



For immediate release

Telecom providers partner in gifting bandwidth to Nome Public Schools

April 30, 2020

ANCHORAGE, AK – Telecommunications providers servicing rural Alaska announced a substantial gift today to the Nome City School District (NCSD), also known as Nome Public Schools. Quintillion Networks, Leonardo DRS and AlasConnect are partnering to contribute 50 Mbps of bandwidth to the NCSD to assist with capacity needs associated with distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Quintillion brought the first-ever broadband network to Nome through its subsea fiber optic system in 2017, in part, to unlock the enormous potential it represents for education and distance learning in this remote area of Alaska. It makes sense during this difficult time that we work together with other providers to ensure those capabilities are fully maximized,” said Quintillion CEO George Tronsrue III. “Each of the companies involved play an important role in enhancing service for students during this difficult time, and Quintillion is proud to do its part.”

Quintillion is gifting capacity on its Arctic fiber optic network, school district service provider Leonardo DRS is gifting capacity through its Point of Presence in interior Alaska, and AlasConnect is gifting the upgrade for the cross-connection in Fairbanks.

“When it became apparent that Nome schools were closing and that students would have to transition to remote learning, we began discussions about how we could partner to assist them,” said Vickie Kelly, business development manager for Leonardo DRS. “This contribution is a direct result of service providers working in concert to provide for those in need and demonstrates our resolve to improving the lives of those we serve.”

The joint gift, effective April 28 through July 1, 2020, will double the school district’s existing bandwidth.

“Our mission is to inspire and empower students to be culturally grounded, responsible citizens who are deeply connected to our community and the world,” said Nome Superintendent of Schools Jamie Burgess. “This gift from our community partners certainly furthers that mission and we are grateful for their commitment to our youth’s education.”

“Ensuring that Nome students have access to online learning is really critical to the well-being of the community,” said AlasConnect President Justin Burgess. “We didn’t hesitate when asked to support the effort and are grateful for the opportunity to help.”

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About Quintillion

Quintillion is a private global communications corporation located in Anchorage, Alaska. Quintillion built and operates a submarine and terrestrial high-speed fiber optic cable system serving residential, commercial and federal government clients that span the Alaskan Arctic and connects to the lower-48 using existing networks. The four-phase Quintillion subsea cable system will ultimately connect Asia to the North American Pacific Northwest, and to Western Europe via the Northwest Passage through the Alaskan and Canadian Arctic. For more information on Quintillion, visit qexpressnet.com, or call 1.800.673.4394.

About Leonardo DRS

Leonardo DRS operates and maintains resilient fiber optic, microwave and satellite networks in remote and extremely challenging environments throughout Alaska. Leonardo DRS provides Alaskan schools with fast and cost-effective connections to the internet, optimized network applications such as video conferencing, and 24x7x365 network operations. For more information on Leonardo DRS, visit leonardodrs.com, or call 907.231.5233.

About AlasConnect

AlasConnect was founded in 1999 as the telecommunications subsidiary of Golden Valley Electric Association in Fairbanks, Alaska. Initially providing fiber optic-based telecommunications services to interior Alaska, AlasConnect expanded to offer Data Center and Managed IT services in 2003, including a full regional hosting solution for business software and data. With staffed offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Palmer, AlasConnect serves more than 100 professional businesses both within and outside of Alaska. For more information on AlasConnect, visit alasconnect.com, or call 907.459.4900.