Press Release

Network latency improvement creates one of the fastest routes between Chicago and Newark/New York City.

First Communications reduced the round trip latency of its already fast high capacity transport network by 1.4 milliseconds on the route between Chicago and Newark resulting in round trip delay below 17.2ms.

Akron, Ohio, April 27, 2010 – First Communications today announced the completion of a network improvement project designed to significantly reduce the latency between 350 E Cermak, Chicago IL and 165 Halsey, Newark NJ making this one of the quickest routes available in the market today. The improvement was obtained by taking advantage of recent technology that reduces delay caused by dispersion compensation.

First Communications deployed this long haul network in October 2009 offering 1Gig, 2.5Gig and 10Gig wavelength services. The additional investment was made in response to customers that place a high value on low latency networks. Financial Institutions and Brokerage/Trading Firms as well as Regional/Global Telecommunications Carriers leverage these low latency networks to implement trading applications, data storage networks, research and education infrastructure and DR/BC applications.

"We are very pleased with the results of the project," said Rick Poore, President of First Communications' First Telecom Services division. "We believe our unique routes and low latency will provide us with a competitive advantage in the market place and will enable us to offer greater value to our transport customers that demand lower latency."

In addition to Chicago and Newark, customers can access the upgraded route through a variety of other cities located throughout New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois including Cleveland, Akron, Pittsburgh, Reading, Morristown, and New York City. First Communications is also working on lighting additional DWDM transport routes over its more than 4,500 metro and long-haul fiber route mile network. Plans are being developed to address customer demand for wavelength transport to target markets including Buffalo and other upstate New York cities, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Ashburn, Va. and east coast connectivity such as the Trans-Atlantic crossings on the New Jersey coast.

"We have been very pleased with the overall demand we have seen for our fiber based transport services since they were initially offered in the fourth quarter of 2009," said Ray Hexamer, Chief Executive Officer of First Communications.

About First Communications
First Communications is a leading integrated telecommunications carrier based in the Midwestern United States. Founded in 1998, First Communications has built a highly reliable fiber-based infrastructure which it uses to provide small and medium business, enterprise, and carrier customers superior voice, internet, and transport services. First Communications' mission is to provide secure and reliable next-generation services that support the critical communications needs of its commercial customers. For more information visit First Communications on the Internet: http://www.firstcomm.com

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