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**NATOA Awards UTOPIA 2008 Honor  
for Community Broadband Fiber Project of the Year**

**Atlanta, GA – September 18, 2008** – The NATOA Board of Directors is proud to announce it has awarded the 2008 Community Broadband Fiber Project of the Year award to the **Utah Telecommunications Open Infrastructure Agency (UTOPIA)**. The award recognizes UTOPIA's vision and perseverance in development of an open, non-discriminatory, fiber-optic infrastructure for the residents and businesses of 16 member communities in Utah, and for demonstrating the capability of local communities to encourage and facilitate fiber communications projects.

Located across a wide area of Utah, UTOPIA consists of 16 rural and suburban communities that have worked together to deploy an open fiber optic infrastructure over which multiple competitive communications providers can offer services to UTOPIA subscribers. UTOPIA's fiber-optic network offers speeds and capacity that are virtually unheard-of in much of the United States.

"UTOPIA has distinguished itself by successfully planning and building this innovative fiber-to-the-premises network," said NATOA President Doris J. Boris. "The network shows the capability of communities to promote economic development and to enable consumers and businesses to take full advantage of the benefits of high-speed broadband technology."

"NATOA applauds UTOPIA for its innovative and inspiring work," said NATOA Executive Director Libby Beaty, "It is a wonderful example of how communities are leading the way in deploying communications networks to serve community interests, and of how important high-speed broadband is to the future of all communities in our country."

The 2008 NATOA Community Broadband Awards were awarded to six exceptional leaders and organizations in government, business, and the community who champion community interests in broadband deployment and work to ensure that more Americans can experience the benefits of this important technology.

For more information on the award recipients, the NATOA Community Broadband Awards, and NATOA's efforts to bring about a national broadband strategy that recognizes the vital and integral role of local governments, visit [www.natoa.org](http://www.natoa.org) or contact NATOA's Executive Director, Libby Beaty, at the number above.

NATOA promotes community interests in communications. A national trade association based in Alexandria, VA, NATOA represents local government jurisdictions and consortiums, including elected and appointed officials and staff, who oversee communications and cable television franchising.