cheryl Mongell, Verizon market area president for New England. "Our fiber engineering creates a network that requires less day-to-day maintenance and allows for proactive and even faster repairs."

Customer reaction to Verizon's new fiber-based Internet access service, called FiOS (FYE'-ose), has been very positive, with broadband subscribers more than doubling in the company's inaugural FiOS market of Keller, Texas, just outside Dallas/Fort Worth. Verizon will notify customers when FiOS is available locally.

"FiOS has been an extraordinary hit with our first customers. People are literally lining up to get what they know is a fantastic and even more reliable service at an excellent price," said Mongell. "The need for speed and ability to take advantage of bandwidth-intensive applications remain a top priority for all computer users."

There are three tiers of Verizon FiOS Internet Service for consumers, with downstream (download) speeds of up to 5, 15 and 30 Mbps (megabits per second).*

- Up to 5 Mbps (megabits per second) downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Suited for Internet surfing and basic computer functions. \$34.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$39.95 a month stand-alone.
- Up to 15 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Appealing to families that have multiple computers and various needs such as media downloads and the ability to access or share large files. \$44.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$49.95 a month stand-alone.
- Up to 30 Mbps downstream and 5 Mbps upstream. Designed for communications-intensive power users with significant bandwidth needs, such as telecommuters or work-at-home households and avid online gamers. \$179.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$199.95 a month stand-alone.

The FTTP initiative represents a natural extension of the more than 10 million miles of fiber-optic cable Verizon already has in place and extends the high capacity, speed and quality of fiber directly to the customer's doorstep. With FTTP technology, Verizon can easily add more capacity, higher speeds or future video services.

Verizon's digital subscriber line (DSL) service will remain the company's most widely available form of high-speed Internet access for the foreseeable future while the company ramps up FTTP deployment. The company offers DSL on a widespread basis in Massachusetts.

Verizon Communications Inc.

With more than \$71 billion in annual revenues, Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE:VZ) is one of the world's leading providers of communications services. Verizon has a diverse work force of more than 210,000 in four business units: Domestic Telecom serves customers based in 29 states with wireline telecommunications services, including broadband and other services. Verizon Wireless owns and operates the nation's most reliable wireless network, serving 43.8 million voice and data customers across the United States. Information Services operates directory publishing businesses and provides electronic commerce services. International includes wireline and wireless operations and investments, primarily in the Americas and Europe. For more information, visit www.verizon.com.

* NOTE: Actual (throughput) speeds will vary.

Business

BOSTON GLOBE SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2005



GLOBE STAFF PHOTOS/PAT GREENHOUSE

Tiny 250-micron fiber set in fusion splicer. Verizon's new service will be able to bring multiple phone numbers, high-speed Net service, and hundreds of TV channels into homes on strand of fiber-optic cable.

Verizon retraining workers to help usher in the future

Firm pushes to get technicians ready to install fiber optics

By Peter J. Howe
GLOBE STAFF

MARLBOROUGH — Joe Lynch's job is about to get a lot more interesting.

To the casual observer, it may look like Lynch, who has been working for Verizon Communications Inc. as a service technician since 1998, will still be doing the same basic job: installing a gray box on the side of customers' homes and connecting a line out to the pole on the street.

Today, that line brings in tele-

Typical maximum capacity



400,000

megabits of data per second are carried on fiber-optic cable



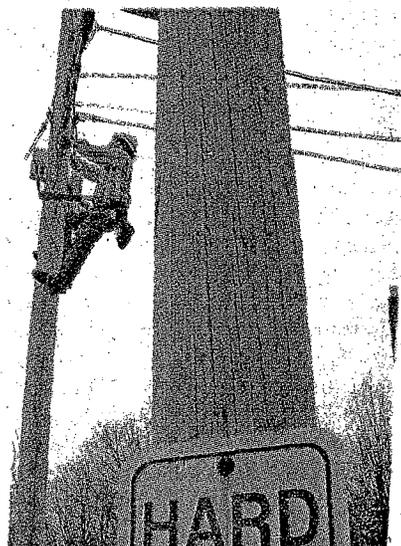
850

megabits of data per second are carried on coaxial cable



10

megabits of data per second are carried on twisted-copper pair cable



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like Lynch, who has been working for Verizon Communications Inc. as a service technician since 1998, will still be doing the same basic job: installing a gray box on the side of customers' homes and connecting a line out to the pole on the street.

Today, that line brings in telephone service, and maybe Internet access at speeds of 1 or 2 megabits per second.

But the new line and box Lynch has been learning to install this week will do infinitely more: four phone numbers, 30 megabits of Internet access, roughly 600 times faster than a dial-up modem. And hundreds of channels of television, including a dozen or more in high definition, that turn the phone company into a viable alternative to cable or satellite TV.

All that service — called FiOS — will come into the home through a single strand of fiber-optic cable scarcely bigger than a human hair.

"I was completely blown away when I saw what this could do," said Lynch, who works out of the Milford offices. "It really is our future."

VERIZON, Page E2

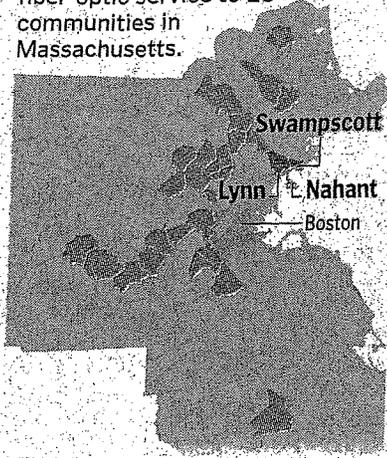


coaxial cable

10

megabits of data per second are carried on twisted-copper pair cable

With the addition of Lynn, Swampscott, and Nahant, Verizon now has pledged to bring fiber-optic service to 28 communities in Massachusetts.



At Verizon training center in Marlborough, technician Joe Lynch works on a fiber distribution terminal.

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GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/PAT GREENHOUSE

Utility team leader Roy Daley disassembles an optical network terminal at the Verizon training center in Marlborough.

Verizon technicians undergo retraining

VERIZON
Continued from Page E1

As the nation's biggest phone company presses ahead with the most radical transformation in the story of the Bell System network, many Verizon workers have been undergoing a major retraining effort over the last seven months. By year-end, Verizon expects about 1,320, or 30 percent, of its New England outdoor technicians will have gone through 80-hour classes to learn fiber installation. Verizon teaches FiOS at a Marlborough training facility that includes everything from pole-climbing gym rooms and payphone installation training to computer labs.

Instead of learning how to splice copper wires together, technicians have to learn to use a \$10,000 machine to splice fiber optic lines to an accuracy of 1/250th of an inch. Instead of

the century-old rule to "check for dial tone," the new rule is, "check for light."

In the world of copper wire phone service, the most common problems for technicians are phone lines gnawed by squirrels or snapped by falling tree limbs.

Both of those will continue to be headaches in deploying FiOS. But, when asked what's turned out to be the biggest real-world complication deploying FiOS, Verizon training supervisor David Robinson thought for a moment and then said, "Windows 98."

That is, Verizon technicians have found that a leading glitch for serving FiOS customers is computers that don't run a sufficiently up-to-date Microsoft operating system for the powerful optical connections and associated gear.

As part of a \$6 billion plan to roll out FiOS nationally, Verizon has confirmed it is deploying it in

28 Greater Boston cities and towns, mostly suburbs like Lexington, Natick, and Wellesley where above-ground utilities — and affluent broadband-craving homeowners — offers the best business prospects. Last week the company said it was extending FiOS service to Lynn, Nahant, and Swampscott.

Within the last month, the company has begun signing up customers in three communities: Holliston, Reading, and West Newbury. For now, FiOS offers only premium broadband, such as 15 megabits per second access for \$45 a month, when bundled with phone service. As Verizon wins municipal cable franchises, it hopes to roll out TV service by fall.

Visibly, one of the few differences between FiOS and conventional phone service is the size of the gray box that goes on the side of a house.

The roughly 11 by 17-inch "optical network terminal" converts the incoming fiber line into four telephone lines, a broadband data connection, and a video plug. Subscribers also need to have two other, smaller boxes installed in their home, an electric converter, and

an 8-hour battery backup for phone service if power fails. For homeowners who balk at having the big terminal put on the side of the house, Robinson said, Verizon will agree to put it inside — but that means someone has to be home to let a repair technician in.

Dave Reardon, business agent for Local 2222 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which represents hundreds of technicians learning FiOS, said union leaders are working out disagreements with Verizon over issues like how people can qualify for jobs at the Providence administration center. Some IBEW leaders around the country worry, Reardon said, that FiOS could help Verizon cut technician ranks because the optical fiber is much less prone than copper wire to failures from rain or melting snow.

But overall, local members welcome the technology and have liked the training. "Most people understand," Reardon said, "that this is the technology of the future."

Peter J. Howe can be reached at howe@globe.com.

Verizon Brings Fiber to Consumers and Small Businesses in Lynn, Nahant and Swampscott, Mass.

***Industry-Leading Verizon Fiber-to-the-Premises Network Means Blazing-Fast Data, Crystal Clear Voice and Video Capability
Company's Transformational Technology to Benefit Residential and Business Customers, Boost Economic Development***

March 24, 2005

Media contacts:

Patricia Harty, 781-224-2005

Jack Hoey, 617-743-4760

BOSTON – Verizon is bringing to the city of Lynn and the towns of Nahant and Swampscott one of the most significant advancements in telecommunications technology in the past 100 years.

The company today announced it is rolling out a fiber-optic network – known as fiber to the premises, or FTTP -- that will deliver faster data speeds and crystal clear voice to residence and business customers. This transformational upgrade to Verizon's network also has the capability to offer a full suite of video services, a competitive choice to existing cable television providers. The company will seek a franchise agreement before offering cable TV service in a selected community.

Today's announcement brings to 28 the number of communities in eastern Massachusetts identified by the company for deployment of its all-fiber network. The others are Andover, Bedford, Belmont, Boxford, Burlington, Canton, Dedham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Lakeville, Lexington, Lincoln, Lynnfield, North Reading, Natick, Newton, Reading, Sherborn, Topsfield, Wellesley, Westborough, West Newbury, Westwood, Winchester and Woburn.

"We're pleased and excited that Verizon has chosen the city of Lynn for its all-fiber network," said Lynn Mayor Edward Clancy. "In the future, residents and businesses in our city can look forward to ultra-fast Internet connections."

FTTP uses hair-thin strands of fiber and optical electronics to directly link homes and businesses to Verizon's network. The state-of-the-art network upgrade will unleash a range of advanced communication services.

"We are building the communications network of the future to provide customers unmatched network reliability, incredible speed and exciting new options for voice, data and video connections," said Donna Cupelo, Verizon region president for Massachusetts and Rhode Island. "Our FTTP project will help stimulate economic development and enhance these communities as great places to live and do business."

Although the use of fiber optics is common for long-distance and inter-city communications throughout the telecommunications industry, Verizon is one of the first major telecom companies to begin using it to directly connect homes and businesses to the network on a widespread scale.

Verizon has announced it is deploying its FTTP network in 14 states: California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia. To help build the network across the country, Verizon will hire between 3,000 and 5,000 new employees by the end of this year, including hundreds in Massachusetts.

Fiber offers tremendous advantages to network operators, in addition to new and superior services for customers. For example, fiber offers reliable service in stretches of wet weather that can affect copper-based networks and coaxial cable systems.

"Verizon's fully fiber-optic network is technically superior to other communication platforms because it offers faster data speeds than those currently available, as well as voice and video capability," said Cheryl Mongell, Verizon market area president for New England. "Our fiber engineering creates a network that requires less day-to-day maintenance and allows for proactive and even faster repairs."

Customer reaction to Verizon's new fiber-based Internet access service, called FiOS (FYE'-ose), has been very positive, with broadband subscribers more than doubling in the company's inaugural FiOS market of Keller, Texas, just outside Dallas/Fort Worth. Verizon will notify customers when FiOS is available locally.

"FiOS has been an extraordinary hit with our first customers. People are literally lining up to get what they know is a fantastic and even more reliable service at an excellent price," said Mongell. "The need for speed and ability to take advantage of bandwidth-intensive applications remain a top priority for all computer users."

There are three tiers of Verizon FiOS Internet Service for consumers, with downstream (download) speeds of up to 5, 15 and 30 Mbps (megabits per second).*

- Up to 5 Mbps (megabits per second) downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Suited for Internet surfing and basic computer functions. \$34.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$39.95 a month stand-alone.
- Up to 15 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Appealing to families that have multiple computers and various needs such as media downloads and the ability to access or share large files. \$44.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$49.95 a month stand-alone.
- Up to 30 Mbps downstream and 5 Mbps upstream. Designed for communications-intensive power users with significant bandwidth needs, such as telecommuters or work-at-home households and avid online gamers. \$179.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$199.95 a month stand-alone.

The FTTP initiative represents a natural extension of the more than 10 million miles of fiber-optic cable Verizon already has in place and extends the high capacity, speed and quality of fiber directly to the customer's doorstep. With FTTP technology, Verizon can easily add more capacity, higher speeds or future video services.

Verizon's digital subscriber line (DSL) service will remain the company's most widely available form of high-speed Internet access for the foreseeable future while the company ramps up FTTP deployment. The company offers DSL on a widespread basis in Massachusetts.

Verizon Brings Blazing-Fast Computer Connections to Customers in Holliston and Reading

New Fiber-to-the-Premises Network Delivers FiOS Broadband Services, With Prices as Low as \$34.95

March 10, 2005

Media contact:

Jack Hoey, 617-743-4760

BOSTON – Verizon customers in Holliston and Reading now can experience breathtaking high-speed Internet access as the company begins to offer its Verizon FiOSsm (FYE'-ose) suite of services to homes here.

Verizon is rolling out the industry's premier consumer broadband services to most of its customers in this community, as well as at least 25 other communities in eastern Massachusetts. The company is offering three classes of service with downstream (download) speeds of up to 5, 15 and 30 Mbps (megabits per second).*

Verizon is delivering FiOS services over its new fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network, which the company is currently building in portions of Massachusetts and 13 other states. The company will announce FiOS Internet service in other areas as it becomes available.

FTTP technology utilizes fiber-optic connections – instead of copper wire – directly into homes and businesses to enable a broad array of voice, data and video applications. In addition to its current FiOS Internet access service, Verizon plans to launch FiOS TV in 2005 to compete directly with cable TV providers. FiOS TV will be available in markets where Verizon has negotiated cable franchise agreements with local authorities.

"FiOS is setting the new standard for consumer broadband services in America," said. Bob Ingalls, president of Verizon's Retail Markets Group. "Our customers who already subscribe to FiOS services are astounded at what they now can do with their online experience. Video chats and conferencing, purchased digital movie downloads and interactive multi-player games have become a part of their daily lives."

Customer reaction to Verizon's new fiber-based Internet access service has been very positive, with broadband subscribers already more than doubling in the company's inaugural FiOS market of Keller, Texas, just outside Dallas/Fort Worth.

Ingalls added that Verizon is using the most advanced technology to deliver downstream and upstream speeds that will give customers truly interactive, two-way broadband capabilities.

"The Internet is an increasingly interactive place where quickly sending information is just as important as quickly receiving it," Ingalls said. "From uploading multi-megabyte e-mails with photo attachments, to interacting with the office from home, FiOS gives customers unprecedented speed, efficiency and productivity at very competitive prices."

Each FiOS service is available either as part of a bundle of local and long-distance calling services from Verizon or as a stand-alone Internet access service.

There are three tiers of Verizon FiOS Internet service for consumers:

- 5 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Suited for Internet surfing and basic computer functions. \$34.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$39.95 a month stand-alone.
- 15 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Appealing to families that have multiple computers and various needs such as media downloads and the ability to access or share large files. \$44.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$49.95 a month stand-alone.
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"In addition to an outstanding array of high-speed access options, we will provide our customers with a first-class installation experience, in which a Verizon technician visits the home, sets up the connection and configures the service," said Ingalls.

Each consumer data offer includes the suite of services currently available to Verizon Online DSL customers at no additional charge, including: MSN Premium content; Verizon's new Broadband Beat entertainment portal optimized for high-speed access featuring news, games, streaming video and more; up to nine e-mail accounts with 30 megabytes (MB) of storage for the primary account and an additional 10 MB for each sub-account; address book and calendar; 10 MB personal Web space and a Web site building tool; and access to newsgroups.

FiOS services now are available to many Verizon customers in the 508 area code whose phone numbers have the prefixes 429 and 893, and to customers in the 781 area code with the prefixes 282, 509, 649, 670, 673, 677, 758, 764, 765, 942, and 944. Customers who want to determine whether they can order FiOS Internet service can call 888-GET FIOS (888-438-3467) or visit Verizon's FiOS Web site at www.verizon.net/fios

Verizon's New High-Fiber 'Diet' for Canton, Dedham, Wellesley and Westwood: Blazing-Fast Data, Crystal Clear Voice and Video Capability

Verizon to Build Its Industry-Leading Fiber-to-the-Premises Network in Four More Massachusetts Towns; Company's Transformational Technology to Benefit Residential and Business Customers, Boost Economic Development

February 8, 2005

Media contacts:

Canton, Dedham, Westwood: Richard Colon, 781-849-2046

Wellesley: Mary Rafferty, 617-743-5440

Northeast: Jack Hoey, 617-743-4760

BOSTON – Verizon will soon bring to Canton, Dedham, Wellesley and Westwood one of the most significant advancements in telecommunications technology in the past 100 years.

The company today announced plans to build a fiber-optic network that will deliver faster data speeds, crystal clear voice -- and also has the capability to offer a full suite of video services -- to residence and business customers. The company will seek a franchise agreement from the local authority before offering cable service in a selected community.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime transformation of the communications network serving these communities," said Donna Cupelo, Verizon region president for Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Known as fiber-to-the-premises, or FTTP, the fiber-optic network uses hair-thin strands of fiber and optical electronics to directly link homes and businesses to Verizon's network. The new network replaces the traditional copper-wire connections and will unleash a range of advanced communication services.

"We are building the communications network of the future to provide customers unmatched network reliability, incredible speed and exciting new options for voice, data and video connections," said Cupelo. "Our FTTP project will help stimulate economic development and enhance these communities as great places to live and do business."

Although the use of fiber optics is common for long-distance and inter-city communications throughout the telecommunications industry, Verizon is one of the first major telecom companies to begin using it to directly connect homes and businesses to the network on a widespread scale.

Verizon is building its FTTP network in parts of 12 states: California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia.

Canton, Dedham, Wellesley and Westwood bring to 24 the number of eastern Massachusetts communities the company has announced for deployment of its FTTP network. The others identified to date are Andover, Bedford, Belmont, Boxford, Burlington, Holliston, Hopkinton,

Lexington, Lincoln, Lynnfield, North Reading, Natick, Newton, Reading, Sherborn, Topsfield, Westborough, West Newbury, Winchester and Woburn.

To help build the network across the country, Verizon will hire between 3,000 and 5,000 new employees by the end of this year, including hundreds in Massachusetts. The cost to Verizon of building the network in Canton, Dedham and Westwood was not disclosed.

Fiber offers tremendous advantages to network operators in addition to new and superior services for customers. For example, fiber offers reliable service in stretches of wet weather that can affect copper-based networks.

"Verizon's fully fiber-optic network is technically superior to other communication platforms because it offers faster data speeds than currently available as well as voice and video capability," said Cheryl Mongell, Verizon market area president for New England. "Our fiber engineering creates a network that requires less day-to-day maintenance and allows for faster repairs."

Customer reaction to Verizon's new fiber-based Internet access service, called FiOS (FYE'-ose), has been very positive, with broadband subscribers more than doubling in the company's inaugural FiOS market of Keller, Texas, just outside Dallas/Fort Worth. Verizon will notify customers when FiOS is available locally.

"FiOS has been an extraordinary hit with our first customers. People are literally lining up to get what they know is a fantastic service at an excellent price," said Mongell. "The need for speed and ability to take advantage of bandwidth-intensive applications remain a top priority for all computer users."

There are three tiers of Verizon FiOS Internet Service for consumers, with downstream (download) speeds of up to 5, 15 and 30 Mbps (megabits per second).*

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The FTTP initiative represents a natural extension of the more than 10 million miles of fiber-optic cable Verizon already has in place and extends the high capacity, speed and quality of fiber directly to the customer's doorstep. When customers want more capacity, higher speeds or future video services, Verizon will be able to provide them instantly through the use of FTTP technology.

Verizon's digital subscriber line (DSL) service will remain the company's most widely available form of high-speed Internet access for the foreseeable future while the company ramps up FTTP deployment. The company offers DSL on a widespread basis throughout Massachusetts.

**NOTE: Actual (throughput) speeds will vary.*

Verizon Brings Blazing-Fast Computer Connections to West Newbury Customers

New Fiber-to-the-Premises Network Delivers FiOS Broadband Services, With Prices as Low as \$34.95

February 3, 2005

Media contacts:

Patricia Harty, 781-224-2005

Jack Hoey, 617-743-4760

WEST NEWBURY, Mass. - Verizon customers in West Newbury now can experience breathtaking high-speed Internet access as the company begins to offer its Verizon FiOS (FYE'-ose) Internet service to homes here.

Verizon is rolling out the industry's premier consumer broadband services to most of its customers in this community. The company is offering three classes of service with downstream (download) speeds of up to 5, 15 and 30 Mbps (megabits per second).*

Verizon is delivering FiOS services over its new fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network, which the company is currently building in portions of Massachusetts and 11 other states. The company will announce FiOS service deployment in other areas as it becomes available.

FTTP technology utilizes fiber-optic connections - instead of copper wire - directly into homes and businesses to enable a broad array of voice, data and video applications. In addition to its current FiOS Internet access service, Verizon plans to launch FiOS TV in 2005 to compete directly with cable TV providers. FiOS TV will be available in markets where Verizon has negotiated cable franchise agreements with local authorities.

"FiOS is setting the new standard for consumer broadband services in America," said Bob Ingalls, president of Verizon's Retail Markets group. "Our customers who already subscribe to FiOS services are astounded at what they now can do with their online experience. Video chats and conferencing, purchased digital movie downloads and interactive multi-player games have become a part of their daily lives."

Customer reaction to Verizon's new fiber-based Internet access service has been very positive, with broadband subscribers already more than doubling in the company's inaugural FiOS market of Keller, Texas, just outside Dallas/Fort Worth.

Ingalls added that Verizon is using the most advanced technology to deliver downstream and upstream speeds that will give customers truly interactive, two-way broadband capabilities.

"The Internet is an increasingly interactive place where quickly sending information is just as important as quickly receiving it," Ingalls said. "From uploading multi-megabyte e-mails with photo attachments, to interacting with the office from home, FiOS gives customers unprecedented speed, efficiency and productivity at very competitive prices."

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Each consumer data offer includes the suite of services currently available to Verizon Online DSL customers at no additional charge, including: MSN Premium content; Verizon's new Broadband Beat entertainment portal optimized for high-speed access featuring news, games, streaming video and more; up to nine e-mail accounts with 30 megabytes (MB) of storage for the primary account and an additional 10 MB for each sub-account; address book and calendar; 10 MB personal Web space and a Web site building tool; and access to newsgroups.

FiOS services now are available to many Verizon customers in the 978 area code whose phone numbers have the prefix 363. Customers who want to determine whether they can order FiOS Internet service can call **888-GET FIOS (888-438-3467)** or visit Verizon's FiOS Web site at www.verizon.net/fios.

**NOTE: Actual (throughput) speeds will vary.*

Verizon's New High-Fiber 'Diet' for 19 Eastern Massachusetts Communities: Blazing-Fast Data, Crystal Clear Voice and Video Capability

Verizon Building Its Industry-Leading Fiber-to-the-Premises Network; Company's Transformational Technology to Benefit Residential and Business Customers, Boost Economic Development

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BOSTON – Verizon is bringing to 19 communities in Middlesex and Essex Counties one of the most significant advancements in telecommunications technology in the past 100 years.

The company today announced it is building a fiber-optic network that will deliver faster data speeds, crystal clear voice -- and also has the capability to offer a full suite of video services -- to residence and business customers in Andover, Bedford, Belmont, Boxford, Burlington, Holliston, Hopkinton, Lexington, Lincoln, Lynnfield, North Reading, Natick, Newton, Reading, Sherborn, Topsfield, West Newbury, Winchester and Woburn.

Verizon's all-fiber system is capable of carrying a competitive choice to the existing cable television providers. The company will seek a franchise agreement from the local authority before offering a cable-TV-type service in a selected community.

Reading Town Manager Peter I. Hechenbleikner welcomed Verizon's FTTP efforts.

"We're excited that Verizon has selected Reading for early implementation of its all-fiber network," he said. "This investment will improve existing services and offer additional services to Reading businesses and residents.

"In the current climate of fast-paced changes, it is important that this community have the latest available technology infrastructure so that we stay competitively strong. We look forward to working with Verizon to expand the uses of this technology to benefit the entire town."

Donna Cupelo, Verizon region president for Massachusetts and Rhode Island, said, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime transformation of the communications network in these communities."

Known as fiber-to-the-premises, or FTTP, the fiber-optic network uses hair-thin strands of fiber and optical electronics to directly link homes and businesses to Verizon's network. The new network replaces the traditional copper-wire connections and will unleash a range of advanced communication services.

"We are building the communications network of the future to provide customers unmatched network reliability, incredible speed and exciting new options for voice, data and video connections," said Cupelo. "Our FTTP project will help stimulate economic development and enhance our region as a great place to live and do business."

Although the use of fiber optics is common for long-distance and inter-city communications throughout the telecommunications industry, Verizon is one of the first major telecom companies to begin using it to directly connect homes and businesses to the network on a widespread scale.

Verizon began building its FTTP network last year in parts of California, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia. The company today also announced plans to construct its FTTP network in parts of Rhode Island. To help build the network across the country, Verizon will hire between 3,000 and 5,000 new employees by the end of this year, including hundreds in Massachusetts.

Fiber offers tremendous advantages to network operators, in addition to new and superior services for customers. For example, fiber offers reliable service in stretches of wet weather that can affect copper-based networks.

"Verizon's fully fiber-optic network is technically superior to other communication platforms because it offers faster data speeds than those currently available, as well as voice and video capability," said Cheryl Mongell, Verizon market area president for New England. "Our fiber engineering creates a network that requires less day-to-day maintenance and allows faster repairs."

Customer reaction to Verizon's new fiber-based Internet access service called FiOS (FYE'-ose) has been very positive, with broadband subscribers more than doubling in the company's inaugural FiOS market of Keller, Texas, just outside Dallas/Fort Worth. Verizon will notify customers when FiOS is available locally.

"FiOS has been an extraordinary hit with our first customers. People are literally lining up to get what they know is a fantastic service at an excellent price," said Mongell. "The need for speed and ability to take advantage of bandwidth-intensive applications remain a top priority for all computer users."

There are three tiers of Verizon FiOS Internet Service for consumers:

- 5 Mbps (megabits per second) downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Suited for Internet surfing and basic computer functions. \$34.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$39.95 a month stand-alone.
- 15 Mbps downstream and 2 Mbps upstream. Appealing to families that have multiple computers and various needs such as media downloads and the ability to access or share large files. \$44.95 a month as part of a calling package, or \$49.95 a month stand-alone.
- 30 Mbps downstream and 5 Mbps upstream. Designed for communications-intensive power users with significant bandwidth needs such as telecommuters or work-at-home households and avid online gamers. \$199.95 a month.

The FTTP initiative represents a natural extension of the more than 10 million miles of fiber-optic cable Verizon already has in place and extends the high capacity, speed and quality of fiber directly to the customer's doorstep. When customers want more capacity, higher speeds or future video services, Verizon will be able to provide them instantly through the use of FTTP technology.

Verizon's digital subscriber line (DSL) service will remain the company's most widely available form of high-speed Internet access for the foreseeable future while the company ramps up FTTP deployment. The company offers DSL on a widespread basis in Massachusetts.

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE:VZ) is one of the world's leading providers of communications services. With a diverse work force of approximately 208,000, Verizon has four business units: Domestic Telecom serves customers based in 29 states with wireline telecommunications services, including broadband, nationwide long-distance and other services. Verizon Wireless owns and operates the nation's most reliable wireless network, serving 42.1 million voice and data customers across the United States. Information Services operates directory publishing businesses and provides electronic commerce services. International includes wireline and wireless operations and investments, primarily in the Americas and Europe. For more information, visit www.verizon.com