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PRESS RELEASE

MARYLAND BROADBAND COOPERATIVE

Through Partnership with DoIT, MdBC to bring Broadband to Maryland's Citizens and Businesses

Portion of \$115M in BTOP grant funds to benefit Consumers

SALISBURY, MD (September 17, 2010) –

The Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MdBC), in partnership with the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), and the Inter-County Broadband Network (ICBN), is pleased to announce its role in the One Maryland Broadband Network (OMBN) to bring Broadband services to the citizens and businesses of rural Maryland. The OMBN, led by DoIT, has been awarded a competitive grant of \$115M through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to bring broadband connections to community anchor institutions across the state and to build new high speed internet backbone in unserved and underserved regions of the state where adequate publicly available infrastructure does not exist. There are new infrastructure builds planned in Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, and the Eastern Shore.

What does this mean for the people and businesses of Maryland? The State has partnered with MdBC to extend Broadband availability into every county of Maryland. As a result of the competitive grant award to Maryland, MdBC's 60 members, 26 of which are last-mile internet service providers, will be able to utilize the new investment in backbone infrastructure to bring competitive broadband services to consumers, small businesses, and industry.

Similar to the telemedicine network MdBC has established linking Eastern Shore hospitals with their counterparts in Baltimore, the grant offers the prospect of diminishing the digital divide between rural and urban areas of the state and ushers in a new era for the Maryland economy. Maryland Broadband Cooperative is proud to play our role in the process of building the infrastructure for the needs of tomorrow.