 Editor's note: This is one in a series of features that will spotlight businesses in Imperial. The community has a thriving business community, and all residents may not realize the extent of services and products local businesses provide. This feature will be a regular offering throughout the year and beyond, and will include those businesses with a commercial address located outside of the home.

By Carolyn Lee
The Imperial Republican

Since its inception in March of 2003, Allo Communications of Imperial has been reaching out to customers by selling local telephone service (dial tone, call waiting, etc.) in a number of Nebraska communities.

Allo sells local, long distance and high-speed Internet and equipment to business customers and residents.

It offers services over Allo's fiber network in Scottsbluff, Gering and Alliance, with over 60 miles of fiber in those communities, according to one of the owners, Brad Moline. In other markets it leases networking facilities from Qwest.

Allo started out by capitalizing on a 1996 federal Telecommunications Act requiring companies such as Qwest to open up its lines and systems to outside competitors.

Now, Moline said, although Allo still leases from Qwest, the larger part of its business is installing fiber to its customers.

In the Scottsbluff area, Allo utilizes a state-of-the-art packet telephone switch. Moline said this is "a very large computer that when you dial a call, it determines what you want and completes the call by switching it."

He said they switch calls for several hi-tech phone companies in Kansas City.

Allo has offices in Scottsbluff and Kansas City. There are 25 employees in Imperial, six in Scottsbluff and one in Kansas City.

Moline and other principal owners Russ Pankonin and Jeff Kuenne decided to locate Allo Communications in Imperial for two reasons.

Moline had moved to Imperial from Kansas City, where he was chief financial officer for Birch Telecom, a company similar to Allo. Kuenne was also employed by Birch.

Moline and Pankonin were the original owners. Kuenne became a principal owner when he moved to Imperial this past August.

In addition, "Another reason we located here was because of all the hard work the city did to get government loans to get us started." Moline said efforts by the city's economic development department were "very important to our success here."

Moline estimates that over the next two years Allo will double in the size of its business.