



Press Release for Immediate Release

CRTC Rules in Favour of Choice and Innovation for Canada's North

YELLOWKNIFE: December 14, 2011 – Following a public hearing held in October, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (“CRTC”) released today a decision highly anticipated by residents of Canada’s Northern Territories, announcing that the whole of Canada’s North is now open to local telephone competition.

Giving clear direction to Northwestel in its decision, the Commission stated that it expects new competitors should be operational within three to four months from the date they request to become a competitor, anywhere in Northwestel’s serving territory.

“SSi strongly believes competition should be open across Canada, for the benefit of all,” said Jeff Philipp, Founder and CEO of the SSi Group of Companies. “With today’s decision, the CRTC has clearly ruled on the side of choice and innovation,”

Mr. Philipp continued, “We are pleased the Commission took to heart the concerns of the numerous interveners - governments, consumer groups and businesses.” Of particular note, over 100 consumers – many of whom are SSi customers - took the time to send in their support to the Commission.

“This is good news for consumers and a great step towards telecoms choice in the North,” said Dean Proctor, Chief Development Officer of the SSi Group. “However, the next key step will be a decision by the CRTC on our application concerning Northwestel’s discriminatory pricing for backbone services to the south.”

SSi filed a complaint with the CRTC on June 23 against Northwestel for unjust discrimination relating to that company's backbone connectivity services to the south. For there to be effective local competition, it is essential that any company having monopoly control on essential transport facilities charge fair and reasonable rates to competitors.



To read the full CRTC decision, Telecom Regulatory Policy 2011-771, go to:
<http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2011/2011-771.htm>

About SSi: Headquartered in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, SSI Micro and the SSi Group of Companies provide broadband service across Canada's North. SSi understands first-hand the challenges faced in providing effective and affordable communications services to remote and outlying areas, and in providing a competitive alternative to the incumbent operator in small and remote markets.

The SSi Group has extensively deployed satellite and terrestrial wireless facilities, and today provides broadband service in all 25 communities of Nunavut (under the "Qiniq" brand) and 31 communities of the Northwest Territories.

For additional information you can visit: www.ssimicro.com

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