

EarthLink tabbed for Philly WiFi project

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Earthlink has been picked to lead the build out of an ambitious city-wide WiFi network in Philadelphia.

The U.S. ISP said late Tuesday that Wireless Philadelphia wants the 135-square-mile network up and running by the end of 2006, giving visitors and locals alike access to high-speed Internet.

It will offer wireless Internet service to low income customers for as little as 10 dollars. Regular rates will be around 20 dollars.

"It provides a competitive alternative to high-speed Internet offerings and gives many Internet users the ability to stay connected, no matter where they are in the city," explained Wireless Philadelphia Chairwoman Dianah Neff.

The plan calls for low-cost service with free access in some public areas and short-term access for visitors and occasional users. City officials hope the inexpensive connectivity will bolster local businesses and tourism alike.

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