



NEWS RELEASE
MONTANA OPTICOM
CONTACT: 406-993-5532

**GALLATIN GATEWAY BROADBAND PROJECT TO DELIVER BROADBAND
CONNECTIVITY TO RURAL HOUSEHOLDS, BUSINESSES AND CRITICAL
COMMUNITY FACILITIES ALONG GALLATIN CORRIDOR**

*\$64 Million Proposed Broadband Project Will Improve Life Safety, Educational, Public Service,
Business and Residential Telecommunications Services*

GALLATIN GATEWAY, MT, AUGUST 4, 2010 – Montana Opticom, LLC, was notified today by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), that it has qualified under the USDA Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, for \$64 million in funding for its Gallatin Gateway Broadband Project from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), which administers BIP funding. The Gallatin Gateway Broadband Project is a proposed three-year fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) infrastructure development project that will provide affordable and reliable high-speed data, voice, and Internet Protocol Television to 11,864 households and businesses, and 58 critical community facilities in communities and rural areas within Gallatin County, Montana.

Montana Opticom expects to create over 60 direct jobs. These jobs include Montana Opticom adding 10 fulltime positions to assist in the build out and operation of the proposed network. During construction an estimated 32 independent contractors and 19 engineers and numerous support staff will be required to assist in the build out.

Based on the reporting requirements of the President's Council of Economic Advisers job estimate, the Gallatin Gateway Broadband Project will create 697 job-years. Of the 697 job years created, 446 job-years represent direct and indirect effects and 251 of the job-years are induced effects.

“I am so glad this broadband funding is coming to Montana,” said Montana’s senior U.S. Senator Max Baucus, who worked to secure the funding. “Projects like this are critically important for folks in our state to connect with each other, improve education opportunities for our students, and to grow and market small businesses at home and around the globe. This is such good news.”

“Affordable and accessible broadband service is critical to economic growth in Montana,” said Governor Brian Schweitzer. “These funds will help a Montana business provide educational and economic opportunities in rural parts of our state.”

High speed broadband access will escalate economic development in rural Montana, provide connectivity to life saving communications and technologies, improve educational, critical



community and public safety service offerings, and enhance quality of life to Montana residents and visitors.

The Gallatin Gateway Broadband Project will provide end-to-end infrastructure to support the provision of new high-speed broadband services to the rural communities designated as the Census County Divisions of Bozeman, Gallatin Gateway, Belgrade, Manhattan, and a portion of West Yellowstone. The planned broadband expansion project will enable these rural communities to access the same or better broadband services available to residents in more urban areas in Montana. Broadband expansion is a key component in economic development of rural communities, businesses, farms, and ranches in Montana.

As part of the project, Montana Opticom intends to provide services at a reduced rate to the 58 critical community facilities within the service area. Access to additional Public Safety Entities and Critical Community Organizations in non-rural areas of Bozeman will be facilitated for residents in the project service area through such programs as telemedicine, online patient management services, as well as online learning opportunities. Montana Opticom will also provide services at reduced rates for Small Disadvantaged Businesses.

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About Montana Opticom: Montana Opticom, LLC, a telecommunications provider located in Gallatin Gateway, Montana, launched the first fiber optic communications system in Big Sky, Montana in 2005. Throughout the Big Sky region, Montana Opticom provides exceptional residential and business communication—high-speed internet, local and long-distance telephone service, standard video and high-definition television—leading edge infrastructure and technology for southwestern Montana. For more, visit: www.mt-opticom.com