



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CT. TOWNS MOVE FORWARD ON FINANCING OPTIONS  
FOR GIG NETWORKS WITH MACQUARIE CAPITAL**  
*CONFERENCE AT YALE WELCOMES ALL TOWNS TO JOIN CTgig EFFORT*

(April 30, 2015– New Britain, CT) – Concluding a process that began last September, representatives from the 46 municipalities involved in the CTgig Project have decided to continue discussions on financing options for community fiber networks with Macquarie Capital, the capital markets, advisory and principal investing arm of Macquarie Group and a global specialist in infrastructure and infrastructure finance.

The CTgig Project is a grass-roots effort initially led by Stamford, West Hartford, and New Haven, supported by the Office of Consumer Counsel (“OCC”) and other state leaders, to find private-sector partners to develop ultra-high-speed gigabit “Gig” internet networks in their communities.

Gig networks deliver internet speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second or 1,000 megabits per second (Mbps), more than 100 times faster than the average home speed of about 9 Mbps.

The lead towns issued a Request of Qualifications (“RFQ”) in September, and invited other communities to join them. Forty-six municipalities formally joined the process, and dozens of other towns and cities have since expressed interest in the process. After receiving 11 responses to the RFQ, representatives from all 46 towns were invited to interview two respondents that had the qualifications to provide financing for the project.

Organized by CTgig Project Manager Bill Vallee, a vendor interview day was held at Middletown City Hall on April 9. Over 30 municipal decision-makers on hand for a five hour presentation and question and answer session with Macquarie Capital and SiFi Networks America. Afterwards, the towns were polled, and there was a strong preference to move forward with further dialogue with Macquarie.

“This has been an amazing process,” said Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz, whose office is helping coordinate the effort with municipalities. “Representatives from our participating

municipalities worked together to find a viable option for financing these networks that involves no public money, and brings the private sector in as a full partner in providing faster, cheaper, more reliable internet service for our citizens.”

Katz emphasized that the process thus far has been completely voluntary and non-binding. “We have created a dialogue about the issues, and recognizing that a coordinated effort will yield better results, the municipalities have collectively decided that Macquarie’s financing model presents the best opportunity from among the respondents for moving forward.”

The RFQ process is now officially concluded, and any of the state’s 169 municipalities are invited to participate in further discussions with Macquarie. New Haven Mayor Toni Harp and the Office of Consumer Counsel will host a meeting at the Yale School of Management from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm this Monday, May 4, for interested municipal officials. Registration is free, although people are asked to pre-register at the following link, which also contains the conference agenda: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/moving-towards-a-gigabit-state-registration-16503589681>

Macquarie Capital will be present at the May 4 conference to answer questions about their proposed financing model; there will also be panel discussions among national broadband experts focused on how Connecticut municipalities can best engage in the CTgig Project statewide fiber network opportunity to bring broadband speeds to all addresses in the state, using long-term private financing.

Mayor Harp noted the success of the CTgig project thus far. “I am pleased that so many of my fellow mayors and first selectmen are interested in supporting development of internet fiber infrastructure,” she said. “Delivering faster, cheaper broadband service is essential for our businesses, our schools and universities, our hospitals and doctors, our citizens trying to work from home. It really touches virtually every aspect of our communities, and I am proud to lead this charge.”

State Senator Beth Bye (D-West Hartford), another member of the core group of state leaders who launched the CTgig project, was also favorably impressed. “This has been a grass-roots, bottom-up effort to address a critical need for services that so many of our citizens and businesses -- especially those in the high-tech sector – have demanded. This is government and citizen advocacy at its finest, and I’m delighted to continue working with my fellow state officials to support the CTgig project and move it forward to its completion.”

State Comptroller Kevin Lembo said, “This project – from an economic development perspective – could be Connecticut’s man-on-the-moon moment. Towns and cities, businesses and consumers – from every corner of the state – have made it clear that we want to be the first gigabit state with cheaper, faster and better broadband access available to every home and business in Connecticut. The importance of the CTgig Project cannot be overstated: This is about fueling economic development, it’s about driving down the costs for businesses and households, it’s about giving consumers more options and competition and it’s about using our state’s brainpower to its greatest potential.”

For more information on the CTgig Project, visit: [www.ct.gov/broadband](http://www.ct.gov/broadband)

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*The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut's advocate for consumers on issues relating to electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications. For more information, visit [www.ct.gov/occ](http://www.ct.gov/occ).*