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Competitors Ready to Join Technology Transition Trials

WASHINGTON, D.C. – COMPTTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry, today acknowledged the commitment of competitive providers, such as COMPTTEL member company Granite Telecommunications LLC, to engage in service-based trials with AT&T related to the technology transition.

In a press release today, Granite acknowledged that it serves numerous business voice lines and offers additional services in the two wire centers - located in Carbon Hill, Ala., and Kings Point, Palm Beach County, Fla. - that AT&T had selected for its proposed first phase of its technology transition trial. Granite acknowledged that it is one of just a few competitive carriers serving customers in these locations, and the company will serve as a “bellwether for the trial’s impact on competition.”

The following statement can be attributed to Chip Pickering, COMPTTEL’s CEO:

“The presence of Granite in both wire centers that AT&T has proposed for its service-based experiments will provide an opportunity for the Commission to clearly see the impact of the technology transition on competition.

Throughout these experiments, it will be vital to test the delivery of wholesale services, and whether competitive providers and their customers will receive functionally equivalent products to ensure that competition can continue to flourish.

By having competitors willing to participate in these trials, we believe that it will become evident where service gaps exist, and how a robust wholesale market results in the development of valuable retail alternatives for consumers.

COMPTTEL and its member companies, who have been pioneers in delivering IP-based services during the past decade, look forward to working with AT&T and the Commission to ensure that the enduring values of competition remain a central goal as technology transition experiments take place.”

About COMPTTEL

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive communications service providers and their supplier partners. COMPTTEL 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. COMPTTEL 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.