

MEDIA RELEASE

BARRETT XPLORE INC. AND BELL ALIANT TO BUILD BROADBAND NETWORKS IN THE UNITED COUNTIES OF PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL

L'ORIGINAL, September 28, 2010 — The United Counties of Prescott and Russell announced today that both Barrett Xplore Inc. (BXI) and Bell Aliant have been selected to provide Broadband Services as part of the Counties' Rural Connections Broadband Project. Bell Aliant will be deploying wired broadband service whereas Barrett Xplore Inc. will be providing fixed wireless service through its Xplornet brand. The choice of two service providers allows for the most appropriate and cost-effective service to be available for the varied population density and geographic characteristics within the United Counties.

"We are pleased to announce that the contracts have been signed and that Bell Aliant and Barrett Xplore Inc. will now proceed with the design phase of this important Rural Connections Broadband Project in the United Counties of Prescott and Russell. Such Internet access is critical to the development and the economic growth of our communities," stated Conrad Lamadeleine, Warden of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell.

"Residents and business owners will have access to reliable and affordable high-speed Internet on 94% of our territory once the project is completed in about a year or so. We estimate that 98% of the population will have access to high-speed Internet when the project is completed. Today's announcement is an important step towards ensuring that more of our residents and businesses have access to reliable and affordable high-speed Internet services," added Warden Lamadeleine.

It is estimated that more than 4,000 people will benefit from the increased coverage within the project area. Four key areas are being targeted:

1. The Rockland south-Clarence Creek–Bourget–Lemieux-Limoges treed area;
2. The Ottawa River north of Plantagenet-St. Bernardin-Riceville-Pendleton area;
3. The treed residential area southwest of Hawkesbury; and
4. The Chute-à-Blondeau–Pointe-Fortune–St. Eugene area.

The services are expected to be available starting as early as this fall in some areas, with the project completed by August 2011.

"Bell is pleased to be able to partner with Prescott and Russell to bring the complete online experience to its residents and businesses," said Jason St. Pierre, Regional Manager – Bell Aliant Ontario. "Bell Internet combines industry leading Internet access with unparalleled security and support to deliver the ultimate online experience."

“Barrett Xplore’s mission is to provide innovative broadband solutions to rural customers at work, home and play”, said Bob Davie, BXI Vice President. “We are proud to be working with Prescott and Russell to bring fast, reliable and affordable high-speed Internet to many more rural residents and businesses, joining the thousands of customers already receiving service in the Counties.”

Funding for the Expanding Prescott and Russell Broadband Network project was provided in part by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Rural Connections Broadband Program. The Government of Ontario’s \$30-million Rural Connections Broadband Program was designed to reduce broadband infrastructure gaps in underserved rural regions in Ontario. Funding of \$810,304 was obtained through the Rural Connections Broadband Program, which represents one-third of the \$2.4 million project. The remaining two-thirds of the construction budget is being contributed by the project’s private sector partners, Barrett Xplore Inc. and Bell Aliant.

Detailed service coverage information will only be provided through Bell Aliant and Barrett Xplore closer to the launch dates. At that time, information will be available on the Counties’ website. Public meetings will be scheduled throughout the Counties if the need is identified.

This is one of two broadband programs within the United Counties. The other program is the Eastern Ontario Regional Broadband Network (EORN). This key project of the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus includes the establishment of a Transport/Backbone Fibre Ring and subsequently additional Broadband Access. This multi-year program will allow more affordable broadband deployment and network capacity throughout Eastern Ontario. More information on this project can be found at: <http://www.eowc.org>.

The Corporation of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell is a regional government that manages programs and offers services to its 83,000 residents. Prescott and Russell encompass eight municipalities and cover 2,002 km². Economic development is a priority and a reflection of their motto “*Moving Towards Prosperity*”.

-30-

For more information contact:

Sylvain Charlebois
Director, Economic Development and Tourism
United Counties of Prescott and Russell
Phone: 613-675-4661 ext. 8100

About Barrett Xplore Inc.

Headquartered in Woodstock, New Brunswick, Barrett Xplore Inc. operates Xplornet Internet Services, Canada's largest rural broadband provider, with customers and dealers in every province and territory. Barrett Xplore Inc. aims to bridge the urban/rural digital divide by ensuring that every Canadian, regardless of where they live, has access to broadband, thereby enabling them to compete effectively in the global economy and gain access to essential government and educational services. For more information visit: <http://www.xplornet.com>.

About Bell Aliant

Bell Aliant (TSX: BA.UN) is one of North America's largest regional communications providers and the first company in Canada to cover an entire city with fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) technology with its FibreOP™ services. Through its operating entities it serves customers in six Canadian provinces with innovative information, communication and technology services including voice, data, Internet, video and value-added business solutions. Through its xwave offices, Bell Aliant also provides IT professional services and advanced technology solutions. Bell Aliant's employees deliver the highest quality of customer service, choice and convenience. For more information visit: <http://bellaliant.ca>.