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AFN Communications Names Officers and Launches Growth Plan

TULSA, Okla. — AFN, LLC, a facilities-based network service provider that supplies high-capacity broadband access to primary, secondary and tertiary markets, has named its officers and launched execution of its growth plan.

The formation of AFN Communications (AFN) was announced under the name America's Fiber Network in March 2000 with the contributions of the fiber-optic networks of several companies resulting in a dense, initial footprint of 7,000-route miles spanning 13 states and Washington D.C.

Gordon Martin was named AFN's chief executive officer in July this year. He previously served as president of carrier services for Williams Communications.

Martin said, "In just a few months, AFN has accomplished what typically takes years to achieve—alignment of the right assets, the right market and the right people to obtain maximum value for AFN's stakeholders."

AFN is executing on its growth plan which includes expansion of its optical infrastructure, construction of 55-carrier grade points-of-presence and delivery of leading edge network services including optical waves, private line, colocation and local access. AFN's plan also calls for contiguous expansion of its network reach through additional asset contributions.

AFN will also be adding to its customer base which consists of companies that require broadband access and capacity such as: interexchange carriers, utilities, local exchange carriers, Internet service providers, application and hosting service providers, cable and digital subscriber line service providers, wireless service providers, niche data providers and education and research campuses.

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Execution of this plan will be the responsibility of AFN's officers, recently chosen by Martin.

"AFN has established an executive team unparalleled in the communications industry—each member was carefully selected for their expertise in growing and managing network companies, in financing growth companies through private and public markets and for their passion for performance," said Martin.

AFN's executive team reports directly to Martin and is supported by a team of 52 network specialists. Collectively, this team brings more than 530 years industry experience from 19 leading telecommunications companies.

Gary Watson has been named as AFN's Chief Operating Officer. Watson, who has 30 years experience in the telecommunications industry and network operations, is responsible for all aspects of operations for the AFN Optical Networksm including operation support systems, customer support and network maintenance. He most recently served as vice president of service delivery and assurance for Williams Communications and formerly worked 14 years for AT&T where his responsibilities included management of large corporate networks, international sales and operations, and national account sales and customer service. Watson also spent 14 years with Southwestern Bell Telephone in toll network management, central office management and engineering, toll circuit engineering, operator services and technical training.

Bunker Sessions joins AFN's executive team as Chief Technology Officer with specific responsibility for network architecture, system engineering and implementation. Prior to joining AFN, Sessions was vice president of technology for Williams Communications. He also served as vice president and general manager of the advertising distribution unit for Vyvx® and held various management positions at Memorex Telex.

Bill Hampton is AFN's Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing. In this role, Hampton is responsible for the company's sales and product development activities. Hampton formerly served as vice president of carrier sales and as an officer for Williams Communications. Hampton's career in telecommunications began at I.T.T. Worldcom. In 1988, he joined WilTel, the predecessor to Williams Communications, where he served in a variety of sales and sales management positions including regional vice president of national accounts for its enterprise solutions unit and the vice president of sales for Williams Communications.

J.B. Manley is AFN's Vice President of Business Development. He is responsible for development of AFN's strategic opportunities including new contributing members, alliances, mergers and acquisitions. Manley previously served as director of business development and business planning for Williams Communications. His experience also includes executive positions in management, marketing and finance for several large companies including Koch Industries, Murray Distributing Company and Citicorp.

David Cordeiro has been named AFN's Vice President of Strategic Planning and Communications. Cordeiro is responsible for coordinating corporate-wide planning and for communications including investor relations, public relations and regulatory affairs. Prior to joining AFN, Cordeiro was vice president of planning and business development for Williams Communications. He also was responsible for the investor relations function for Williams Communications including the preparation and execution of the company's initial public offering. Cordeiro formerly served as a principal in Digital Frontiers, one of the earliest Internet consulting firms, and as the first Internet product manager at WorldCom.

Brian Cantrell is AFN's Chief Financial Officer and holds responsibility for establishing, maintaining and directing the organization's financial planning and accounting practices as well as its relationships with lending institutions, shareholders and the financial community. Cantrell has previously been involved in several start-up ventures, most recently as co-founder, director, chief financial officer and treasurer for Brighton Energy, LLC. Prior to the formation of Brighton, he served as vice president of finance and treasurer for InterCoast Oil and Gas Company. In this capacity, Cantrell was instrumental in taking the company through an initial public offering which ultimately resulted in the sale of InterCoast in a private transaction.

Kathy Case is AFN's Vice President of Administration. Case oversees AFN's human resources, facilities and contract administration departments. She formerly served as vice president of customer care and provisioning for Williams Communications. In that position, Case was personally responsible for scaling the company's customer care organization to support the needs of several hundred customers representing over \$600 million of annualized revenue. Prior to Williams, she held management-level positions at WilTel and WorldCom. Case began her career at Memorex Telex where she spent 18 years with responsibility for customer administration, contract administration billing and accounts receivables.

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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.

About AFN Communications:

AFN Communications is a facilities-based network services provider that supplies reliable, high-capacity data transport services to primary population centers as well as underserved secondary and tertiary markets. Based in Tulsa, Okla., AFN is led by a veteran team of executives and professionals with extensive experience in network management and operations for the carrier market. The AFN Optical Networksm has an initial footprint of 7,000-route miles. For more information see www.afncommunications.com

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