



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA, FCC LAUNCH RURAL BROADBAND WEB SITE

WASHINGTON, February 5, 2008—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today announced the launch of a new online resource that can be used to help deliver broadband services to rural communities.

The “Broadband Opportunities for Rural America” web site makes the expertise and resources of USDA and the FCC available in a single, easily-accessible location and user-friendly format. “Broadband is an essential component of rural economic growth,” USDA Rural Development Under Secretary Thomas C. Dorr said.

The site, http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/index.htm?job=broadband_home, provides information on the different technology platforms that can be used to provide broadband service, how to access the spectrum necessary to deliver wireless broadband services, the availability of government funding for broadband services, relevant USDA and FCC proceedings and initiatives, and data on broadband deployment.

In addition, the site provides instructions on how to locate licensed companies capable of providing wireless services in or near rural communities. It includes links to various government and private resources related to encouraging broadband opportunities in rural America.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$91 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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