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BUSINESS FEB 18, 2025 – 6:13 PM EST

Arctic telecom experts say Starlink is good partner

Aqsarniit trade show panel discussion looks at work being done to provide internet to the North



Dan Pellerin, KRG’s senior telecommunication adviser, speaks about the ongoing fibre optic project in Nunavik during the Aqsarniit Trade Show and Conference in Ottawa Tuesday. (Photo by Cedric Gallant)

By  **Cedric Gallant – Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**

Arctic telecommunications leaders say Starlink is a partner, not a competitor, in providing internet service to northern Canada.

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A panel of four experts in telecommunications service for Nunavik, Nunavut and Northwest Territories discussed their work Tuesday at the Aqsarniit Trade Show and Conference at the Rogers Centre in Ottawa.

“Starlink is our partner ... we are not competing with Starlink” to serve Nunavut, said Dean Proctor, chief development officer at SSi Canada, an Arctic telecommunications provider.

He said Starlink’s service comes at a higher cost than what SSi offers. While Starlink is able to provide higher-speed internet than SSi, it might not be suitable for everyone either due to the price or the size of the satellite dish Starlink requires.

“We are able to drop down to a lower price point,” Proctor said.

“We are not in the same game as Starlink, we are meant to provide a service to Nunavummiut without a contract, with no credit checks, and take it as much as you need it,” he said.

SSi Canada, along with Kativik Regional Government’s Taamani Internet, uses Starlink in some instances to provide some services to clients.



Paul Brunet, left, president of Great White North, and Dean Proctor, chief development officer for SSi Canada, take part in a panel discussion on telecommunications Tuesday at the Aqsarniit Trade Show and Conference in Ottawa. (Photo by Cedric Gallant)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Development of Caribou TV Series

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) is seeking proposals from qualified media production companies or teams to create a television series consisting of 10 episodes, each 30 minutes long.

Submissions accepted until February 7, 2025

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Dan Pellerin, KRG’s senior telecommunications adviser, said it is currently using low-latency satellites from SpaceX and Starlink to serve parts of Nunavik that are still waiting to be connected to fibre optic service. This includes the Ungava Bay communities and Kuujuaq, which are set to have their connections completed by 2026.

In December, KRG deployed sphere-shaped Starlink terminals to temporarily bring high-speed internet access to Ungava Bay communities, according to a KRG post on social media.

Kuujuaq, Aupaluk, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Kangirsuk, Quaqtac and Tasiujaq received their own package.

“When fibre is in and it’s useful and affordable to us, we will certainly be using that for our backbone” service to those areas, said Proctor.

During the panel discussion, an audience member asked about the validity of Starlink as a partner, saying that if Arctic telecommunications carriers serve as the middle person between the service and the client, why would Starlink not want to “pull the rug” and provide the service directly.

Department of Research Monitoring and Evaluation
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Clean Energy Project Lead

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 For a full job description, please refer to tunngavik.com

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“[They] operate all around the world with their 7,000-and-some active satellites covering the entire Earth right now,” Proctor said of Starlink. “They need to keep those occupied to make certain that Starlink continues to survive. They have been very good partners.”

Curtis Shaw, president of Northwestel, and Paul Brunet, president of Great White North, an internet service firm based in Timmins, Ont. that covers Northern Ontario and Nunavut, also took part in the panel discussion.

The trade show, which opened Monday, runs until Thursday.

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(5) Comments:



Posted by Where's the nwtel purchase at? on Feb 18, 2025

So why on earth is Nunavut money being considered to buy Nwtel which provides horrible service in Nunavut?

If NWT and Yukon want to buy it so be it. Yukon does not have many communities and all except Old Crowe are road access. NWT a bit harder but Nunavut is a nightmare. Even if you get a fiber to Iqaluit where does that leave the bulk of the rest of Nunavut. We're still going to be using Starlink.

The bulk of the money is coming from Yukon and NWT why are we tossing investment into something that's highly unlikely to benefit the majority of Nunavut except maybe a fiber gets to Iqaluit one day via Nwtel.

I don't know how this purchase was not touched upon in the discussions.

 19  2

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Posted by 867 on Feb 19, 2025

Will there be a boycott starlink movement because of elon musk? I doubt it.

Will there be a boycott everything else Elon is affiliated with though?

Probably.

 4  3

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Posted by Realist on Feb 19, 2025

The StarLink service is very valuable to Nunavut.

So far it has been extremely reliable.

But with the current administration in Washington, nothing can be presumed except trouble throughout the world.

Nunavut needs to be prepared for the discontinuation of Starlink service at any moment that the US President decides he wants to exert influence.

 13  7

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Posted by Go for it on Feb 19, 2025


Boycott if you want to, it's up to you...

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Posted by Is starlink useful on Feb 19, 2025

Considering almost 2/3 of Iqaluit is renting, and the major companies like Northview and Nunastar do not allow you to get Starlink, and only provide access for a phone jack or cable, when are they going to look into getting us a better option than Northwestel or Co-op cable and let us get Starlink?

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