



# POSTAL NEWS

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## **POSTAL SERVICE UPGRADES COMPUTER WIRING NETWORK**

WASHINGTON — The data transmission backbone that supports the Postal Service's automation and Intelligent Mail programs is about to get an extreme makeover. During the next 15 months, 108 large postal facilities will have existing wiring replaced with high-speed wiring technology. In the last twelve months, 62 plants have been upgraded.

This state-of-the-art technology upgrade will increase the Postal Service's ability to get real-time information about mail as it travels through the postal system – information that can be used to improve operational efficiencies and enhance service to postal customers.

The Postal Service puts technology to work everyday, beginning with equipment that faces letters in the same direction and applies a postmark to each stamp; to automation equipment that sorts and distributes mail throughout plants and to the Post Office that will deliver the letter. Last year, more than 202 billion pieces of mail were processed and delivered to some 141 million homes, businesses and Post Office boxes.

A key strategy in the Postal Service's Transformation Plan – the Postal Service's blueprint for the future – is to use automation technology to further enhance the value of Postal Service products and services. Several of the initiatives supporting that strategy, in particular CONFIRM – a service that enables mailers to follow mail as it passes through the automated mail stream, depend on a data transmission system that has adequate bandwidth for communication between mail processing equipment and information systems.

Today, postal business customers are using information gained from the CONFIRM service to augment their marketing and business processes. With CONFIRM, customers know when their customers receive bills, credit cards, direct mail and fulfillment orders. As a result, they have been able to more efficiently plan staffing and inventories, and process payments and orders.

The new high-speed network will have the capacity to handle all of the data requirements anticipated for the foreseeable future as the Postal Service continues to develop its Intelligent Mail program and implements several other mail processing infrastructure programs such as PARS, designed to identify potential Undeliverable as Addressed mailpieces at their point of origin, rather than at their destination; the Bio-Detection System, established to safeguard the nation's mail; and, the Surface Air Support System, used to maximize efficiencies of the Postal Service's transportation network.