



Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.
4300 B Street, Suite 501, Anchorage, AK 99503
907.563.3989 • 1.800.478.6409 • F. 907.563.1932

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Contact: Paula Kangis
Tel: 907-564-2643
Cell Phone: 907-240-8415
Email: paula@astac.net

ASTAC Upgrading Services in Several North Slope Communities

Anchorage, Alaska – Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. (ASTAC) is now running on a Telesat Anik F3 satellite that rotates with the Earth over 22,000 miles above the equator. Utilizing hydrophobic satellite dishes and the latest technology available, voice quality, data speeds and home Internet speeds in Point Lay, Atkasuk, Anaktuvuk Pass and Kaktovik will be greatly improved. The new equipment will allow ASTAC to provide high-quality and more cost-effective backhaul to these remote villages as it continues to invest in the North Slope communities it serves.

Adding capacity will improve service immediately but making these investments in satellite technology is a short-term solution. The eventual and long-term plan is to establish terrestrial connections capable of far greater capacity, 1,000s of Mbps instead of 10s or 100s. The demand placed on our networks continues to increase at an exponential rate and the fixed satellite constraints of high cost, high latency, and limited bandwidth, are all driving factors to evolve to terrestrial backhaul.

“ASTAC is committed to closing the technology gap across the North Slope to enhance our members’ experiences and improve connectivity in some of the most remote places in Alaska. Reliable backhaul is essential to that goal and is a real game-changer in the region,” said Jens Laipenieks, ASTAC CEO/General Manager.

ASTAC provides Broadband Ethernet and Internet, 4G wireless as well as local and long-distance services across the North Slope. Additionally, ASTAC offers a Nomadic WAN and Internet service using the North Slope’s only private LTE network covering the oil fields. For more information, visit www.astac.net.

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