PRESS RELEASE

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FIRST COMMUNICATIONS NOW OFFERS CUSTOMERS DEDICATED CONNECTIVITY TO AMAZON WEB SERVICES™ (AWS) AS AN AWS DIRECT CONNECT SOLUTION PROVIDER

As an AWS Direct Connect Solution Provider, First Communications provides customers with dedicated network connectivity to the AWS Direct Connect location in Equinix™/Ashburn, Va.

AKRON, Ohio – Feb. 23, 2012 – Leveraging its high-capacity long-haul and metro fiber network services, First Communications connects customers' data centers, offices or colocation facilities directly to the AWS cloud platform, potentially increasing bandwidth throughput and providing a more reliable network connection than Internet-based connections.

The ability to connect directly to AWS is crucial for businesses with large data transfer needs that are difficult to engineer using traditional Internet connections, as well as for companies that require real-time data feeds.

In addition, companies that must adhere to regulatory guidelines or policies that prohibit Internet-based connections to AWS now can take advantage of increased bandwidth by transferring data directly to/from AWS. Businesses also can benefit from consistent network performance by choosing the data that utilizes the dedicated connection and how the data is routed. By selecting First Communications as an AWS Direct Connect Solution Provider, customers can implement a 1 Gbps connection and easily scale up to a 10 Gbps connection as business demands grow.

“We are pleased to provide our customers with dedicated connectivity solutions to the AWS cloud. The ability to bypass an Internet service provider and establish a dedicated, high-bandwidth and secure connection to the AWS U.S. East (northern Va.) region is a key benefit for our customers who are deciding how to handle their mission-critical data,” said Rick Poore, president of First Telecom Services LLC, dba First Communications.

Companies that wish to connect directly to AWS but do not have existing infrastructure or are seeking an alternative provider or diverse path can work with First Communications to establish network connections between their location(s) and the AWS Direct Connect Equinix/Ashburn location. First Communications delivers Custom Private Networks (CPNs) to AWS and other locations across its 5,600-mile regional fiber network.

About First Communications
First Communications (www.firstcomm.com) offers high-capacity long-haul and metro fiber network services and voice and high-speed data services across the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic U.S. and into Canada. Our network includes more than 5,600 fiber route miles, 250,000 fiber miles and 600 on-net wire centers. The fiber network includes approximately 500 metro route miles reaching more than 50 Tier 1, 2 and 3 markets. First Communications serves a diverse customer base, including carrier/wholesale customers, large enterprises and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

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