

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2010

ATK-10-020
Contact: Tracy Connell
202 906.3860

AMTRAK LAUNCHES Wi-Fi[®] SERVICE AmtrakConnectSM now available on *Acela Express* trains and in major Northeast Corridor stations

WASHINGTON – This morning Amtrak launched its Wi-Fi Internet service, known as AmtrakConnectSM aboard all 20 high-speed *Acela Express* trains, in six major stations along the Northeast Corridor, and in all four Club*Acela* lounges. Initially offered as a complimentary service, AmtrakConnect is available to every passenger on board *Acela Express* both in Business and First class seating.

“AmtrakConnect delivers the fast, reliable and consistent connectivity that our customers have been asking for,” said Matt Hardison, Chief, Sales Distribution and Customer Service, noting the on-board Wi-Fi system typically outperforms cellular air cards and smart phones.

Using any laptop computer or other portable device that is Wi-Fi enabled, Amtrak passengers traveling on *Acela Express* between Washington, D.C. and Boston can connect to the service for general Web surfing and reading email. The system also allows passengers to access their corporate networks through most standard Virtual Private Network (VPN) solutions, turning the train trip into productive work time.

In addition, Amtrak is launching AmtrakConnect for all Amtrak passengers within the gate areas of Washington Union Station, Baltimore Penn Station, Philadelphia 30th Street Station, New York Penn Station, Providence Station and Route 128 Station in Boston. Wilmington Station will be Wi-Fi equipped once major station renovations are completed in early 2011. Wi-Fi service continues to be available in all Club*Acela* lounges in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

“This is only the first step for our AmtrakConnect program,” says Lenetta McCampbell, Senior Director for On-board Systems. “Amtrak will continually improve the service as Wi-Fi

-more-

technology evolves, and we are evaluating opportunities to expand AmtrakConnect to additional routes and stations throughout the country.”

AmtrakConnect service on *Acela Express* trains will remain free of charge during the introductory period, after which the policy will be reviewed based on customer demand and system performance.

AmtrakConnect was deployed on *Acela Express* by Virginia Beach-based GBS Group and its partner Nomad Digital.

About Amtrak

As the nation’s intercity passenger rail operator, Amtrak connects America in safer, greener and healthier ways. Last fiscal year (FY 2009), the railroad carried 27.2 million passengers, making it the second-best year in the company’s history. With 21,000 route miles in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces, Amtrak operates more than 300 trains each day—at speeds up to 150 mph—to more than 500 destinations. Amtrak also is the partner of choice for state-supported corridor services in 15 states and for several commuter rail agencies. Visit Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information.

About GBS/Nomad Digital

The GBS Group is an award-winning systems engineering, technology integration, and reliability engineering services company delivering custom technical solutions in the passenger rail, energy, and defense / maritime industries. GBS was selected as prime contractor to identify and integrate a Wi-Fi solution for Amtrak's *Acela Express* fleet. The GBS Group operates from offices in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Alabama, Texas, and California.

Nomad Digital, based in Newcastle, UK is the world leader in the provision of high speed broadband communication (including WiMax) to and from trains. Founded in 2002, Nomad offers services ranging from total funding, designing, building, operation and life time maintenance of networks, to – as they did for *Acela Express* - the provision of their unique on-board communications technology to support passenger Wi-Fi.

###