



NEWS RELEASE

SSi listens to Nunavut's broadband needs and launches Qimirluk solution

Shared Backbone and Open Gateways – a game changer for northern connectivity

YELLOWKNIFE, May 17, 2017. SSi Micro Ltd. ("SSi"), the developers and operators of Nunavut's QINIQ network, has launched "Qimirluk", the most comprehensive solution ever developed for broadband connectivity in northern Canada. Qimirluk means "backbone" in the Inuit language Inuktitut.

Listening to the needs of northerners, SSi has developed the Qimirluk solution – a shared, regulated and abundant backbone transport to the south accessed by open gateways that enable competition and innovation in the communities.

Shared Backbone – makes use of new high throughput satellites (HTS), as well as fibre and low earth orbit (LEO) satellites when and where available.

Open Gateways – allow service providers open access in each community to co-locate equipment, share tower space, benefit from the security of backup power and access regulated wholesale backbone capacity.

To further refine the Qimirluk solution, over the past several months SSi conducted a detailed broadband needs analysis across Nunavut. Interviews and surveys took place with numerous residents, businesses, municipalities, government officials, Inuit organizations, housing providers, educational institutions, and health care providers. Institutions need specialized services and more competition at the local level to better meet changing and evolving needs for innovative broadband services. Everyone wants more speed and bandwidth capacity -- a complex challenge in a satellite served environment.

Open Gateways connecting to a shared backbone enable a variety of providers to deliver specialized services to institutions, and an attractive choice of retail services to consumers and business -- accessing regulated, subsidized bandwidth through the Qimirluk backbone.

SSi has over 27 years of experience providing communication services in remote regions all over the world, and is by far the largest provider of broadband services in Nunavut. Today, all 25 Nunavut communities rely on SSi to deliver broadband services -- either through the QINIQ network or via the



GN core network. QINIQ serves thousands of Nunavut households, hundreds of individual federal and territorial government user, and the vast majority of businesses, hamlets, local housing authorities, Inuit organizations, adult learning centres and more. Since 2009, the Government of Nunavut also connects their local fibre loop to SSi sites in all 25 communities -- connecting offices, schools and health care centres.

For more information on the Qimirluk solution, see www.qimirluk.com

“As a truly open backbone, Qimirluk offers all Nunavummiut access to quality Internet connections. And by building on a decade of infrastructure investments, Nunavut’s needs can be served now, not years in the future,” said SSi Founder and CEO, Jeff Philipp. "This is a game changer. With Qimirluk, Nunavut can become a global showcase, where innovation and ideas overcome the barriers of distance."

SSi has recently proposed the Qimirluk solution for Nunavut as a co-investment with the Federal Government under the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development’s (ISED) new *Connect to Innovate* (CTI) program, a program designed specifically to meet the needs and unique connectivity challenges faced by northern communities.

Highlights of SSi’s CTI proposal include:

- Building on a History of Investment in Nunavut - over \$150 million of co-investment into Nunavut communications by SSi and Canada since 2005;
- Building on Existing Initiatives – upgrades currently underway in all 25 communities to 4G-LTE and 2G-GSM last-mile technologies for fixed and mobile data and voice services;
- High Speed, High Capacity – enabled by new technology high throughput satellites and future fibre, microwave and low earth orbit (LEO) satellites;
- All Communities Treated Equally - regulated and balanced wholesale rates for backbone and gateway services to ensure fair and equal pricing in every Nunavut community;
- Local Innovation and Competition – latest technology and affordable pricing will allow Nunavut-based firms to enter the telecommunications market;
- Open Access – gateway hubs in each community offer co-location facilities and shared tower space to competitive last-mile vendors, allowing them to avoid prohibitive infrastructure startup costs and deliver local affordable services;
- Local Training and Contracting - local customer service and infrastructure support agents in every community;
- Support for Anchor Institutions – substantially upgraded communications services for Nunavut’s hamlets, housing organizations, learning centres, government offices, utilities, Inuit organizations;
- Fibre Deployment – development of fibre feasibility plans, pricing and financing models in cooperation with Nunavut stakeholders;



- Timing – delivery of the Qimirluk solution to begin immediately;
- A Global Showcase – Nunavut can be a global showcase for advanced communications; where broadband and innovation overcomes the barriers of distance, and Northern solutions and know-how are exported around the world.

For more information on SSi’s CTI proposal, see www.qimirluk.com/connect-to-innovate

SSi’s History of Success Connecting Nunavut

In 2015, SSi announced a \$75 million three-year investment program into Nunavut’s broadband future, including \$35 million through the Government of Canada’s Connecting Canadians program. This builds on some \$100 million invested by SSi into Nunavut communications infrastructure over the preceding 10 years, assisted with co-investments by the Government of Canada.

SSi was the first company to launch broadband service in all 25 Nunavut communities, doing so under the “QINIQ” brand name, offering the same service level and pricing to Nunavummiut across the Territory. Since then, the positive impacts of broadband for consumers, organizations and small business have been clearly evident across the North.

About SSi: Headquartered in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and with a satellite teleport and network operations centre in Ottawa, SSi designs, builds and operates telecommunications networks around the world. SSi understands first-hand the challenges faced in providing effective and affordable communications services to remote and outlying areas. SSi has launched broadband service into many markets where the Internet previously did not exist, and provides a competitive alternative to the incumbent operator in many other small and remote markets.

SSi has deployed advanced satellite and local broadband wireless facilities throughout Nunavut and in communities of the Northwest Territories, an area spanning over three million square kilometres. The network uses state-of-the-art full mesh connectivity and supports broadband Internet, voice and videoconferencing technologies. Over the years SSi has continued to develop its own unique provisioning and billing software, and today the 3rd generation of this management system seamlessly controls all aspects of the customer experience.

###

SSi Contact:

David Veniot
Manager, Communications
SSi Micro Ltd.
Tel: 613-271-6464
Cell: 613-292-8552
Email: davidv@ssimicro.com