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The Ranch Gets Unwired

FORT COLLINS, CO—FRII, the local Internet provider who recently collaborated with the City of Fort Collins to create a Wireless Mesh Network in Old Town, was awarded the Wireless project at The Ranch. Through an RFP process, Larimer County chose FRII as their new provider for Wireless service at the Larimer County Fairgrounds and Events Complex.

"After winning the bid, we started with a small immediate deployment to cover the needs of vendors at the Larimer County Fair. The Ranch appreciated the fast deployment and quality of Internet service. The feedback was great and users were happy with the access" says FRII's VP of Sales and Business Development, Shawna Killen.

Discussions are still in the works between FRII and the County to settle on permanent specifications. These discussions include agreements that will result in an increase in wireless coverage at the Ranch both indoors and outdoors. This will allow exhibitors and attendees access to the wireless mesh network..

"FRII was chosen because they were not only able to meet the needs of The Ranch, but will also support Larimer County's vision of building partnerships, in being customer driven and good stewards of public resources," says Rochelle Karus, Event Coordinator for The Ranch.

This infrastructure upgrade puts The Ranch among the best in the country in regards to technology availability in event facilities. With this, the County can attract additional conferences, trade shows and events. "We're excited by the potential a technology like this can bring to an organization and a region. With this expanded offering, we expect The Ranch to generate more revenues for Northern Colorado and attract some fun events. We look forward to this relationship and the potential," adds Bill Ward, President & CEO of FRII. FRII is also in talks with other communities along the Northern Front Range in an effort to build a Wireless network that encompasses multiple communities.

Notes of interest:

1. FRII's deployment is backed by Nortel, an industry leader, with the latest encryption technology that is more secure than many wireless networks.
2. FRII was already the provider for Fiber connections running to The Ranch grounds. The entire wireless network at The Ranch now has fiber taking it to the Internet at 10 Mbps. Fiber has the most growth potential (Up to 1 Gbps), the lowest latency and the best redundancy of any connection available. FRII's abilities allow for quick custom changes in regards to bandwidth and short-term surprise demands based on certain types of conferences or entertainers. Wired connections can also be made available on special request.
3. The new Wireless solution at The Ranch utilizes wireless mesh – which offers the ability to move seamlessly between connection points on the campus.