

Badgernet Ribboncutting
3:00 p.m.

**THANK YOU, JIM (BARR, TDS PRESIDENT) FOR THAT
KIND INTRODUCTION.**

**IT'S AN HONOR TO BE HERE TODAY AT T-D-S
TELECOM TO FORMALLY ANNOUNCE THE
CONTRACT BETWEEN THE STATE AND T-D-S FOR
THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BADGERNET NETWORK.**

**THE FIELD OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IS
RAPIDLY TRANSFORMING THE WAY IN WHICH
BUSINESS AND EDUCATION ARE CONDUCTED IN
WISCONSIN.**

**THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE...
INCLUDING THE UW SYSTEM...TECHNICAL
COLLEGES... K THROUGH 12 SCHOOLS AND
LIBRARIES... HAVE FUELED AN EXPLOSIVE
DEMAND FOR VIDEO AND INTERNET ACCESS
FACILITIES AS THEY CONTINUE TO UPGRADE THEIR
BUILDINGS AND CLASSROOMS TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
AVAILABLE OUTSIDE THEIR LOCAL
ENVIRONMENTS.**

AS THE NUMBER OF VIDEO DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORKS IN THE STATE GROWS, SO DOES OUR DESIRE TO INTERCONNECT THEM TO PROVIDE MORE RESOURCES...

MY “TEACH WISCONSIN” INITIATIVE DOES JUST THAT... IT BRINGS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OVER VAST DISTANCES TOGETHER, IN GRADE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, WHETHER IN MOSINEE OR MADISON ... ANTIGO OR APPLETON ... NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE.

BADGERNET IS THE ADVANCED DATA COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGHOUT WISCONSIN THAT PROVIDES THE TECHNOLOGY BACKBONE FOR “TEACH WISCONSIN” AND OTHER INITIATIVES...

IT ALSO ALLOWS FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES AND NEW APPLICATIONS TO BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED BY THE STATE, ITS AGENCIES, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CAMPUSES, LOCAL SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES.

BADGERNET WILL INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE GOVERNMENT... AND ENHANCE THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

TO IMPLEMENT THE BADGERNET UMBRELLA OF SERVICES, WE ARE CONTRACTING WITH VARIOUS SERVICE VENDORS COMPETING IN THE MARKET PLACE.

THROUGH THESE CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS, WE ANTICIPATE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE TIMELY AND COST EFFECTIVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND BANDWIDTH TO ALL OF OUR USERS.

ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL FUNCTIONS OF THE BADGERNET SYSTEM IS THAT OF MONITORING AND CONTROLLING THE VARIOUS NETWORK ELEMENTS INCLUDING ACCESS LINKS... SWITCHING EQUIPMENT ... AND TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS.

WHEN WE WERE LOOKING FOR A COMPANY TO HANDLE THIS FOR US, WE LOOKED AT SEVERAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIRMS. WHEN WE WERE EVALUATING THE PROPOSALS, EVERYONE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE TEAM THAT T-D-S BROUGHT TO THE TABLE ... AND THEIR SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP.

EVERYONE ON THE EVALUATION TEAM AGREED THAT WE COULD REALLY WORK WITH T-D-S ... OTHER FINALISTS WERE CONCERNED WITH CONTRACTS AND LAWYERS ... T-D-S WAS CONCERNED WITH FINDING THE SOLUTIONS TO THE THE PROBLEMS AT HAND ...

WHEN T-D-S LEARNED THEY WERE AWARDED THE CONTRACT, THEY HIT THE GROUND RUNNING... T-D-S PUT TOGETHER A PLAN TO TAKE OVER MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE'S ROUTERS STARTING IN FEBRUARY OF 1999...

BUT ON JUNE FIRST OF THIS YEAR... THEY BEGAN MANAGING THE BADGERNET NETWORK – A FULL EIGHT MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE WITHOUT ANY DISRUPTIONS!

I'M PROUD THAT T-D-S TELECOM HAS BECOME A PARTNER WITH THE STATE. HOMEGROWN BUSINESSES LIKE T-D-S ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE WISCONSIN ECONOMY, AND WE COULD NOT HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALREADY WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.

JIM (BARR) TALKED ABOUT OUR LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HERE IN MADISON... OUR

**CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 1.5 PERCENT
HERE IN DANE COUNTY IS A TRIBUTE TO THE
SUCCESS OF THE HARD WORK AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH OF COMPANIES LIKE T-D-S.**

**YOU HAVE CREATED GOOD JOBS THAT HAVE
ENHANCED OUR QUALITY OF LIFE. THIS MEANS
THAT FAMILIES ARE STRONGER, PEOPLE ARE
HEALTHIER, AND MADISON IS MORE VIBRANT.**

**AND THANKS TO T-D-S, WE CAN COMMUNICATE AT
THE SPEED OF LIGHT ... THROUGH SUCH CUTTING
EDGE TECHNOLOGIES AS INTERACTIVE VIDEO AND
THE INTERNET ... SO THAT WISCONSIN CAN MOVE
AT THE SPEED OF CHANGE ... AS WE HURTLE INTO
THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IN A NEW MILLENNIUM.**

**BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE HAVE BUILT
WISCONSIN INTO AMERICA'S STATE – THE
STRONGEST, MOST PRODUCTIVE STATE IN THE
NATION.....AND WITH BADGERNET, WE WILL BE
ABLE TO CARRY ON THIS STRONG TRADITION.**

**I WANT TO THANK YOU JIM, FOR WHAT YOU HAVE
DONE FOR WISCONSIN...WITH COMPANIES LIKE
T-D-S IN OUR OWN BACKYARD, WE CAN'T LOSE.**

THANK YOU.