



Greenfield's NineStar Connect Recognized as 1 of 9 Certified Gig-Capable Providers in the nation by Rural Broadband Association

First-of-its-kind recognition for companies providing speeds up to 100 times faster than most commonly available in U.S.

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Greenfield-based utility cooperative NineStar Connect is part of the inaugural group of telecom providers named Certified Gig-Capable Providers by the Arlington, Va. Based NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, a designation part of a national program highlighting community-based telecommunications companies delivering gigabit broadband speeds and leading innovation in rural and small-town America.

According to the NCTA: “As Certified Gig-Capable Providers, these companies join a national campaign spearheaded by NTCA to build awareness and industry recognition of community-based telecom providers that have built communications networks capable of delivering Internet speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, which is 100 times faster than those currently available in many U.S. households. In addition to national recognition, certified providers also received tools to promote themselves as a Gig-Capable Provider in the communities they serve.”

NineStar Connect is the only Indiana representative recognized and joins telecoms in Kentucky, Wisconsin and two each in Iowa, North Carolina, and North Dakota honored for their commitment to being on the forefront of Internet speeds.

“I applaud each one of these companies for their commitment to delivering the Internet’s fastest speeds—an accomplishment worthy of much praise considering the unique and challenging circumstances small, community-based telecommunications providers operate under every day in serving some of our country’s most rural and remote communities,” said NTCA Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield. “By building a gigabit-capable network, these companies have not only overcome these challenges, but also shattered conventional benchmarks for broadband speed to enable cutting-edge technologies that drive innovation and promote economic development in their communities, regions and nationwide.”

NineStar Connect’s President and CEO Michael R. Burrow said this designation is a fitting recognition for the work the company has done in recent years to bring reliable and ultra-high speed Internet to residential and business customers in Hancock, Henry, Fayette, Shelby, Rush, Johnson, Madison and Hamilton counties.

“This distinction highlights the work we have been pursuing since NineStar Connect was formed in 2011 with the merger of Hancock Telecom and Central Indiana Power to give our customers world class service and services,” Burrow said of NineStar Connect’s 100 Gigabit service that grew out of the fiber optic network started in 2003. “The speed in which our customers can access and communicate with the world as whole cannot be surpassed, and we are proud to provide these options to all our customers whether they are looking to stream television shows, stay ahead of international markets or transmit data with the rest of their company.”

To achieve certification, telecommunications companies must show that gigabit technology is currently commercially available within 95 percent of one or more exchanges within their serving territory and that such service can be provided without new trenching or stringing new aerial facilities. This statement must be confirmed by a letter from an engineering firm or other independent source involved in the company’s network planning, deployment or operation.

NineStar Connect will join these other companies in being recognized in NTCA media, on the NTCA website, and during association conferences and events, beginning with the NTCA 2015 Fall Conference in Boston.

About NineStar Connect: NineStar Connect is a communications and energy cooperative offering the latest technologies to business and residential clients in Central Indiana. Offering broadband speeds up to 100Gig and smart meter technologies to its energy customers, NineStar Connect is a cooperative owned by its members and headquartered in Greenfield, IN. More information is available at www.NineStarConnect.com.

For more information about the NTCA Gig-Capable Provider certification program, visit www.ntca.org/certified. Questions for NCTA can be directed to NCTA’s Communication Manager, Hillary Crowder, 703-351-2086 or hcrowder@ntca.org.