Greetings,

If you haven’t received this newsletter via a high-speed broadband network, you’ll be interested in reading all about the newest infrastructure for Harford County. It will deliver data, video and voice faster and more cost-effectively than other networks, and it will position Harford County as the economic and technology hub of the region.

This month’s newsletter features HMAN, Harford Metropolitan Area Network, which will make broadband fiber optics available to all areas of the County, connecting government entities and businesses. Read about some of the possibilities this network will bring to the County, and see how one organization has already used this important infrastructure to its advantage.

Harford County is attracting technology-savvy businesses, and HMAN is one of the keys to becoming the center of technology for Maryland.

For more information on EDAB or to become involved, visit www.harfordbusiness.org, or contact me.

Regards,
Eric McLauchlin
Chairman
EDAB

Business Spotlight: AboveNet, Inc.

AboveNet, Inc. offers a variety of solutions for high bandwidth connectivity through its private optical network. An international company, AboveNet has over 20 offices in the United States, including its location in Aberdeen, Maryland. The company's services support Metro Area Networks (MAN), Wide Area Networks (WAN) and managed services, including WDM Wavelength Services, Metro Ethernet, WAN ethernet and IP Transit. AboveNet differentiates itself from the competitive local exchange carriers (CLEC)/incumbent local exchange carriers (ILEC) through its more diverse and customized solutions, as well as its owned and operated metro fiber optic network. According to its website, AboveNet's networks do not navigate the multiple connection points of Central offices and Tandem Switches of large telephone companies, which can hinder infrastructures. AboveNet's private metropolitan fiber networks address data flow from the individual server level, the gateway-to-network level and across the network. An all-optical infrastructure helps to eliminate constraints or bottlenecks on information exchange, making its networks reliable, cost-effective and scalable.

Through more than 2.3 million fiber miles worldwide, AboveNet reaches more than 2,800 buildings in major metropolitan areas as well as outlying suburban and rural areas. AboveNet's philosophy: One size does not fit all. The company custom builds networks for businesses, with an eye toward growth and easy expansion. AboveNet's typical network consists of high-fiber cable with up to 864 strands per cable, enabling high speeds as well as spare network capacity for both current requirements and future needs.

AboveNet's worldwide team is over 600 people strong. Visit www.above.net for more information.

Newest County Highways Connect Business with Technology

By Ted Pibil

While Harford County is strengthening its physical infrastructure through new intersections, traffic patterns, water systems and retail development, another part of the infrastructure is quietly building: the broadband fiber optic network.

Known as the Harford Metropolitan Area Network, or HMAN, this infrastructure will catapult the county into the technology center to which it has aspired. The addition of more than 100 miles of broadband fiber optic cables will allow high-speed access to voice, data and video for County organizations and businesses throughout the region. HMAN will connect schools, libraries, fire and emergency response locations and government entities. It will also be available in the three municipalities to connect town halls, police departments, water treatment plants and more.

Since its conceptualization five years ago, HMAN has grown both from the efforts of the Inter-
County Broadband Network (ICBN), a consortium of six Maryland counties plus Annapolis and Baltimore City, working together to find technology efficiencies, and a federal grant under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Harford County has worked closely with the state of Maryland's One Maryland Broadband Network (OMBN), which plans 1,294 miles of fiber optic cables linking more than 1,000 government facilities and community institutions statewide.

Harford County's first ring of broadband fiber optic cabling is ready to go live by July. It encompasses Bel Air, Jarrettsville and Fallston, where schools, libraries and government buildings along the route will have broadband access. The next ring will encompass the Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor, from Rt. 40 to Bel Air and Rt. 22, with scheduled completion in April 2013.

These broadband super highways present many opportunities for economic development. Businesses that could not previously access broadband service from traditional carriers - whether due to location or cost - can now buy in to a cost-effective, high-speed network. It will move more data faster, offer reliability and flexibility, and reach the underserved pockets of the County with more options for service than traditional carriers. Rural businesses and schools can connect to the core community through the network.

All schools will have equal access, opening up the opportunities for IPTV, distance learning and cross-communication between schools and community organizations. Not only will the infrastructure afford additional learning opportunities for primary and secondary schools, it will also open the doors for higher education collaboration - from Harford Community College and its new Towson University affiliation to the HEAT Center. Workforce development opportunities abound between businesses and educational institutions. The ideas exist. Now the infrastructure can make them a reality.

City and County government will also be linked on the broadband highway. With speeds up to 100 times that of current cable networks, the broadband fiber optic network can improve emergency preparedness and response. It can offer virtually unlimited, timely access to data and cross-communication between institutions. The possibilities are endless - from teleconferencing to data sharing to video communications.

The high-speed broadband network will help to build Harford County into the technology center of the future.

Ted Pibil is acting Chief Information Officer for Harford County. He has spearheaded the HMAN project and works closely with the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) to serve the needs of businesses in Harford County.

Technology Fast Facts

- The Harford Metropolitan Area Network (HMAN) will have 100 miles of fiber optic cable throughout the county.
- HMAN is an $8 million capital project that will connect Harford County Government, Harford County Public Schools, libraries, Harford Community College, the municipalities of Havre de Grace, Bel Air and Aberdeen, and businesses throughout the county.
- The One Maryland Broadband Network (OMBN) will directly connect 1,006 community anchor institutions like schools, libraries and government buildings. It will cover 4,200 square miles across the state.
- The Inter-County Broadband Network (ICBN) includes six Maryland counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Montgomery and Prince George's, as well as Annapolis and Baltimore City.
- ICBN will connect 715 anchor institutions in Central Maryland.
- The broadband fiber network has advertised speeds of at least 768 kilobits per second downstream and at least 200 kbps upstream, making it the fastest and widest network for data, voice and video.


David R. Craig, Harford County Executive

The Harford County Economic Development Advisory Board consists of a number of subcommittees including technology, workforce development, finance, tourism, and land use - dedicated to the positive growth and Economic Development of Harford County.