

Stratford Mutual Telephone Taps DZS to Expand Services in Rural Iowa with XGS-PON

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Iowa service provider to leverage government broadband grants to bring world-class broadband to unserved communities in two counties

DALLAS, May 24, 2022 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- **DZS** (Nasdaq: DZSI), a global leader in access networking infrastructure, service assurance and consumer experience software solutions, today announced it will be supporting a network expansion initiative at **Stratford Mutual Telephone** to bring world-class broadband to a formerly unserved area, Hamilton and Story Counties in rural Iowa. The Iowa-based telecommunications service provider is leveraging XGS-PON technology from DZS to overbuild unserved communities in its service area providing much-needed connectivity to up to 1,400 new subscribers across the two counties, enabling them to benefit from game-changing applications such as HD videoconferencing, telehealth, augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR), immersive gaming, 8k video streaming and more. The project, awarded via an RFP managed by consulting engineering firm **Vantage Point** and supported by distribution partner **Goldfield Telecom**, will leverage leading-edge solutions from the **DZS Velocity Broadband Connectivity** portfolio and ONTs and WiFi mesh solutions from the **DZS Helix Connected Home & Business** portfolios.

"Fast and reliable broadband connectivity is a critical necessity that people rely on to conduct their daily lives," said Steve Frey, General Manager at Stratford Mutual Telephone. "This network expansion is part of our ongoing efforts, supported by state broadband grant programs, to bridge the digital divide in rural Iowa. DZS, Vantage Point and Goldfield Telecom have been long-time, valued partners of ours, dating back to 2005 when we were one of the first companies to deploy fiber and PON technology in the state. We are thrilled to build on our joint success by enhancing our network with industry-leading technology that will enable us to provide our subscribers, both existing and new, with unparalleled services."

As part of the deployment, Stratford Mutual Telephone will integrate leading-edge XGS-PON technologies from DZS, including the company's breakthrough DZS Velocity combo cards, featuring the powerful Any-PON-Any-Port (APA) technology. This will provide the Stratford team the flexibility to deploy the optimal technology for every deployment scenario, choosing from GPON, XGS-PON, or 10 gigabit point-to-point technologies to meet the physical and service demands of the community. Stratford is also integrating DZS Helix WiFi mesh gateway solutions, providing whole home solutions for customers.

"Stratford Telephone has an outstanding reputation as a service provider ready to do whatever is necessary to support its customers," said Andrew Finkelstein, Senior Vice President, North America Sales at DZS. "By securing funding from government programs to improve and expand critical broadband infrastructure and prioritizing flexibility and ease-of-use in their network, Stratford is setting an example for other service providers looking to improve the quality of life in their communities through life-changing and hyper-fast broadband access. In addition to delivering immediate benefits to underserved communities, they are expanding their audience and advancing their services well into the future. We have enjoyed meaningful partnerships with Stratford, Vantage Point and Goldfield for nearly two decades and look forward to supporting their network expansion."

To learn more about DZS, visit <https://www.dzsi.com>.

About DZS

DZS Inc. (NSDQ: DZSI) is a global leader in access networking infrastructure, service assurance and consumer experience software solutions.

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This press release contains forward-looking statements regarding future events and our future results that are subject to the safe harbors created under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements reflect the beliefs and assumptions of the Company's management as of the date hereof. Words such as "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "goal," "intend," "may," "plan," "project," "seek," "should," "target," "will," "would," variations of such words, and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned that these forward-looking statements are only predictions and are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. The Company's actual results could differ materially and adversely from those expressed in or contemplated by the forward-looking statements.

Factors that could cause actual results to differ include, but are not limited to, those risk factors contained in the Company's SEC filings available at www.sec.gov, including without limitation, the Company's annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and subsequent filings. In addition, additional or unforeseen affects from the

COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic climate may give rise to or amplify many of these risks. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they are made. DZS undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements for any reason.

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