WASHINGTON, D.C. – May 10, 2013 – COMPTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry, commented on today’s FCC public notice seeking comment on potential trials related to the transition of the PSTN to IP technology.

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

"COMPTEL applauds the FCC’s interest in addressing the industry’s transition of the PSTN from TDM to IP technology. Given that the competitive industry has been leading the implementation of the IP transition for well over a decade, we welcome the opportunity to provide detailed information to the FCC on our experiences in implementing IP technologies into our networks. In fact, some of COMPTEL’s member companies have been all-IP since 1999 and our industry were the earlier adopters of VoIP in the mid-‘90s. As the Public Notice recognized, implementation in the United States has been ‘delayed’ aside from the efforts of some cable companies and competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs).

The most critical aspect of the transition of the PSTN to IP technology that needs to be addressed is interconnection between competitors and the ILEC on an IP basis for the purpose of exchanging managed voice traffic. COMPTEL believes Commission affirmation of competitors’ interconnection rights on an IP basis under the Act, which we initially asked to be addressed in 2008, would achieve the new, innovative services it wishes to unleash at a faster pace than a trial. Nonetheless, COMPTEL believes the outcome of any trial on the transition to IP should include an IP-to-IP interconnection arrangement that complies with the standards set forth in the Act and will be available for opt-in at part of interconnection agreements.”

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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.