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Rural Broadband Sltn - Statement re network expansion

RNS Number : 66971

Rural Broadband Solutions PLC

16 August 2021

Rural Broadband Solutions Plc (the "Company" or "RBBS")

RBBS announces its network expansion in Shropshire

Rural Broadband Solutions Plc (AQSE: RBBS), a leading provider of broadband services to rural areas of the UK, is delighted to announce its network expansion in Shropshire.

We will now be offering our customers two different product offerings. Our current offering is the FWA network which is being expanded from 30 to 90 Mbps and our new Fibre To The Premise (FTTP) offering, via our Dark Fibre Network, which will take the 90Mbps to 900Mbps.

'Dark Fibre network'

Secure Web Services Ltd (SWS), a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBBS, has recently completed the first phase of its 100Gbps (100,000Mbps) Dark Fibre network around Shropshire. This initial loop includes the towns of Shrewsbury, Church Stretton, Craven Arms, Bishops Castle, Pontesbury and Minsterley.

Significant investment has been made in the network, utilising technology that is both leading-edge and also industry standard hardware, to ensure that the network has a plenitude of future capacity and scalability. This network will enable the Company to start delivering fibre broadband services (as standard packages of up to 900Mbps as well as dedicated, bespoke services) throughout the towns by upgrading both residential and business properties to full-fibre infrastructure.

'FWA network'

The Company has also made significant investment into its FWA (Fixed Wireless Access) network. Through enabling 10Gbps links between mast sites and upgrades to broadcast and customer premise equipment, RBBS will now offer its existing and new rural customers the benefit of greater

broadband speeds of up to a 90Mbps through a standard package with higher speeds available on request. This is an increase from the current available speed of 30Mbps.

'Broadband service in rural areas comparable to cities'

With the investment in both Dark Fibre and the FWA network, the company is progressing its plans to link local communities to the upgraded network and deliver a broadband service via fibre to each premises. This means that the broadband coverage around rural South Shropshire will become extensive and comparable to the service available in any UK city.

The Company has been delivering reliable broadband to homes and businesses in Shropshire and Wales since 2005. It has grown over that period to now have over 2,600 premises connected to its network comprising of approximately 270 masts/relays and multiple fibre connections. This latest investment in infrastructure is the first phase of a 3-year plan to extend its gigabit-capable reach to over 50,000 rural properties within Shropshire alone, with at least 15,000 connected. This is an update to our original plan in October 2020 to connect 5,000 customers (which was confirmed in the Trading Update in January 2021), where we said that we remain confident that our organic target of 5,000 monthly paying customers within 36 months following Admission would be achieved."

Chris New, Chief Strategist & Technical Officer, commented:

"Our goal is to support rural communities, both in Shropshire and in Wales, to access broadband services equivalent to those in major cities and towns by removing the digital divide through the implementation of future-proof, gigabit-capable infrastructure. We are delighted to be updating our three year target which we set in October 2020 from 5,000 to 15,000 customers."

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