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July 25, 2022 - MEDIA RELEASE

CORNING, NY - The Board of Directors of the Southern Tier Network (STN) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Jeffrey Gasper as Chief Executive Officer of the organization.

Mr. Gasper will be replacing the retiring Steven Manning, who was STN's first CEO and has been a key leader in the creation and growth of the open-access network.

"I am grateful for the confidence and support the STN board has placed in me. The growth of the STN network over the last several years that Steve Manning played a key role in allows STN to be well positioned for expansion of its open-access middle mile fiber network and broadband services across the region," said Mr. Gasper.

Mr. Gasper has been involved in wireline and wireless networking since the early 2000's in a variety of engineering and sales roles. For the past 20+ years Mr. Gasper has been focused on sales engineering, business development, and the sale of dark fiber and lit services across the United States for service providers, US and International carriers, financial services companies, enterprise entities, data centers, as well as content and wireless providers. He holds a Telecommunications Engineering degree from Rochester Institute of Technology located in Rochester, N.Y.

About STN:

STN was established to promote economic development; provide critical health, public-safety, and emergency management (NG 911) infrastructure; and facilitate access to affordable broadband services particularly in unserved and underserved areas in the region. STN was formed through a public-private collaboration among Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board, Corning Incorporated, and Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties; a total of eight counties are now part of a broader alliance that includes Allegany, Yates, Tioga, Tompkins, and Broome in addition to the three founding municipalities.

STN leases fiber capacity to telecommunication carriers/Internet Service Providers, government, educational institutions, healthcare organizations and commercial and industrial enterprises. STN offers flexible operating expenditure (OPEX) leases or capital expenditure (CAPEX)/IRU arrangements with terms from 10 to 20 years.

STN's customers benefit from a built-to-suit, reliable, future-proofed solution, retaining sole control over their private network. Customers receive tailored route planning, construction, network support, maintenance, and testing at a very low cost resulting in STN's customers achieving a superior economic return on their investment.

To learn more about STN please visit our website at <u>www.southerntiernetwork.org</u> or email us at <u>stninfo@southerntiernetwork.org</u>.