

Media Release – 23 April 2010

Nextgen Announces Major Extensions to its National Network

An additional 2,000km of Competitive Fibre Network Now on its Way for Regional Australia

Nextgen Networks ('Nextgen') today announced that it will complement its national network reach and the Australian Government's Regional Backbone Blackspots Program ('RBBP') with the construction of an additional 2,000 kilometres of fibre optic cable.

Works have commenced on a new optical fibre transmission route which is being built between Tarcoola in South Australia and Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory. This route will also pass the communities of Coober Pedy, Marla and Everard in South Australia and Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

In addition, Nextgen will be constructing another fibre optic cable between Townsville and Marathon in Queensland passing through the towns of Woodstock, Reid River, Charters Towers, Cape River, Pentland, Hughenden and Prairie.

In commenting on these new network developments Phil Sykes, Managing Director of Nextgen said, "These vital new broadband infrastructure assets will substantially extend Nextgen's national coverage and interconnect with fibre already announced and being constructed on behalf of the Australian Government to address nominated blackspots."

These new routes will not only pass through additional underserved communities, but will create a more robust technical solution for Nextgen, RBBP and other cable networks.

"The network extensions that have been announced today will be a catalyst for the delivery of better broadband service outcomes and pricing to regional and remote population centres." Mr Sykes said. "These new links - along with the RBBP links - will all be completed within the 18 months, bringing forward a new broadband future to the many communities and towns along these routes".

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About Nextgen:

Nextgen owns and operates the 3rd largest long haul optical fibre network in Australia with established fibre routes from Brisbane to Perth. It is a specialist transmission services provider to telecommunication carriers and service providers, corporations and government. It does not sell services to consumer or residential customers.

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Nextgen is wholly owned by Australia's largest project development and contracting group, Leighton Holdings Limited.

About the Program

The Regional Backbone Blackspots Program is an Australian Government initiative. For more information visit www.dbcde.gov.au/blackspots_program