ALASKA TELECOM ASSOCIATION

Access to Broadband

May 13, 2021
House Community & Regional Affairs

Alaska Telecom Association

New Last Mile

- ~60,000 locations upgraded/new broadband
- Examples:
  - Alaska Communications
  - Alaska Power & Telephone
  - Copper Valley Telecom
  - GCI

BROADBAND THAT MATTERS: TATITLEK

Copper Valley Telecom has released the fourth video in a series showcasing the importance of Broadband Internet in rural Alaska. This video highlights CVT's 2020 project to deliver 25/3 broadband connectivity to the Native village of Tatitlek. Copper Valley Telecom's broadband internet is helping rural Alaska share their culture.

New Middle Mile

- Alaska Power & Telephone
- Cordova Telecom
- GCI
- KPU Telecom
- Matanuska Telephone Association
- Nushagak Cooperative

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Undersea cable lands at Mountain Point

KPU boosts data capacity with AK's 1st fiber-optic cable connected to Canada

By DANELLE LANDIS
Daily News Staff Writer

At around midnight Wednesday, the Ketchikan Public Utilities new undersea fiber-optic cable landed at Mountain Point via barge.

The cable's installation had begun 100 miles away at Dundas Island, northwest of Prince Rupert, then was laid along the sea floor on its way to Ketchikan. The operation was delayed a few days when it had to hunker in rough weather at Dixon Entrance, but all else ran smoothly, according to KPU Telecommunications Division Manager Ed Cushing.

City of Ketchikan voters in October approved the sale of up to $11.5 million in KPU revenue bonds for the project, and the Ketchikan City Council authorized the bond sale in April.

The contract for the project was awarded to Westpark Electric Ltd, which, according to information at westparkelectric.com, is located in Hope, British Columbia.

In a telephone interview Thursday, Cushing described the span and purpose of the operation.

The cable itself is 3.5 inches in diameter, Cushing explained, and it's armoured with several layers of protective coating. Its inner core is packed with 48 hollow glass fibers that are thinner than a human hair and encased in protective material.

"The purpose of the fiber is to allow a laser on both ends to send data back and forth through the hollow fiber — through the hollow glass tube — and the laser is sending data at the speed of light," Cushing said. "Incredible amounts of data."

On Thursday morning, the contractor's crew was splicing the end of the cable onto the onshore cable, housed in a concrete vault. They then planned to test the cable (for) for continuity at the end of the onshore cable, and if everything tested well, their job would be complete and they would be on their way back to Canada by the early afternoon Thursday.

See 'Fiber-optic cable' page 3

Above, a Westpark Electric crew moves between shore and barge on Thursday during installation of a fiber-optic cable at Mountain Point. The barge Empire 45 arrived early Thursday morning with tugs Arctic Taglu and Island Tugger. Crews connected the cable from Prince Rupert to Ketchikan at a recently constructed communications hub at Mountain Point. Fiber-optic cable was unraveled from a large orange spool located at mid-ship and was fed off the stern of the barge.

Staff photo by Dustin Safranek

Above, cable is unraveled from a large spool, located topside at mid-ship, before being fed off the stern of the barge and onto the seabed.

At left, a Westpark Electric technician monitors the distribution of a fiber-optic cable on Thursday off the stern of the barge Empire 45 in Revillagigedo Channel at Mountain Point.

Staff photos by Dustin Safranek

The submarine fiber-optic cable is shown spooled aboard the barge Empire 45.

Photo courtesy of Ed Cushing

Nushagak Cooperative announces significant increase to internet capacity for members

By TYLER THOMPSON • AUG 6, 2020

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The co-op's microwave project is complete, and it is now testing data capacity and moving members to the new packages.

telecompetitor

AlCan ONE Completed, Linking Alaska to Canada and U.S. Hubs via First Terrestrial Fiber Network

Posted on May 27, 2020 by Carl Weinschenk Share

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Home » AlCan ONE Completed, Linking Alaska to Canada and U.S. Hubs via First Terrestrial Fiber Network

MTA Fiber Holdings has finished and fired up the Alaska Canada Overland Network (AlCan ONE), which the company says is the only all-terrestrial fiber network connecting Alaska and the United States.

SJR13

- Rights of Way
  - Access
  - Fees
- Engagement
- Infrastructure

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