FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2011

MEDIA CONTACT
Gail Norris
202-296-6650
gnorris@comptel.org

COMPTEL Commends Reps. Conyers and Markey for Opposing AT&T’s Takeover of T-Mobile

WASHINGTON, D.C. – COMPTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry, today issued the following statement after a press conference during which House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) called for more hearings on the AT&T/T-Mobile merger and greater scrutiny of the deal on behalf of consumers and Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) expressed his opposition to the takeover.

The following statement can be attributed to Jerry James, CEO of COMPTEL:

“COMPTEL would like to thank Rep. Conyers and Rep. Markey for their leadership in opposing the AT&T/T-Mobile merger and putting the interests of consumers and competition ahead of big business. The combination of AT&T and T-Mobile puts excessive market power in the hands of two companies. If this merger is allowed to proceed, the resulting duopoly will have the power to raise prices for consumer and dictate what products and services are available, stifling the launch of the new, innovative services that consumers desire. Additionally, as AT&T and T-Mobile consolidate operations, thousands of valuable jobs will be lost at a critical time in our nation’s economic recovery.

Just this month, the Department of Justice has taken action against mergers in two other industries – do-it-yourself tax preparation and point-of-sale terminals – because the consolidation would create duopolies that lead to higher prices, as well as reduced innovation, quality, product variety and service. If you compare these cases to AT&T’s proposed takeover of T-Mobile, you will see that the facts are similar, and it is clear the AT&T/T-Mobile merger should be denied for the good of consumers, competition and the economy.”

*****

About COMPTEL
Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive communications service providers and their supplier partners. COMPTEL members are entrepreneurial companies driving technological innovation and creating economic growth through competitive voice, video, and data offerings and the development and deployment of next-generation, IP-based networks and services. COMPTEL advances its members’ interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTEL works to ensure that competitive communications providers can continue to offer lower prices, better service, and greater innovation to consumers. For more information, visit www.comptel.org.