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COMPTEL Comments on AT&T's Proposed Wire Center Trials

WASHINGTON, D.C. – February 28, 2014 – [COMPTEL](#), the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry, today commented on AT&T's proposals for two trials involving the transition of two wire centers to all-IP services.

The following statement can be attributed to Chip Pickering, COMPTEL's CEO:

"As AT&T has proposed its trials, COMPTEL and its member companies look forward to fully engaging and participating in this process, and, at the same time, vigorously advocating for the continuity of sound competitive policies. Competitors have been at the forefront of the IP transition for over a decade.

While AT&T's trials offer a narrow and very limited test, we look forward to a variety of proposals that will enable the Commission and industry to paint a complete picture of how the transition will impact the services and applications offered across the country, in all markets.

COMPTEL and its members will continue to work with every segment of the industry and FCC leadership to ensure that this transition proceeds on a proper path and achieves the FCC's stated objectives. It is our hope that together we can come to a consensus on future-looking policies that will support even greater competition.

There is clearly broad agreement that wholesale access is vital and is the lynchpin for achieving the enduring value of competition. With an effective wholesale market, retail competition will thrive, spurring economic growth, job creation and even greater innovation. Also of importance during this transition is that critical anchor institutions – such as federal agencies, public safety organizations, local governments, schools, libraries and healthcare facilities – continue to have access to competitive alternatives, and that providers can deliver services in the most efficient and effective way possible. It is critical that the competitive forces that have led to the IP evolution we are experiencing today are fostered and can continue to grow."

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.