SRT'S FIRST 75 YEARS: A HISTORY OF INNOVATION

Karim Tripodina, SRT Communications, Inc. – Public Relations Manager



THEN

75 years ago, concerned citizens decided the people of north-central North Dakota needed phone lines. In 1950, Verendrye Electric Cooperative set out to start a telephone cooperative. In 1951, SRT came to be.

The story of SRT can't be told without the seventh Cooperative Principle: Concern for Community. Concern for fellow North Dakotans compelled SRT's founders to deliver the revolutionary service of human voices traveling over wires. And when Souris River Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation filed Articles of Incorporation on September 29, 1951, it signaled a 75-year History of Innovation.

NOW

Today, SRT is the state's largest telecommunications cooperative, serving more than 26,000 members. SRT invested in 9,200 miles of fiber optics that connect 5,587 square miles, 10 counties, and four districts represented by a Board of Directors. Every fiber connection is monitored locally by SRT's 24/7/365 Network Operations Center.

The most transformative innovation so far, fiber brings unprecedented opportunity to even the most remote home in the region. SRT initiated fiber in its rural territory for the same reason the cooperative was founded: everyone deserves access to technology that supports their aspirations, no matter where they live.

SRT's services are as individual as each member's phone or internet connection, as regional as the area's healthcare, financial, and educational institutions, and as global as the key military installation critical to the nation's nuclear deterrence strategy.

More than a service provider, SRT is also a lifelong partner and neighbor in the communities it serves. Every year SRT supports essential services, cultural amenities, and other aspects of community spirit and pride to promote growth, well-being, and economic vitality.

NEXT

As a Smart Rural CommunitySM (SRC) provider designated by NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, SRT delivers cutting-edge, high-speed fiber so members can live rich lives in their own communities. SRT is committed to promoting innovative economic development and fiber is central to that commitment. Not only is SRT's fiber network fast, reliable, and secure; it's also future proof, ready to take on increasing data demands and technological advances.

ALWAYS

Since 1951, SRT has evolved its capacity to serve North Dakotans. The cooperative's history of continually advancing its network – from landlines to wireless phones to copper to fiber – stands as a 75-year testament to delivering everything its membership needs to thrive in place. SRT's network also contributes to statewide broadband internet expansion. Looking ahead to the next 75 years, SRT will always serve as an economic catalyst for the region and will never stop innovating for its members.

srt.com