PRESS RELEASE
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Port of Lewiston Partners with Pivot Tech Development to Bring a Community-Owned Fiber Network to Nez Perce County

LEWISTON, IDAHO — June 6, 2025 — The Port of Lewiston today announced a groundbreaking partnership with Pivot Tech Development, Inc. to develop a state-of-the-art fiber optic network that will ultimately become a community-owned asset serving the citizens of Nez Perce County and the City of Lewiston.

This innovative public-private partnership will establish critical digital infrastructure designed to deliver high-speed connectivity, bridge the digital divide, and create economic opportunities for residents and businesses throughout the region.

"This project represents a significant investment in our community's digital future," said Dan Johnson, Mayor of Lewiston. "By establishing this network, we're ensuring that Lewiston has the infrastructure needed to thrive in an increasingly connected world."

Community-Centered Approach
Unlike previous connectivity proposals considered for the region, this project is structured with community ownership as its ultimate goal. The network will be built and managed by a newly established independent nonprofit organization, ensuring transparent operations and community-focused governance.

"What makes this project unique is that the infrastructure will ultimately belong to the community," said Scott Corbitt, Port of Lewiston General Manager. "Once the municipal bonds financing the construction are fully paid in approximately 30 years, this valuable asset will transfer to community ownership, generating long-term benefits for generations to come."

Open Access Architecture
The network has been designed with an open access architecture that allows multiple service providers to utilize the infrastructure. The design preserves existing business relationships while creating new opportunities for service expansion. Current providers utilizing Port of Lewiston fiber infrastructure will continue to have access throughout their contract terms.

Economic Development Engine
The project is expected to generate substantial economic benefits for the region, including:

- Creating local jobs during construction and operation
- Attracting businesses requiring high-speed connectivity
- Enabling remote work opportunities for residents
- Supporting agricultural technology advancements
- Enhancing educational opportunities through improved digital access

"Modern fiber infrastructure is as essential as roads and utilities for communities to remain competitive," said Jim Cannon, CEO of Pivot Tech Development. "Our team is committed to delivering a community-based network driven by North Central Idaho's needs today while providing the foundation for future innovation."

Project Timeline
Construction on the network is scheduled to begin in the coming months, with initial services expected to be available in October 2025. The project will be implemented in phases, with regular updates provided to the community as construction progresses.

About the Partners
Port of Lewiston: Idaho's only seaport provides multimodal transportation, economic development, and infrastructure services to support regional growth.

Pivot Tech Development, Inc.: A leader in fiber network design and implementation, specializing in community-centered digital infrastructure projects.

Confluence Communications: A newly established nonprofit organization created specifically to build, operate, and maintain the Lewiston community fiber network.

For more information:

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