

News Release

Brightspeed Fiber Internet Delivers Ultra-Fast Internet to Thousands More Families in Eastern North Carolina

Company's multi-million-dollar investment will give more than 31,000 locations blazing fast internet

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — July 2, 2024 — Brightspeed, the nation's fourth largest fiber broadband builder focused on empowering more homes with ultrafast, reliable internet, announced that construction is underway to connect thousands more Eastern and coastal North Carolina residents to Brightspeed Fiber Internet. The company is currently working to connect more than 21,000 families and businesses in and around Morehead City, Beaufort, Newport and Washington, in addition to the more than 10,000 residents in those communities who already have access to Brightspeed's super-fast fiber network. This comes just weeks after the company announced its fiber internet build for 22,000 residents in Carteret and Onslow counties.

Additionally, Brightspeed was recently awarded \$51.8 million in grants to expand its state-of-the-art fiber broadband network to even more North Carolina residents and small businesses. The N.C. Department of Information Technology's (NCDIT) Division of Broadband and Digital Equity Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) funds will help fund the expansion of Brightspeed's fiber network build to nearly 21,000 more locations, including customers in Beaufort and Pitt counties.

Together, the CAB program funds and Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grants awarded to Brightspeed provide approximately \$177 million in funding to help connect approximately 81,000 North Carolina households and businesses across 41 counties to its blazing fast network. This brings Brightspeed's total commitment in its home state to more than 880,000 fiber-enabled locations.

What to Expect During Construction

Residents across these areas will start to see Brightspeed trucks in their local neighborhoods as crews work to bring people online. Brightspeed's highest priority is working quickly and efficiently within these local communities, keeping safety at the forefront.

North Carolinians can check fiber availability in their area by visiting www.brightspeed.com/brightspeed-fiber-internet/ and signing up to receive alerts when service is available at their location. Once connected, customers can expect straightforward bills, easy-to-understand plans and internet connections that just work.

Coastal and Eastern North Carolina is Getting the Best in Broadband

The Brightspeed Fiber Internet network leverages the latest XGS-PON (10-Gigabit Symmetric Passive Optical Network) technology to bring multi-gig-speed capabilities and consistent responsiveness that enable multi-device households to connect, work, study, stream, communicate and game efficiently and reliably in North Carolina.

Brightspeed representatives are currently going door to door in Morehead City and Washington to enroll customers in the company's multi-gig-speed service.

Brightspeed Fiber is More Than Just Internet

Put simply, high-speed internet equals opportunity for households and businesses alike, and access to fast, reliable and affordable internet and Wi-Fi will help close the rural-urban digital divide. That's why Brightspeed is building its smart, fiber optics-based network in communities along Eastern North Carolina and the coast — so residents and business owners have the reliable connectivity they need to work, learn, play and thrive.

Brightspeed is already investing \$2 billion in deploying next-generation fiber-optic technology to build a more reliable, super-fast broadband internet network that will reach more than three million homes and businesses across 20 states.

About Brightspeed

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C. and with assets and associated operations in 20 states, Brightspeed provides broadband and telecommunications services through a network platform capable of serving more than 6.5 million homes and businesses. Our more than 4,000 employees are committed to building a future where more communities benefit from a more connected life, deploying a state-of-the-art fiber network and a customer experience that makes being connected as simple as it should be. For more information, please visit www.brightspeed.com.

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