



Yellowknife computer company busy in Africa

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Yellowknife (Jan 28/04) - SSI Micro has been busy with projects here at home and abroad over the past few months.

Its proposal for the Nunavut Broadband Development Project was accepted in late 2003 -- a project worth approximately \$8.5 million.

"The project is in progress, but we're not really at liberty to divulge any information," said Jeff Philipp, owner of SSI Micro.

The company also finished off a Care International project in Zambia prior to Christmas. SSI was providing low-cost telecommunications to sites within the country.

Another project will allow Care Canada to connect its field office in Nairobi with its head office in Ottawa, without being charged long distance fees.

The method involves voice messaging over the Internet at costs which are a fraction of normal long distance calling rates.

"We're also in the process of finalizing five sites in Kenya for Care International. In late February and the beginning of March we'll go back and do those," he said.

Lorraine Thomas, project manager with the Nunavut Broadband Development Project, says while SSI hasn't got the contract yet, they have won the request for proposals.

"We haven't got a contract with them as of yet ... SSI provided us with full cost and they were the winner of the unfunded RFP," said Thomas.

Industry Canada has granted Nunavut Broadband Development \$3.9 million and the organization is negotiating for another \$3.5 million. "Once that's in place we can go back to SSI Micro and say let's get a contract going," she said.

The Nunavut Broadband Development Corp. is also in negotiations with other parties, hoping to secure even more funding for the project.

SSI Micro is providing technical expertise and installation of the equipment, while Nunavut Broadband will collect the grants and loans.

Thomas hopes the contract will be finalized by the spring. While the Nunavut Broadband Development project is expected to be rolled out in late spring to early summer, the cost over five years to implement the entire project is expected to be close to \$18 million.



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