

SCHNEIDER ANNOUNCES USDA GRANT TO SRT COMMUNICATIONS

"Working for a stronger rural economy through USDA programs"

MOHALL, N.D., February 11, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today presented a symbolic check for a \$300,000 Rural Economic Development Grant to SRT Communications, Inc. to establish a revolving loan fund program, with Mohall Emergency Services as its initial recipient.



State Director Jasper Schneider (left) makes a presentation for a \$300,000 grant to Ardel Rice, Board President of SRT Communications (center,) to establish a revolving loan fund, with Steve Lysne, General Manager/CEO, looking on (right).

Mohall Emergency Services Facility that will be shared by both the Mohall Rural Fire Department and the Mohall Ambulance Service to house vehicles and equipment in one central location.

The USDA's Rural Economic Development Grant (REDG) program is designed to encourage electric and telephone utilities to promote rural economic development and job creation projects in the communities they serve, through the operation of a revolving loan fund program.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$535,000 with other sources of funding coming from the Mohall Rural Fire Protection District and the Mohall Ambulance Service.

In Fiscal Year 2009, USDA Rural Development provided \$56.4 million in housing programs, \$79.7 million in business and community programs, and \$647.1 million in electric programs to North Dakota citizens.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

"Having access to emergency medical services and fire protection is critical for the long term success of the region," State Director Jasper Schneider said. "USDA Rural Development is proud to partner with SRT Communications to provide this needed service."

The funds from the grant helped toward the construction of the new