

# America's Fiber Network

## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **AMERICA'S FIBER NETWORK NAMES GORDON MARTIN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

TULSA, Okla. — Gordon Martin has been named chief executive officer of America's Fiber Network (AFN), a new, super-regional, high-speed fiber optics company.

Martin, 40, was selected as AFN's chief executive officer after a national search and joined the company July 10. Martin, former president of carrier services for Williams Communications, will be completing a national search for other members of the executive management team.

"Gordon has the diverse background and leadership skills that AFN requires for growth," said Pete Thomas, vice president of American Electric Power (NYSE:AEP) subsidiary AEP Communications, who served as AFN's interim president. "He has vast experience in the carrier's carrier marketplace in which AFN competes and has held key management positions at Williams Communications, a utility telecom leader. We're thrilled to have Gordon as AFN's leader."

America's Fiber Network is a new telecommunications company announced March 21 by six energy and telecommunications companies. AFN is a super-regional, high-speed fiber optics company with a network of more than 7,000 route miles connecting major markets in the eastern United States to secondary markets with a growing need for broadband access. The initial footprint of fiber in AFN puts the company in position to reach areas responsible for roughly 35 percent of the national wholesale communications capacity market.

"I am excited about the opportunity to drive shareholder value through the positioning of AFN in the communications network industry," Martin said. "With our existing and future energy and communications partners and a vibrant market for bandwidth, we clearly have the ingredients to create a highly successful network company.

"AFN has capacity and co-location facilities available today, and we will be executing on a high growth plan," Martin said. "We will be establishing a headquarters in Tulsa, Okla., while leveraging the people, financial and network assets of our partners on a national scale."

Martin joined Williams in 1984 and was named president of Williams Communications' carrier services in 1999. Carrier services at Williams encompass voice, data and Internet. His responsibilities included planning, business development, alliance relationships and sales.

Martin held numerous positions during his years at Williams, most recently as senior vice president of global network services and previously as vice president of sales and marketing for the Williams network. Prior to that, he was vice president of strategic marketing for Williams Communications, where his responsibilities included market and competitive strategy formulation, business planning and analysis, communications and customer relations.

Martin served as vice president of marketing and product development for WiTel. In that position, he was responsible for product line expansion, advanced software development, marketing communications, proposal preparation, client base marketing, information systems and Internet services. He has also served as director of Internet Services, director of product marketing and manager of interexchange carrier sales for the network division. In that role, he was part of the team that formed the company's original commercial Internet product.

Martin is a graduate of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla., where he earned a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in accounting.

AFN was formed by AEP Communications, a subsidiary of American Electric Power; GPU Telcom, a subsidiary of GPU, Inc. (NYSE: GPU); Allegheny Communications Connect, a subsidiary of Allegheny Energy, Inc. (NYSE: AYE); FirstEnergy Telecom, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE); CFW Communications (NASDAQ: CFWC); and R&B Communications.

Information on America's Fiber Network can be found at [www.americasfibernet.com](http://www.americasfibernet.com).

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