

Smithville®

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Midwest Telecom Expo to showcase technology advances, discuss rural fiber optic connectivity at annual conference

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (Oct. 28, 2008)— Smithville, Indiana's largest privately owned telecommunications company, will join more than 600 telecommunications professionals from throughout the Midwest Oct. 28 – 30 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne to discuss industry advancements and the innovations being driven by some of its more progressive members.

Smithville has garnered recent national attention for its own progressive achievements here in Indiana. The company announced earlier this year an investment of \$90 million over 36 months to build an entirely new communications platform bringing real fiber-based broadband to 29,000 customers in 17 counties in the south-central and southern part of the state. This investment in high-speed fiber optics is giving Smithville a major advantage over its competitors. The advantage is this: Smithville is one of the first companies in the Midwest to begin bringing fiber directly to the homes of all of its customers—even the rural ones.

“The new Smithville fiber-optic system will bring a whole host of new services to our customers, but as important, it will help Indiana rural business compete on a global scale,” said Darby A. McCarty, president and CEO of Smithville. “It’s amazing to think that rural residents and businesses in the South and south-central part of Indiana can soon boast about a new technology development that is not yet widely available, even in urban settings.”

Smithville’s new FTTH service will set a new standard of digital communication with the complete rebuild of its existing system. When complete, none of Smithville’s customers will use existing copper or hybrid (copper, fiber or coaxial cable) systems which possess significant limitations and cannot achieve the higher speeds available only with fiber-based systems.

Jointly sponsored by the telecommunications associations in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio for the past 25 years, the Expo draws attendees from a five-state Midwest region - Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and Kentucky. The Expo is a highly-praised exposition and conference. The Grand Wayne Convention Center's exhibit hall has more than 140 exhibits for this event. For more information, visit www.midwesttelecomexpo.com.

About Smithville – Led by chairman and CEO Darby A. McCarty since 2003, Smithville is one of Indiana’s oldest and largest independent communication companies, with its telephone division founded in 1922. A long-time champion of southern Indiana customers and a proven

early adopter of state-of-the-art communication services, Smithville began converting its operations to a digital platform in the 1980s. In 2003, the company created a new commercial division, Smithville Digital, which serves up a fiber-based technology portfolio of physical and electronic services providing high-speed, reliable and secure broadband access and industrial data transport for Hoosier businesses statewide. For more information, please visit www.smithville.net.

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