



Press release

First Communications deploys Alcatel-Lucent next-generation optical transport solution as part of new high-capacity, low latency network from Chicago to New Jersey

Akron, Ohio and Murray Hill, N.J., October 7, 2009 – Alcatel-Lucent (Euronext and NYSE: ALU) and First Communications today announced the successful deployment of Alcatel-Lucent's advanced multi-reach dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) platform for First Communications' new high-capacity, low latency network between Chicago and Newark/New York City.

Upgradeable to 40Gbit/s, the new network is running 1G to 10G services today expanding First Communications' reach to transport customers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois via 14 cities including Chicago, Cleveland, Akron, Pittsburgh, Reading, Morristown, and Newark. First Communications plans to expand the transport services over more of its metro and long-haul fiber network spanning 4,500 route miles based on customer demand. Targets include upstate New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Ashburn, Va. and east coast connectivity such as the Trans-Atlantic crossings on the New Jersey coast.

"The completion of this initial network deployment is a key milestone in our strategy to leverage the network assets obtained with the First Telecom Services acquisition in 2008. This event represents our continued commitment to the investment in infrastructure that will enable First Communications to provide quality service to our enterprise and carrier customers," said Ray Hexamer, Chief Executive Officer of First Communications.

The Alcatel-Lucent optical transport solution enables First Communications to carry voice, data and video traffic over a single platform to cost-effectively address customer demand for advanced business applications such as financial and trading exchange connectivity, data center connectivity, research or education infrastructure, video applications, and carrier or regional service provider networks.

"Over the past decade, First Communications has built a highly scalable telecommunications platform, fiber-based infrastructure and support system, which represents a combination of world-class technology, and cutting edge product offerings," said Walt Paskowski, Vice President of Sales for Vertical Markets in Alcatel-Lucent's North America region. "Our optical networking solution will help First Communications meet the growing demand for its services as it continues to expand and grow."

About the Alcatel-Lucent solution

The Alcatel-Lucent solution is based on its 1626 Light Manager addressing operators' demands for increased capacity, flexibility and manageability to support a faster time-to-market for a new breed of blended Internet, video and triple play services. Meeting operators' requirements for bandwidth scaling seamlessly, the 1626 LM provides a unique fully-tunable and reconfigurable optical add-drop multiplex architecture, enabling operators to design, plan and operate their networks with dramatically enhanced agility.

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>

About Alcatel-Lucent

Alcatel-Lucent (Euronext Paris and NYSE: ALU) is the trusted partner of service providers, enterprises and governments worldwide, providing solutions to deliver voice, data and video communication services to end-users. A leader in fixed, mobile and converged broadband networking, IP technologies, applications and services, Alcatel-Lucent leverages the unrivalled technical and scientific expertise of Bell Labs, one of the largest innovation powerhouses in the communications industry. With operations in more than 130 countries and the most experienced global services organization in the industry, Alcatel-Lucent is a local partner with a global reach. Alcatel-Lucent achieved revenues of Euro 16.98 billion in 2008 and is incorporated in France, with executive offices located in Paris. For more information, visit Alcatel-Lucent on the Internet: <http://www.alcatel-lucent.com>

First Communications Press Contacts

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Colleen Gallagher | Tel : 330-835-2479 | cgallagher@firstcomm.com |
| Jay Martin | Tel: 330-835-2308 | dmartin@firstcomm.com |

Alcatel-Lucent Press Contacts

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Peter Benedict | Tel: + 33 (0)1 40 76 50 84 | pbenedict@alcatel-lucent.com |
| Denise Panyik-Dale | Tel :+ 1 908-582-4897 | dpanyikdale@alcatel-lucent.com |

Alcatel-Lucent Investor Relations

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|--|
| Rémi Thomas | Tel: + 33 (0)1 40 76 50 61 | remi.thomas@alcatel-lucent.com |
| Tom Bevilacqua | Tel: + 1 908-582-7998 | bevilacqua@alcatel-lucent.com |
| Tony Lucido | Tel: + 33 (0)1 40 76 49 80 | alucido@alcatel-lucent.com |
| Don Sweeney | Tel: + 1 908 582 6153 | dsweeney@alcatel-lucent.com |