Press Release

New long haul network offers diverse route into New York City.

First Communications offers route diversity into New York City bypassing 165 Halsey in Newark, NJ to provide low latency between Chicago and other major Midwest and Mid Atlantic cities.

Akron, Ohio, October 20, 2010 First Communications today announces its newest long haul network deployment that makes available 1G, 2.5G, 10G and 40G Optical Wave Transport services between Chicago and New York with route diversity bypassing 165 Halsey in Newark, New Jersey. Most long haul networks route through the carrier hotel located at 165 Halsey St in Newark, New Jersey making it difficult for operators to avoid a single point failure within their networks. First Communications' newest route offers Carrier and Enterprise customers alike an alternate diverse path around this common location without sacrificing network performance. This new low latency route will allow customers to add diversity to their existing networks which is crucial to protecting the critical data transmission.

"Providing route diversity around 165 Halsey is just one more advantage First Communications provides its customers," said Rick Poore, President of First Communications' First Telecom Services division. "We believe route diversity is as important to customers as network latency, which is also incredibly low over this new network route."

In addition to providing low latency to Chicago, First Communications' new network route can provide diversity into New York City from other locations throughout New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois.

"Continued development of our Fiber Assets is critical to First Communications strategy," said Ray Hexamer, Chief Executive Officer of First Communications. The ability to offer network diversity for customers running critical data applications is just another example of how we are leveraging our unique assets to create real solutions in today's growing data communications market."

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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