



FEATURES |

Merit Network Begins Deployment of REACH-3MC Optical Equipment |

ADVA Optical Networking equipment increases speeds to 10G, enables immediate transition to REACH-3MC infrastructure

Note: Merit Network, Inc. issued the following Press Release by Greg Monroe on December 19, 2011. For additional information contact Elwood Downing at Merit Network, Inc., (734) 527-5702, e-mail: <edowning@merit.edu>.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. - Merit Network, Inc. is pleased to announce the deployment of ADVA Optical Networking equipment at 16 nodes on the Merit backbone. The equipment, which consists of routers, switches and optical transport gear, will improve . . .

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Orders |

The Michigan Public Service Commission has not issued any Orders during the most recent fortnight.

Applications & Complaints |

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... service to several community anchor institutions that are current Merit Members. The equipment will also interconnect with Merit's REACH-3MC network build-out, enabling the fast turn-up of hundreds more community anchors as the fiber is constructed.

"I am very excited to announce the successful deployment of the first phase of the REACH-3MC optical platform," said Michael Milliken, director of network engineering and operations for Merit Network. "The ADVA Optical Networking equipment, which we have placed at critical nodes on our current backbone, will enable immediate 10 Gbps access as we continue to build out the REACH-3M project."

"Merit understands the positive impact that network technology can have on communities," said John Scherzinger, senior vice president of sales North America at ADVA Optical Networking. "We are proud to play a role in supporting this important network activation milestone with Merit, clearly demonstrating the scalability, intelligence and operational simplicity of ADVA Optical Networking's FSP-3000 DWDM optical transport technology."

Of the 16 optical nodes where new equipment has been deployed, 11 are located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula ("UP"). They span a segment of Merit's backbone that connects Merit Governing Members, Lake Superior State University ("LSSU"), Northern Michigan University ("NMU") and Michigan Technological University ("MTU"), from Sault Ste. Marie to Marquette and Houghton, Michigan.

Merit's engineering team lit the new equipment in the UP last week. With its successful deployment, LSSU, NMU and MTU now have 10 Gbps (gigabits per second) connections to Merit's network. That's a tenfold increase in speed from their previous 1 Gbps connection.

Merit's Governing Members are not the only organizations that will benefit from the ADVA upgrade.

"Providing high-speed bandwidth in the Upper Peninsula will no longer be a problem, something the region has struggled with for quite some time," said Elwood Downing, vice president of Member Relations, Communications and Services for Merit Network.

"Because multiple nodes that received upgraded equipment in the UP interconnect with Merit's REACH-3MC network build-out, community anchor institutions in the region, both current and new Merit Members, will have immediate access to advanced technology and the fastest speeds as REACH-3MC construction continues to accelerate."

In the Lower Peninsula, Merit has installed upgraded ADVA equipment at optical nodes in Mt. Pleasant, Grand Rapids and Muskegon, though these sites have not been lit at this time. Upgraded equipment will also be installed in Big Rapids once a renovation on the site that will house the equipment is completed. Merit plans to lite these four nodes before the end of the first quarter 2012.

Merit Network has long held a vision of equal access to information everywhere in Michigan, regardless of geographic location. The equipment upgrades and fiber-optic network extension through

REACH-3MC will help make that vision a reality, providing the same access and level of service in rural areas like the Upper Peninsula as metropolitan areas in other regions of Michigan.

About Merit Network – Merit Network Inc., a nonprofit corporation owned and governed by Michigan's public universities, owns and operates America's longest-running regional research and education network. In 1966, Michigan's public universities created Merit as a shared resource to help meet their common need for networking assistance. Since its formation, Merit Network has remained on the forefront of research and education networking expertise and services. Merit provides high-performance networking solutions to Michigan's public universities, colleges, K-12 organizations, libraries, state government, healthcare, and other non-profit organizations. For more information: <www.merit.edu>.

About REACH-3MC – The REACH Michigan Middle Mile Collaborative (“REACH-3MC”) will build 2,287 miles of open-access, advanced fiber-optic network through rural and underserved communities in Michigan's Lower and Upper Peninsulas. The network will also provide backhaul to key connection points in Wisconsin and Minnesota. REACH-3MC will connect 105 community anchor institutions as the network is built and will pass 900 more over time. Led by Merit Network, Michigan's research and education network, REACH-3MC includes sub-recipients from the private sector to make broadband readily available to households and businesses that lack adequate service options in the 52 counties that make up the project service area. REACH-3MC is funded by a grant from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), commonly referenced as the Stimulus Package.

For more information: <www.merit.edu/meritformichigan/>.

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2011 & 2012 LEGISLATION |

Copies of bills and public acts referred to in this column may be obtained by contacting your state Senator or Representative, on the Michigan Legislature Web site, <<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/>>, or from the Legislative Service Bureau Document Room at (517) 373-0169.

Senate Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
SB 016 Hardiman	01/19/2011	Michigan business tax; gross receipts; certain media property and live radio or television programming; exclude from gross receipts tax base.	Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.
SB 045 Anderson	01/19/2011	Education; discipline; policy prohibiting harassment and bullying at school (including using school telecommunications device); require.	11/02/2011 Discharge committee postponed.

Senate Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
SB 383 Kowall 2011 PA 77	05/12/2011	Michigan business tax; credits; qualified film production credits; modify credit amounts. Amends secs. 455, 457, & 459 of 2007 PA 36 (MCL 208.1455 et seq.).	07/12/2011 Signed by Governor Snyder; assigned 2011 PA 77; with immediate effect.
SB 499 Casperson	06/16/2011	Recreation; trails; rail trails; authorize installation of telecommunication facilities. Amends 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.101 - 324.90106) by adding sec. 72116.	12/14/2011 Substitute S-2 recommended by Senate Committee on Energy and Technology with immediate effect; referred to Committee of the Whole.
SB 565 Anderson	07/13/2011	Communications; cellular telephone; certain unsolicited commercial text messages; prohibit. Amends title & secs. 1, 2, 7 & 8 of 2003 PA 42 (MCL 445.2501 et seq.) & adds sec. 6a.	Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Technology.
SB 756 Walker	10/13/2011	Traffic control; driver license; individuals with level 2 graduated driver license; prohibit cell phone use while operating a vehicle. Amends secs. 320a & 732 of 1949 PA 300 (MCL 257.320a & 257.732) & adds sec. 602c.	Referred to Senate Committee on Transportation.

House Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
HB 4163 Potvin 2011 PA 241	02/01/2011	Education; discipline; local policies prohibiting harassment and bullying at school (including using school telecommunications device); require. Amends 1976 PA 451 (MCL 380.1 - 380.1852) by adding sec. 1310b.	12/07/2011 Approved by Gov. Snyder; filed with Secretary of State; assigned 2011 PA 241 with immediate effect
HB 4173 Meadows	02/01/2011	Education; discipline; policy prohibiting harassment and bullying at school (including using school telecommunications device); require.	11/10/11 Substitute H-4 passed House, Yeas 88, Nays 18, given immediate effect; Rep. Burnstead removed as co-sponsor; transmitted to Senate.

House Bill # Primary Sponsor	Date Introduced	Description	Status (revisions in bold)
HB 4314 Horn 2011 PA 58	02/22/2011	Communications; telecommunications; certain Michigan telecommunications act provisions; modify. Amends secs. 101, 102, 103, 202, 205, 210, 211a, 213, 303, 305, 305b, 309, 310a, 313, 315, 316, 401, 503 & 601 of 1991 PA 179 (MCL 484.2101 et seq.) & repeals secs. 301a, 304, 306, 308, 309a, 309b, 311, 312, 314, 321, 351, 352, 353, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 362, 363, 375, 376, 402, 502, 504 & 602 of 1991 PA 179 (MCL 484.2301a et seq.).	06/15/2011 Signed by Governor Snyder; Assigned 2011 PA 58.
HB 4453 McMillin	03/16/2011	Local government; public services; public entities competing against private competition; prohibit under certain circumstances. Creates new act.	Referred to House Committee on Oversight, Reform, and Ethics.
HB 4683 Opsommer 2011 PA 271	05/26/2011	Communications; telecommunications; requirement for installation of equipment and software to provide specific location information of a 9-1-1 call; modify. Amends sec. 405 of 1986 PA 32 (MCL 484.1405).	12/28/2011 Approved by Governor Snyder; assigned 2011 PA 271; 12/13/2011 Passed Senate 38 Yeas, 0 Nays; ordered enrolled; immediate effect.
HB 4787 MacGregor	06/21/2011	Communications; other; public safety communications system; provide for. Amends sec. 408 of 1986 PA 32 (MCL 484.1408).	09/20/2011 Approved by Governor Rick Snyder; Assigned 2011 PA 146 with immediate effect.
HB 4890 Hooker	08/24/2011	Libraries; policies and practices; installation of internet filter software on computers; require. Amends sec. 6 of 1982 PA 455 (MCL 397.606)	08/24/2011 Referred to House to Committee on Local, Intergovernmental, and Regional Affairs.
HB 5027 Lindberg	09/28/2011	Communications; broadcasting; local zoning restrictions for amateur radio; require to conform to federal regulations. Amends 2006 PA 110 (MCL 125.3101 - 125.3702) by adding sec. 205a.	09/28/2011 Referred to House Committee on Local, Intergovernmental, and Regional Affairs.
HB 5202 Rutledge	12/6/2011	Crimes; other; individual who knows another individual needs emergency assistance; require to call emergency services provider. Amends 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.1 - 750.568) by adding sec. 499.	Referred to House Committee on Judiciary.

PUBLIC ACTS OF 2011 & 2012 |

Listed below are Public Acts related to telecommunications that were passed during the current legislative session (2009-2010). Copies of Public Acts may be obtained by contacting your state Senator or Representative, on the Michigan Legislature Web site, <<http://www.michiganlegislature.org/>>, or from the Legislative Service Bureau Document Room at (517) 373-0169. Acts passed since the previous edition of the *Michigan Telecommunications Report* are in bold.

Public Act #	Effective Date	Description	Enrolled Bill # and Sponsor
2011 PA 58	06/15/2011	Communications; telecommunications; certain Michigan telecommunications act provisions; modify. Amends secs. 101, 102, 103, 202, 205, 210, 211a, 213, 303, 305, 305b, 309, 310a, 313, 315, 316, 401, 503 & 601 of 1991 PA 179 (MCL 484.2101 et seq.) & repeals secs. 301a, 304, 306, 308, 309a, 309b, 311, 312, 314, 321, 351, 352, 353, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 362, 363, 375, 376, 402, 502, 504 & 602 of 1991 PA 179 (MCL 484.2301a et seq.).	HB 4314 Horn
2011 PA 77	07/12/2011	Michigan business tax; credits; qualified film production credits; modify credit amounts. Amends secs. 455, 457, & 459 of 2007 PA 36 (MCL 208.1455 et seq.).	SB 383 Kowall
2011 PA 146	09/20/2011	Communications; other; public safety communications system; provide for. Amends sec. 408 of 1986 PA 32 (MCL 484.1408).	HB 4787 MacGregor
2011 PA 241	12/07/2011	Education; discipline; local policies prohibiting harassment and bullying at school (including using school telecommunications device); require. Amends 1976 PA 451 (MCL 380.1 - 380.1852) by adding sec. 1310b.	HB 4163 Potvin
2011 PA 271	12/13/2011	Communications; telecommunications; requirement for installation of equipment and software to provide specific location information of a 9-1-1 call; modify. Amends sec. 405 of 1986 PA 32 (MCL 484.1405).	HB 4683 Opsommer

ORDERS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION |

The Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) has not issued any Orders during the most recent fortnight.

APPLICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS |

Case No. U-16941

Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

Total Call Mobile, Inc.

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=16941>

On December 29, 2011, Total Call Mobile, Inc. filed an Application with the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) seeking Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) in the State of Michigan. According to the Application, Q Link Wireless, LLC seeks ETC designation solely to provide Lifeline service to qualifying Michigan consumers and will not seek access to funds from the federal Universal Service Fund (“USF”) for the purpose of providing link-up service or service to high cost areas.

Case No. U-16946

Discontinuance of Service

Midwestern Telecommunications, Inc.

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=16946>

On December 29, 2011, Midwestern Telecommunications, Inc. filed a Notice of Discontinuance of Basic Local Exchange and Toll Services with the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to Section 313 of the Michigan Telecommunications Act, MCL 484.2213. As part of this Notice, Midwestern Telecommunications, Inc. seeks to relinquish its license to provide basic local exchange service in Michigan and its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation.

Case No. U-16947

Request for Declaratory Ruling

ACD Telecom, Inc., Clear Rate Communications, Inc., TC3 Telecom, Inc., and TelNet Worldwide, Inc.

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=16947>

On December 29, 2011, ACD Telecom, Inc., Clear Rate Communications, Inc., TC3 Telecom, Inc., and TelNet Worldwide, Inc. (collectively, the “Petitioners”) filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling with the Michigan Public Service Commission. The Petition asks the Commission to consider the Federal Communications Commission’s (“FCC”) Universal Service Fund/Intercarrier Compensation Transformation Order, FCC 11-161 (rel’d Nov. 18, 2011), in which the FCC adopted comprehensive reforms to both the universal service and intercarrier compensation systems, and declare that the intrastate access rate transition procedure established in the 2009 amendment to Section 310 of the Michigan Telecommunications Act, MCL 484.2310; 2009 PA 182, has been preempted by the transition procedure established in the FCC’s Order. Because of this preemption, the Petitioners ask the Commission to allow them to reduce their intrastate access rates at the levels mandated by the FCC and vacate the requirement to contribute to the restructuring mechanism established in the 2009 amendments to Section 310 of the MTA.

NOTICES OF OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT |

The following Notices of Opportunity to Comment have been issued by the Michigan Public Service Commission's Executive Secretary. Any interested person may submit comments on the application by sending written comments to the Commission by mail to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: <mpscefilecases@michigan.gov>. Any comments should reference the applicable docket number.

Case No. U-16914

License

Ogden Telephone Company

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=16914>

Comments Due: Friday, January 13, 2012, at 5:00 p.m.

The Michigan Public Service Commission ("Commission") has invited interested persons to comment on the November 10, 2011, Application of Ogden Telephone Company for approval to amend the geographic area of its license to provide basic local exchange service. Ogden Telephone Company requests authority to expand the geographic service area of its Ogden Center Exchange into specified areas of Frontier North Inc.'s Adrian and Blissfield exchanges. Written and electronic comments may be filed with the Commission no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, January 13, 2012**. Written comments should be sent to Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Electronic comments may be sent via e-mail to: <mpscedockets@michigan.gov>. All comments should reference Case No. U-16914.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS |

The following Notices of Hearings have been issued by the Michigan Public Service Commission's Executive Secretary. Unless otherwise noted, all hearings are held at Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan, Lansing, Michigan.

Case No. U-16868

License

Liberty-Bell, LLC d/b/a Dish Network Phone & Internet

<http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=16868>

Evidentiary Hearing: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

The September 13, 2011 application of Liberty-Bell, LLC d/b/a Dish Network Phone & Internet for a license to provide basic local exchange telecommunications services in the State of Michigan is set for an evidentiary hearing at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, before Administrative Law Judge Theresa Sheets. The hearing is scheduled to be held at Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan, Lansing, Michigan. Interested parties wishing to intervene in this proceeding must do so by January 20, 2012.

MPSC HEARINGS SCHEDULE |

Note: Unless indicated otherwise, hearings are held in the offices of the Commission, 6545 Mercantile Way, Suite 7, Lansing, Michigan. Hearing dates and times are subject to change or cancellation. Please check with the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 to confirm that a hearing will be taking place.

**KNOWN TELECOM HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT FORTNIGHT
(JANUARY 9, 2012 THROUGH JANUARY 20, 2012)**

There are no known Telecommunications hearings scheduled with the Michigan Public Service Commission during the next fortnight.

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FUTURE TELECOM HEARINGS SCHEDULED

January 24, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Case No. U-16868/Evidentiary Hearing
Liberty Bell Telecom, L.L.C. d/b/a Dish Network
Phone & Internet (license)

2012 REGULAR MPSC MEETING DATES* |

The Michigan Public Service Commission has yet to announce its schedule of meetings for the 2012 Calendar year.

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