

Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB)

112 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620-2601 https://publicservice.vermont.gov/vcbb

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VERMONT COMMUNITY BROADBAND BOARD CONGRATULATES DVFIBER ON PARTNERSHIP TO BEGIN BUILDING FIBER OPTIC NETWORK

Montpelier, Vermont –The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) is congratulating DVFiber, one of Vermont's 10 Communications Union Districts (CUDs), on signing a construction contract with Sertex Broadband Solutions for the initial phase of constructing and installing a fiber optic network in southern Vermont.

"This milestone represents more than three years of work by the DVFiber Board and its dedicated volunteers," said DVFiber Chair Steven John. "This year we will connect hundreds of formerly unserved and underserved addresses to DVFiber's reliable high-speed Internet service."

"Congratulations to everyone at DVFiber on achieving this important milestone toward the goal of ensuring all Vermonters have access to high-speed internet. Your hard work is paying off, and all Vermonters in your district will benefit from it," said VCBB Executive Director Christine Hallquist. High speed, future-proof broadband is important for education, public safety, renewable energy, and other elements necessary to build resilient and thriving communities."

DVFiber was established in 2020 to ensure that all on-grid households and businesses within the 24-member town district have access to reliable, high-speed Internet service. Sertex, founded in 1999, is a regional expert in fiber optic network deployment, committed to providing high-quality services that effectively support the installation of high bandwidth systems. The company's mission is to deploy broadband infrastructures that are reliable, affordable, and built to last, focusing first in unserved and underserved areas.

"We are proud to partner with DVFiber in expanding digital infrastructure in Southern Vermont," said Michael Solitro, CEO and founder of Sertex. "Gigabit connectivity is life-changing in rural areas, as it opens new doors for remote work, education, medical care, and economic opportunity."

DVFiber and Sertex are expected to start construction later this month. For more information about DVFiber and its mission to provide universal, affordable, reliable high-speed Internet service, visit <u>dvfiber.net</u>.

216 Vermont towns are members of CUDs, including more than seventy-six percent of the state's population and ninety-three percent of premises without access to 25/3 service. Six of Vermont's 10 CUDs are currently under construction.

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