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NEWS RELEASE

Internet Across Nunavut at Serious Risk

Federal subsidy for homes and students expired in July and Ottawa remains silent

YELLOWKNIFE, November 5, 2020. SSi Micro Ltd. (SSi), doing business as SSi Canada, the developer-operator of QINIQ broadband services and SSi Mobile in Nunavut, regrets to inform Nunavummiut that the federal broadband subsidy supporting the vast majority of Nunavut homes and students since 2005 has run out. This puts access to Federally subsidized internet services at very serious risk. Without immediate support, SSi will have no choice but to raise prices and remove subsidies over the coming months.

SSi has been delivering the QINIQ service to all 25 Nunavut communities for 15 years, which has only been possible through co-investments by SSi and the Government of Canada. To date, over \$150 million has been invested into community infrastructure, satellite capacity and local jobs. This partnership has ensured that every community, no matter how small or remote, has access to the same affordable internet plans delivered across a state-of-the-art 4G-LTE network.

Unfortunately, SSi has been carrying 100% of the costs since last July, hoping that a funding decision from Ottawa would be made by now. SSi has been in discussions with federal and territorial authorities for well over a year but appeals for help have gone unanswered. There is still no funding decision and continuing to absorb the costs without federal participation is simply not sustainable. With 67% of Nunavut households outside of Iqaluit connected via QINIQ, the situation has become urgent.

“This is sad and frustrating. We have solutions to ensure QINIQ services can continue and improve, but without support from the federal government – support that we will match with our own investment – the costs of internet for most Nunavummiut will be too high,” said Jeff Philipp, CEO and Founder of SSi. “We are truly sorry to share such terrible news, but we are out of time. We continue to work aggressively to find solutions for the thousands of households dependent on QINIQ service, but without immediate support we will be forced to take truly unwanted actions.”

About SSi: Headquartered in Yellowknife, NT, with a network operation centre in Ottawa, SSi designs, builds and operates state-of-the-art communications networks. SSi is a pioneer in delivering remote-area connectivity in Canada’s North and is the developer-operator of the award winning SSi Mobile and QINIQ broadband services. For more information, see www.ssicanada.com.

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