

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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For more information contact: Mary Ehmke, President

Company: KMTelecom, Kasson, MN

Phone: (507) 634-2511

Lt. Governor Tina Smith and the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) today announced the 2017 Border-to-Border Broadband Grant recipients. The grants total \$26 million for 39 broadband infrastructure projects that will provide 9,973 households, 2,169 businesses, and 60 community institutions across Minnesota access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet.

KMTelecom has been awarded \$606,108 for a rural Kasson Fiber Build. This last mile project will serve 149 unserved households and 9 unserved businesses in the rural Canisteo and Ashland Townships located south of Kasson in Dodge County. In a funding partnership with the State of Minnesota, KMTelecom will provide broadband speeds up to 1 Gig. The KMTelecom project will improve access to education, health care and provide advanced broadband service to residences in the area. The total eligible project cost is \$1.55 million with KMTelecom investing \$948,000 in the fiber build.

This grant is great news for KMTelecom and many other broadband providers in Minnesota. The Broadband Grant Program helps to level the playing field for households and businesses in Greater Minnesota by providing them access to the same opportunities available to urban area residents.

Thank you to the MN Office of Broadband Development and all who support us!