

Two companies – Windstream Communications and Optical Entertainment Network – have moved forward with very large-scale fiber deployments, while a number of other independents are bringing fiber to greenfield, brownfield and even commercial developments.

ATMC

(www.atmc.net), an ILEC based in Charlotte, North Carolina, that has already installed fiber-to-the-home in eight subdivisions in North Carolina's fast-growing coastal region, recently deployed a fiber network to the Meadow Ridge Commercial Park, using Motorola PON equipment. ATMC says Meadow Ridge is the only commercial development in the area with fiber to the building.

Jaguar Communications

(www.jaguarcommunications.com), a CLEC that targets rural communities in the Midwest, has deployed ECI Telecom's XDM Multi-Service optical platform for the backbone expansion of its fiber-to-the-premises network into new rural areas. This expansion will bring triple-play services to many of the residents in southeastern Minnesota for the first time. Some of the areas had previously lacked any high-speed connections.

Optical Entertainment Network

(www.fision.net), a service provider that has been in startup mode for a year, announced the commercial availability of its FISION triple-play services in Houston. OEN's bundle of services, delivered over an Alloptic GePON network, includes IPTV, commercial-quality VoIP and symmetrical broadband Internet services at speeds of up to 10 Mbps. OEN is making services available to residential customers, multiple dwelling units (MDUs) and business customers starting in the northwest section of Houston.

OEN says the fiber-to-the-home bandwidth will allow it to avoid compressing signals at its headend, making the picture quality unusually good. FTTH technology also enables FISION to offer a channel lineup with more than 85 premium networks, 40 high-definition channels and numerous niche channels.

Shenandoah Telecommunications Company

(www.shentel.com), a Virginia ILEC, will provide broadband services over FTTH to the residents of

Preston Lake, a "new urbanist" master planned community developed by The Hine Group. Preston Lake will be an upscale residential, retail and office development near Harrisonburg, Virginia. Shentel's video service will include high-definition TV and pay-per-view; in addition, it will offer broadband phone service, home security monitoring and broadband Internet with scalable bandwidth for telecommuters and home offices. Wireless hotspots will also be available in public areas.

SureWest Communications

(www.surewest.com), a telecommunications provider in the Sacramento metropolitan area, announced that its SureWest Broadband unit has been named the preferred provider for West-Park Roseville's homebuilding partners, Pulte Homes. Surewest will be offering services to new homebuyers over its fiber-to-the-home network, already one of the largest in the country – and, with 50 Mbps Internet service, one of the fastest. SureWest products and services will be promoted at Pulte subdivisions through displays and promotions in the community sales offices, Internet kiosks and new homebuyer welcome packets.

Twin Valley Telephone Company

(www.twinvalley.net), a family-owned and operated company in Kansas, has deployed APA Cables & Networks' Fiber Distribution System to deliver fiber-to-the-home as its "Home Run" solution. The deployment will upgrade the exchanges that TVT acquired last year from Sprint.

The Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association

(www.wccta.com), an ILEC in Gowrie, Iowa, is preparing to install fiber-to-the-home

in and around Gowrie, with the goal of replacing its entire plant with fiber over the next few years. The company will offer voice and data services to start, and plans to add video services later.

W.T. Services, a CLEC subsidiary of West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative (www.wtrt.net), will be providing IPTV and video on demand in the town of Hereford, Texas, over a new fiber-to-the-premises network. The prime integrator for the project will be Optibase.

Windstream Communications

(www.windstream.com), a major independent telecom provider headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas that announced its first fiber-to-the-home project in 2006, has begun deploying fiber on a large scale to new developments in Georgia and Florida. Recent announcements included 23 subdivisions in Georgia and four in Florida, with many more planned for the near future. Initially Windstream is delivering broadband speeds up to 6 Mbps over fiber, but plans to double those speeds. The company also provides voice and video services over fiber, and offers a free wireless router to customers who subscribe for a year.

Telco Systems announced that its EdgeGate CPE 232 and 482 IP media gateways, which provide broadband Internet access, Internet phone service (VoIP), IPTV access and video-on-demand to the consumer's home over fiber, were accepted for use in fiber-to-the-home projects funded by the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Program (formerly Rural Utilities Service). With this official acceptance, Telco Systems' entire EdgeGate product family can be used by rural communities that are deploying community broadband networks using RDUP loans and grants.

Vendor Spotlight:

Alloptic	www.alloptic.com
APA Cables & Networks	www.apacn.com
ECI Telecom	www.ecitele.com
Motorola	www.motorola.com
Optibase	www.optibase.com
Telco Systems	www.telco.com