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GVTC unveils plans for Texas' first gigabit region

Boerne, Gonzales, Bulverde partner with GVTC to bring high-speed gigabit fiber network

SMITHSON VALLEY, June 18, 2014 — With San Antonio and Austin vying for Google fiber, GVTC Communications, headquartered just north of San Antonio, is set to become the first rural telecommunications provider in Texas to power over 2,200 miles of fiber optic cable with gigabit Internet service. More than 39,000 GVTC rooftops will be eligible for a gig connection starting in September 2014.

Trademarked as the GVTC GigaRegion™, the communications company is forming a unique partnership with the cities of Boerne, Bulverde and Gonzales to drive economic development throughout GVTC's service area.

The partnership involves a two-year comprehensive marketing plan, in which, GVTC and the three municipalities, will work together to promote the business and lifestyle benefits of GVTC's GigaRegion™.

"GVTC brought fiber broadband to South Texas a decade ago and we embrace this opportunity to help our community leaders fulfill their vision for managed growth," GVTC President and CEO, Ritchie Sorrells, said. "With the untapped possibilities of a gigabit Internet connection, we'll work together with our partners to make the GVTC GigaRegion™ a center of ingenuity and entrepreneurialism."

The GVTC GigaRegion™ announcement also drew praise from the leader of one of the country's premier associations of community-based telecommunications companies.

"NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association is thrilled to see the enthusiasm and innovation by one of our member companies in providing cutting edge telecommunications services to rural Texas," Shirley Bloomfield, CEO, NTCA— The Rural Broadband Association, said. "When I had

the opportunity to visit GVTC earlier this year, I was so impressed with their forward-thinking and the top-of-the-line services they are providing to their community. The GVTC GigaRegion™ is another example of the important role our member companies can play in the enhancement of their customers' lives and the economy in the communities they serve."

Heather Gold, president, Fiber to the Home Council Americas, commended GVTC for taking a leading role in fiber broadband deployment.

"GVTC has helped empower the Hill Country, bringing vital fiber broadband networks to rural areas, becoming one of the first rural telecommunication companies in Texas to offer gigabit services over a large geographic area," Gold said. "The GVTC GigaRegion™ will boost economic growth, strengthen communication among emergency services, and give students the opportunity to use the latest technology."

The South Texas town of Gonzales is experiencing a boom of oil and natural gas activity due to the Eagle Ford Shale. Mayor Robert Logan believes being part of GVTC's GigaRegion™ will help differentiate his city as they contend for energy-related companies looking to establish an office in the Shale.

"Our economic development office has already fielded several inquiries about GVTC's existing fiber Internet services, so we're excited about the additional awareness GVTC's GigaRegion™ will generate for us." Mayor Logan said. "We're also using this opportunity to begin diversifying our tax base to prepare for the day when the Shale is no longer the driving force in our area."

Closer to San Antonio, Boerne and Bulverde are among the fastest growing communities in Texas. GVTC's GigaRegion™ gives these cities an important asset to help them move beyond a bedroom community for the Alamo City.

"The GVTC GigaRegion™ partnership puts Boerne in a great position to compete with San Antonio, the seventh largest city in the United States, for the same jobs they are seeking," Boerne Mayor Mike Schultz said. "With GVTC's ultra-high-speed Internet, in addition to Boerne's top-ranked school system and exceptional quality of life, we will have an edge when working to attract new companies and retain those already here."

"We have a successful track record of managing economic growth in Bulverde," Mayor Bill Krawietz, said. "The GVTC GigaRegion™ gives us the ability to go beyond the retail sector and target more technology-based companies which results in higher paying jobs for our community."

About GVTC:

GVTC is a full-service communications provider offering high-speed Internet, digital cable TV, phone and interactive home security monitoring to residential and business customers. GVTC serves a 2,000 square mile region in select areas of North San Antonio, the Texas Hill Country and South Central Texas. More than two-thirds of GVTC's customers are connected to its state-of-the-art fiber optics network, which deliver the fastest Internet speeds in GVTC's service area. The company has received numerous awards for business excellence. Among the honors is being selected a *Broadband Communities Magazine*, Top 100 Broadband Provider, six consecutive years. The *San Antonio Express-News* and *San Antonio Business Journal* have also recognized GVTC as an exemplary employer on multiple occasions. The company's charitable arm, The GVTC Foundation, has donated more than \$1.3 million dollars to worthy causes, since its establishment in 2006. Learn more at GVTC.com.