



City, Comcast team up to offer better services

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In a move that is supposed to reduce costs and improve network speeds, the City of Philadelphia has collaborated with Comcast Business for the birth of an Institutional Network called iNet.

The 15-year agreement will raise users' capacity to the internet, which is concurrent with Comcast's cable franchise agreement. The network capacity will allow for access to the city's cloud applications, that will increase by a factor of 20 times over the current network.

"We're thrilled to be moving forward with Comcast toward a huge upgrade to the city's networks," said Mayor Jim Kenney in a statement. "In this digital age, the network will be the very backbone of our government, and will greatly enhance our ability to provide vital city services, particularly for the departments of Police, Fire, and Emergency Management."

The new services will be able to double the aggregate bandwidth on the network connecting city facilities with no increase in cost. The city is not paying any capital costs for the initial 200 plus sites, and future capital

construction costs for any new sites will receive a subsidy that will increase over time, according to a news release.

Additionally, the agreement will provide a better quality of life for some Philadelphia residents, as well as providing courtesy Internet accounts for the city's recreation centers operating without Internet services. The city will be able to install Wi-Fi in all city facilities as well as Love Park, which will allow citizens Wi-Fi service inside all of its facilities.

David Dombroski, regional vice president for Comcast Business, said the arrangement will provide the city with, "robust, reliable and secure services to meet the data network demands of a world class city."

"It is a big deal for Philadelphia Parks and Recreation," said Commissioner Kathryn Ott Lovell. "While many of our facilities are equipped with Internet access, including recreation centers that house KeySPOTS, there are at least 80 that do not. And those centers are not adequately serving members of those communities. Recreation centers provide services for all Philadelphians - providing access to the Internet should be standard everywhere." ■