



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL POWELL, FCC COMMISSIONER JONATHAN ADELSTEIN,
AND SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR MICHAEL ROUNDS TO HEADLINE
PRESENTATION OF WISP TECHNOLOGIES, MAY 25, 3:30 – 5:30 PM
Presentation to be Held at South Dakota School of Mines, Rapid City

Washington, DC -- FCC Chairman Powell, FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein, South Dakota Governor Michael Rounds, and several representatives of wireless Internet service providers (WISP) will demonstrate how small, entrepreneurial WISPs are serving rural communities and using wireless broadband services to bring opportunities for greater economic development. There will also be discussions of how the challenges in serving rural communities can be overcome.

In addition to Governor Rounds, Chairman Powell, Commissioner Adelstein and WISP providers, the presentation will also be attended by representatives of the Public Utilities Commission, local government, Chamber of Commerce, the tech sector and other Internet service providers, including cable and DSL services providers, and FCC staff.

The event will be held at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, 501 E. St. Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, room 204 in the Classroom Building, and begin at 3:30 pm.

(Note: Earlier in the afternoon, also at the School of Mines, Chairman Powell and Commissioner Adelstein will meet with representatives of the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium (UMAC) to discuss and demonstrate satellite programs. See details below.)

The schedule for the WISP event is as follows:

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm -- Remarks by FCC and State and local officials including Chairman Powell, Governor Rounds, Commissioner Adelstein, & South Dakota PUC Chairman Bob Sahr.

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm -- Presentations by WISP representatives.

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm -- Forum discussion on facilitating the dialog on wireless broadband access in rural areas.

UPPER MIDWEST AEROSPACE CONSORTIUM (UMAC) EVENT, 1:45 PM

In addition to the WISP event, Chairman Powell and Commissioner Adelstein will earlier in the afternoon at the School of Mines visit with the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium (UMAC). UMAC is a consortium of educational institutions in the Midwest that use several types of satellite technology for public and business benefits. As a consortium, UMAC, founded at the University of North Dakota, includes partners from academia, industry, and government located throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.

The satellite event will begin at 1:45 pm in room 110 in the Classroom Building at the School of Mines with local educator Lee Vierling and twenty local 3rd grade students, demonstrating the use of an online satellite curriculum in elementary school classrooms. Mr. Vierling will lead an interactive session where the children will share their knowledge of satellite technology and their understanding of its uses. In addition to the discussion, the students will have an opportunity display satellite models they created in their classroom prior to the event as part of the training curriculum.

In addition, UMAC officials will demonstrate how they use several types of satellite technology to gather and analyze data that they then provide to farmers, ranchers, foresters, educators and classrooms at no cost. In the Midwest region, families, businesses and educators enjoy the benefits of satellite technology in a variety of ways, including satellite-television and satellite broadband internet connectivity. UMAC's application of satellite technology reaches beyond basic communication and entertainment services, providing services to local farmers, ranchers, public safety organizations and educators in an effort to support and enhance the health, safety and welfare of local communities.

