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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RITTER COMMUNICATIONS AWARDED \$12.8 MILLION IN ARKANSAS RURAL CONNECT GRANTS



Caption: Ritter Communications deploys construction team in a neighborhood near you to connect local residents to the company's all new high-speed RightFiber™ service as part of a \$12.8 million multi-grant project.

JONESBORO, Ark. – (January 4, 2022) – <u>Ritter Communications</u>, the largest privately held telecommunications service provider in the Mid-South, has been awarded two rural broadband installation grants by the Arkansas Legislative Council. The two grants are for Crittenden County and south Independence County, totaling approximately \$12.8 million. These resources, made available through the Arkansas Rural Connect (ARC) program and funded by the American Rescue Plan, help finance projects that improve high-speed broadband internet access for more Arkansans.

"Ritter Communications is proud to continue our commitment to bridge the digital divide in Arkansas and to uphold the trust given to us by our customers throughout the state," said <u>Ritter Communications CEO Alan Morse</u>. "Access to quality high-speed internet is vital for all Arkansans. We're glad to be part of the effort to bring these services to rural communities across the state."

Because of these grants, residents in these counties will have access to high-speed broadband internet services from <u>RightFiber™</u>, a new residential service by Ritter Communications using future-proof 100% fiber technology to deliver high-quality internet, TV and phone at the fastest gigabit speeds available to serviceable homes.

Several expansion projects funded in part by similar grants are already underway across the state with more markets scheduled to come on in the weeks ahead. More communities will have access to RightFiber's[™] symmetrical one gigabit speed offering the fastest, highest performing service available as progress continues. The company's growing infrastructure network will sustain anticipated market growth and bandwidth demand – positioning Ritter Communications as the only 10 gigabits fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) provider in Arkansas through the RightFiber[™] network.

"Additional bandwidth requirements and advances in the devices and technology customers use are coming," said <u>Jeff</u> <u>Chapman</u>, RightFiber General Manager. "The network we are building today will fulfill the needs of tomorrow and years to come."

Residents interested in RightFiber[™] services can visit <u>RightFiber.com</u> to proactively submit a form expressing interest in the service. This will help Ritter Communications make determinations about future expansions and streamline home activations once service is available. As the company continues its expansion planning, Ritter Communications is constantly evaluating existing service areas to determine additional neighborhood builds based on network proximity, house density, customer demand and grant funding.

Ritter Communications is a regional telecommunications provider, headquartered in Jonesboro, Arkansas serving over 106 communities in the region across four states with a full suite of innovative communications services. Learn more at <u>RitterBusiness.com</u> or <u>RightFiber.com</u>.

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Ritter Communications is the largest privately held telecommunications service provider in the Mid-South, offering world-class broadband fiber, telecom, video, cloud and data services. The company has grown rapidly over the years, investing millions recently in technology infrastructure and is now serving over 106 communities with more than 45,000 business, residential and wholesale customers in Arkansas, Texas, Missouri and Tennessee. Headquartered in Jonesboro, Arkansas, Ritter Communications invests heavily in the communities it serves by deploying proven, best-in-class infrastructure and technology, while coupling it with a world-class customer-focused experience. For more information visit, <u>RitterBusiness.com</u> or <u>RightFiber.com</u>.