



Access Ontario Announces the Sale of Its Fiber Optic Network

Canandaigua, N.Y. — Oct. 26, 2017 — Access Ontario announced today that it has signed an agreement to sell its open-access fiber optic network ring to Empire Access, a leading telecommunications service provider based in the Finger Lakes region of New York. The Access Ontario fiber ring is a state-of-the-art 200-plus-mile open-access fiber network in Ontario County.

“Empire Access is a natural fit. They’re a fast-growing local company with a proven track record of successfully using open-access networks to provide high-quality services to residential and business customers,” said Sean Barry, CEO of Access Ontario. “We’re confident Empire Access will continue to grow the fiber network in Ontario County and carry on our mission of serving the public by enhancing telecommunications services.”

Since 2005, Access Ontario has built and maintained a robust open-access fiber optic network infrastructure within Ontario County. Access Ontario was established by Ontario County local law as a local development corporation with headquarters in Canandaigua, New York. The open-access network provides advanced connectivity for telecommunications carriers and business-to-business companies. The Access Ontario fiber ring has been recognized as a national broadband model and is the epitome of 21st century public infrastructure.

“Almost 12 years ago, Access Ontario set out to build a fiber ring that would strengthen connectivity within the county, and this is the next step to ensure continued growth of the network,” Barry said. “Access Ontario has certainly reached their goal of creating a countywide communications superhighway. Today, we now have enhanced connectivity to core county services, critical emergency services, cell phone towers and carrier networks.”

Empire Access offers residential and business fiber optic services in the village of Naples and an array of fiber business services in the city of Canandaigua by way of the Access Ontario network. The company will expand service availability to surrounding communities in the upcoming months and offer fiber optic high-speed internet, digital TV, phone and security solutions to residential and business customers.

“Access Ontario’s existing network offers us a great foundation to build out from,” said Jim Baase, COO of Empire Access. “By combining our networks, we can offer fiber services to substantially more homes and businesses within Ontario County. This is a great opportunity for both of our organizations and also the residents of Ontario County.”

“I’m excited about what this agreement means for Ontario County,” said Jack Marren, Victor town supervisor and chairman of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors. “Empire Access has the resources, expertise and desire to take the fiber ring network to the next level and deliver enhanced broadband services to our residents and businesses. This is a big win on many levels.”

About Axxess Ontario

Imagine where fiber technology can take us. Axxess Ontario has. With an open-access, dark-fiber infrastructure and a non-profit approach — serving as an example for a national model — the 200-plus-mile fiber ring has Ontario County on the fast track to greater economic development, better quality of life, and global competitiveness. By providing this critical source for advanced connectivity and increased flexibility through quicker, more affordable broadband, businesses and organizations, as well as residents, will have improved capabilities like never before. For more information, visit www.axcessontario.com.

About Empire Access

After starting in 1896 with one telephone line in Prattsburgh, NY, Empire Access has grown significantly as a family-owned, locally based communications provider serving large areas of Upstate New York and Northern Pennsylvania. Today’s Empire offers a wide range of products and services from basic phone service to customized phone solutions, scalable high-speed fiber optic Internet, basic to enhanced digital TV service and advanced security solutions. Responding to a variety of business and consumer needs, Empire continues to expand into new areas while retaining a strong focus on local, personalized customer service. Empire Access offers fiber optic service in Arkport, Batavia, Bath, Big Flats, Canandaigua, Canisteo, Corning, Elmira, Hammondsport, Hornell, Montour Falls, Naples, North Hornell, Penn Yan, Warsaw, Watkins Glen and Waverly in New York, and Sayre, Athens, South Waverly and Troy in Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.empireaccess.com.

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