

April 28, 2004

Open Park Project Launches Free Wi-Fi Service On Capitol Hill Coverage of National Mall Planned

Washington D.C. The Open Park Project, a Washington D.C. non-profit, launched the first public outdoor wireless Internet hotspot in the nation's capital today. The free service provides coverage in front of the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress and the Capitol Visitors' Center site. The Capitol Hill hotspot is the initial step in Open Park's plan to provide free public wireless Internet service across the National Mall.

Open Park is using the popular Wi-Fi technology employed in home networks and coffee shops. The group's free hotspot "will give the public outside the Capitol the same quick Internet access for research, email and news that their representatives enjoy inside their offices," said Open Park's co-founder, Greg Staple, a Washington communications lawyer. "It's a hotspot for democracy," said Staple.

The group also announced today that it had received a significant donation of Wi-Fi equipment and services from Tropos Networks, Inc. of San Mateo, California, a leading supplier of systems used to build metro-scale Wi-Fi networks. The donation will enable Open Park to establish a mesh of free hotspots on the Mall, beginning this Summer. By 2005, the group's goal is to create a public Wi-Fi zone from the Washington Monument to Capitol Hill that will also serve as a national test bed for new wireless applications.

"Washington policymakers deserve a first hand look at how quickly innovation can develop in unlicensed spectrum bands such as those used by Wi-Fi," said Kevin Werbach, a technology analyst and co-founder. "From Wi-Fi phones to radio location tags to portable guides for park rangers, the possibilities are extraordinary," he added.

"We welcome the support of other high tech companies and individuals in implementing this vision," said Leo Cloutier, a telecommunications consultant who serves as the project's chief technical adviser and network architect. "We believe that Washington deserves a state-of-the-art Wi-Fi net on the Mall. Open Park is focused on marshaling the resources necessary to provide this 21st Century community service."

To learn more about Open Park's activities, visit www.openpark.net.

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About Open Park:

Open Park is a District of Columbia non profit organization founded in 2003 by Greg Staple, Don Weightman, Kevin Werbach and Leo Cloutier.

Staple is a partner with the law firm of Vinson & Elkins LLP, and has advised communications companies on legal and regulatory matters for over 20 years. He also founded TeleGeography, Inc., a telecom business publisher, now owned by PriMetrica, Inc. Weightman is a Washington communications lawyer with over 25 years experience in representing technology companies. Werbach is the founder of the Supernova Group and was formerly counsel for new technology policy at the Federal Communications Commission and the Editor of *Release 1.0: Esther Dyson's Monthly Report*. Cloutier has over 15 years of experience developing carrier class voice, video and data services.

The group has launched a campaign to raise the additional funding necessary to implement its vision. The project's start-up activities have been assisted by Public Knowledge, a national public interest organization committed to expanding the fair use of digital media. Public Knowledge is also accepting tax deductible grants and gifts on behalf of Open Park pending approval of Open Park's own 501(c)(3) exemption application by the IRS.

Open Park's activities are also supported by:

- the law firm of Vinson & Elkins LLP, which provides pro bono legal counsel to the project;
- DC Access, a Capitol Hill wireless Internet service provider that supplies the project's broadband Internet connection; and
- DeepCoolClear and Airimba Wireless, formerly Texas Wi-Fi , which provide back end network management and authentication services for Wi-Fi operators.

About Tropos Networks, Inc.

Tropos Networks, Inc. is a leading supplier of systems used to build metro-scale, outdoor Wi-Fi networks. Tropos' unique Wi-Fi cells, along with the first element manager to control large Wi-Fi networks, enable public agencies and service providers to deliver ubiquitous, city-wide mobile broadband to users in any locale. These carrier-class IP networks are low cost and easy to install and scale. The Tropos cellular mesh architecture and use of optimized open-standard radios dramatically reduce the need for wired backhaul while eliminating expensive proprietary clients and complex software. Using the patented Predictive Wireless Routing Protocol™, Tropos solutions deliver maximum bandwidth to the user regardless of conditions, at unprecedented Wi-Fi network scale. Tropos Networks is headquartered in San Mateo, California. For more information, please visit www.tropos.com, call 650-286-4250 or write to info@tropos.com.

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