



## **GigaPlus Argyll – Argyll Islands Community Broadband**

I'm pleased to report that progress on the creation of the GigaPlus Argyll wireless broadband network has continued to be steady and significant. AB Internet will be partnering GigaPlus Argyll to create and maintain this exciting scheme. AB Internet is a Lincoln based specialist broadband installation and maintenance company that has a track record of delivering broadband in remote areas. This is a major step forward and the real work has now commenced.

Senior management and the project team from AB Internet have visited Argyll, not only to meet the full GigaPlus Argyll team but to commence the task of surveying the scheme's coverage area and to become more acquainted with the ways of the Scottish West Coast.

The surveys are being carried out by land, sea and air, to be as thorough as possible. The core of the scheme comprises a ring of wireless transmitters. Use of a ring will ensure a high level of reliability, as the connection to the Internet, known as the "backhaul", is made in more than one place. Meetings with the area planning authority have taken place and the process of dealing with the significant number of planning applications is being negotiated. Similarly meetings with owners of the land, for the location of transmitters, are also progressing well.

So far the majority of landowners are being very helpful and are supportive of the scheme. The main mast network has been identified and plotted on a map. The next phase of identifying sites for smaller wireless repeater stations is now under way. These repeaters will direct the signal to the properties of subscribers.

AB Internet is now looking to recruit local trades e.g. digger owner/drivers, fencing contractors to help them to erect the masts. Advertisements for this will appear within the next couple of months.

If you would like more information on the scheme please feel free to contact me at [rthorne@gigaplusargyll.co.uk](mailto:rthorne@gigaplusargyll.co.uk) or call 01680 812906 .

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