



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

25 May 2009

### **Nextgen to bid for Federal Government regional broadband tender**

Nextgen Networks, owner and operator of Australia's third-largest fibre optic network, today announced it plans to bid for the Federal Government's \$250 million regional broadband tender -- the Regional Backbone Blackspots Initiative.

"Nextgen welcomes this Government-funded initiative to extend competitive wholesale services to under serviced areas of Australia," Nextgen Managing Director, Phil Sykes said.

Nextgen, a national provider of wholesale transmission services and experienced builder and operator of telecommunications infrastructure, said it would submit a compelling offer by the Request for Tender deadline in June.

Mr Sykes said Nextgen's infrastructure-based tender would aim to provide access to the wholesale environment essential to enable maximum competition in the retail communications market.

"For some time Nextgen has been considering extending its existing broadband network, including into areas to be covered by the blackspots program. Nextgen has detailed knowledge of the issues involved in the roll out of broadband into under serviced regional areas of the country and believes it is well placed to meet the challenges and requirements of this major project," Mr Sykes added.

Nextgen has identified the location of 1572 population centres around Australia; 363 of which are within 1km of competitive fibre access, leaving 1,209 without access options.

#### **MEDIA INQUIRIES;**

Phil Sykes

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#### **About Nextgen:**

Nextgen owns and operates 8,500km of fibre optic cable 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.

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