

Blackfoot Telecommunications Group Acquires Internet Connect Services of Missoula

Blackfoot Telecommunications Group announced Thursday its acquisition of Internet Connect Services (ICS), a 12-year-old, Missoula-based Internet Service Provider (ISP) that has been struggling through reorganization.

"The acquisition is a natural fit for Blackfoot," said Joan Mandeville, Blackfoot's CEO. "ICS has clear synergies with Blackfoot; it's an ideal customer base, we offer broadband services and we're a Montana company that will keep mymontana.com and montana.com locally owned and operated. We're going to return stability to the company's operational and financial outlook."

ICS has approximately 8,400 customers using their e-mail, web-development and hosting services. There will be no immediate changes in service or to the appearance of the mymontana.com or montana.com web portal or e-mail.

The acquisition is an opportunity for Missoula ICS customers to take advantage of Blackfoot's competitive products and services in addition to ICS offerings. Customers outside of Blackfoot's current service area can expect continued quality and support of their ICS services and will be notified of any growth of Blackfoot service.

"ICS will be combined with Blackfoot's broadband business, extensive next-generation network and professional local tech service and support," said Mandeville.

Blackfoot anticipates taking over ICS assets and ownership in late January. For any inquiries or technical support questions, please call Blackfoot at 406-541-5000 or toll free at 1-800-649-4108 M-F 8am - 6pm.

Named after the Blackfoot River running through much of the territory it serves, the Blackfoot (Blackfoot) Telecommunications Group was originally established in 1954 as Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative. Blackfoot offers state-of-the-art telecommunications, Internet and data solutions to customers in Missoula and 22 other communities in western Montana and Idaho. Headquartered in Missoula, Montana, Blackfoot employs more than 165 Montanans. Blackfoot can be reached at 406-541-5000 or through its web site at <http://www.blackfoot.com>.

Contact: Lindsey Rhynard Blackfoot Telecommunications Group Phone: (406) 541-5020 Fax: (406) 541-5099 1221 N. Russell St. Missoula, MT 59808 www.blackfoot.com