



NEWS RELEASE

SSi Supports CRTC's Universal Service Objective

A new era of investment and connectivity for Canada's remote and underserved areas

YELLOWKNIFE, December 22, 2016. Yesterday, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) declared that broadband access Internet service is now considered a basic telecommunications service for Canadians. In Telecom Regulatory Policy 2016-496, "*Modern telecommunications services – The path forward for Canada's digital economy*", the CRTC issued a seminal decision, establishing a new Universal Service Objective (USO), with broadband at its core. The new USO calls for all Canadians, including those in remote areas, to have access to high quality voice and broadband services on both fixed and mobile wireless networks.

SSi Micro Ltd. ("SSi"), a pioneer in delivering remote-area broadband solutions, fully supports the new USO framework, which will help close the digital divide isolating many parts of the country.

"We agree with the Commission that a holistic approach is needed to deliver on a National Broadband Strategy, with participation from all stakeholders - the CRTC, the private sector, and different levels of government, including First Nations and Inuit Organizations", said Jeff Philipp, SSi Founder and CEO: "The decision aligns very well with the Federal Government's Innovation Agenda, and should complement the significant investments SSi is making to meet Nunavut's ever-growing broadband needs."

As part of the CRTC proceedings leading to yesterday's decisions, SSi presented "*Qimirluk: An Open Gateway Solution for Northern Broadband*" to make innovation and choice for consumers a reality. The Qimirluk (meaning backbone in Inuktitut) solution details the necessary measures to provide long-term benefit for Canada's remote and outlying communities, and the businesses, governments and other organizations that serve the people living here. The *Qimirluk Executive Brief* can be found at: <https://www.ssimicro.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/qimirluk-executive-brief.pdf>

"We believe broadband is the new basic telecommunications service, and appreciate the Commission's USO framework embracing that reality," said Dean Proctor, Chief Development Officer of SSi. "As we detailed in *Qimirluk*, significant focus must be placed on investment in backbone transport and open gateway facilities into satellite-served communities, where broadband is either inadequate or unavailable today. Yesterday's decision and the new USO ensure that will indeed happen."



For information on Telecom Regulatory Policy 2016-496 and the decision announced on December 21, 2016 by the CRTC, please see: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2016/2016-496.htm>

SSi's History of Success Connecting Nunavut:

In 2015, SSi announced a \$75 million three-year investment program into Nunavut's broadband future, including \$35 million through the Government of Canada's Connecting Canadians program. This builds on some \$100 million invested by SSi into Nunavut communications infrastructure over the preceding 10 years, assisted with co-investments by the Government of Canada.

SSi was the first company to launch broadband service in all 25 Nunavut communities, doing so under the "QINIQ" brand name, offering the same service level and pricing to Nunavummiut across the Territory. Since then, the positive impacts of broadband for consumers, organizations and small business have been clearly evident across the North.

About SSi:

Headquartered in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and with a satellite teleport and network operations centre in Ottawa, SSi designs, builds and operates telecommunications networks around the world. SSi understands first-hand the challenges faced in providing effective and affordable communications services to remote and outlying areas. SSi has launched broadband service into many markets where the Internet previously did not exist, and provides a competitive alternative to the incumbent operator in many other small and remote markets.

SSi has deployed advanced satellite and local broadband wireless facilities throughout Nunavut and in communities of the Northwest Territories, an area spanning over three million square kilometres. The network uses state-of-the-art full mesh connectivity and supports broadband Internet, voice and videoconferencing technologies. Over the years SSi has continued to develop its own unique provisioning and billing software, and today the 3rd generation of this management system seamlessly controls all aspects of the customer experience.

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