



## **MSAD #31 SCHOOL DISTRICT IN MAINE INSTALLS CONTERRA ETHERNET NETWORK**

### ***100 Megabit Link Provides Connection Speeds 67 Times Faster than Traditional Broadband Alternatives***

**Charlotte, NC – January 5, 2007** – Conterra Ultra Broadband, a facilities-based alternative access provider, today announced that MSAD #31 in Howland, Maine has installed its carrier-class Ethernet network. The 100 Megabit (Mbps) link connects Penobscot Valley High School and Hichborn Middle School to Enfield Station Elementary School and supports mission critical transmission of data, voice and video simultaneously in a converged environment.

Using microwave technology and FCC-licensed radio spectrum enables Conterra to deliver to MSAD #31 secure, interference free, low latency alternative access services at price points that rival new optical fiber deployments. With speeds greater than 67 times traditional broadband alternatives, MSAD #31 can delve into the world of advanced multi-media education.

“Being located in a rural environment required the School District to evaluate alternative access companies that could deliver high speed broadband connections at economically viable price points. When assessed against price per megabit and broadband access criteria, Conterra’s Ethernet network proved to be the most cost-effective,” said Jerry T. White, superintendent, MSAD #31. “Additionally, Barry van Gorp, Technology Coordinator for MSAD #31 has been instrumental in keeping the project on track and assessing the future educational needs of the district, its students and educators.”

With the network expected to go live at the end of January, MSAD #31 is preparing to incorporate bandwidth intensive applications into its student curriculum, share resources across its schools and centralize its network operations.

“MSAD #31 is the first contract in Maine awarded to Conterra and as such represents a milestone for the company,” said Michael Norris, executive vice president, U.S. Sales & Marketing, Conterra. “We look forward to expanding our services within this District and welcome the opportunity to speak with other Districts about deploying carrier-class Ethernet networks in their regions.”

As bandwidth requirements increase and data intensive instructional applications become more prevalent, Conterra helps its customers relieve their bandwidth bottlenecks and narrow their student achievement gap.

**About Conterra Ultra Broadband**

Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC, is a licensed FCC Common Carrier that provides microwave and fiber-based Ethernet networks to education, healthcare, business and government customers primarily in underserved communities and backhaul transport services to carrier customers.

Privately owned and headquartered in Charlotte, NC, Conterra was established by the founders and management of Vanguard Cellular System, Inc., one of the first independent cellular companies in the United States, started in 1982. Highly regarded as a technology leader, Vanguard designed, built and operated its own point-to-point microwave broadband systems to support wireless voice and data traffic within its cellular networks throughout the country. For more information, visit [www.conterra.com](http://www.conterra.com).

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