



For Immediate Release

Custer Telephone Cooperative to Merge its Wireless PCS Division with Syringa Wireless LLC.

26 August 2010 - Pocatello, ID – Custer Telephone Wireless and Syringa Wireless announce the companies have reached an agreement to merge operations in Idaho and provide wireless personal communication services in the Custer Telephone exchange areas, on October 15th 2010. The merger agreement was reached on the 24th of June 2010. Integrating the two companies will offer a unique set of benefits that will help meet the demands of the dynamic wireless telecommunications market.

Custer Telephone Cooperative will operate as an affiliate of Syringa Wireless. Both companies plan to maintain their current staffs to ensure subscribers continue to receive outstanding customer service. After the 15th of October, all current Custer wireless subscribers will be transitioned to Syringa Wireless plans and services. Any new Custer subscribers will be able to sign up for Syringa Wireless services.

The merger will grow the Syringa Wireless customer base, pushing Syringa over the 15,000 customer mark. The addition of Custer Telephone will also bring Syringa Wireless' total retail locations to 21. "This is a great opportunity for our company. The ability for us to combine resources and expand our service area will truly benefit subscribers of both companies," explains Mike Hunsaker, General Manager of Syringa Wireless.

Customers of Custer Telephone will be presented with new choices in wireless services options and enhanced calling features that will include a larger, more regional home network area incorporating 275 tower locations, throughout Idaho, Wyoming and Utah. Area residents may also purchase picture messaging and wireless internet services offered via the network through a variety of cell phones or USB laptop devices. Internet connectivity will offer 3G wireless speeds (up to 2.4 Mbps down and 1.2 Mbps up). BlackBerry® smart phone services will also be available after the transition. Service offers will include traditional national plans and area wide Pay As You Go plans. Dennis Thornock, General Manager of Custer Telephone made this statement: "We are proud of where our company is today; we will continue to focus on the future and evolve with technology that will enrich the lives of our customers. This new relationship with Syringa Wireless gives Custer Wireless the opportunity to provide a larger more advanced home network to our subscribers."

Syringa Wireless is currently performing switch and network software upgrades. Syringa Wireless recently deployed 3G data services in Fort Hall, Idaho with plans to deploy 3G services in Madison County, Idaho. Syringa plans to bring up additional 3G service areas throughout their wireless network.

About Syringa Wireless:

Syringa Wireless started as a consortium of five long standing Idaho ILEC/CLEC companies. Original ownership included: Direct Communications established in 1954, Filer Mutual Telephone established in 1909, Silver Star Communications established in 1948, Albion Telephone Company (ATC) established in 1929 and Project Mutual Telephone (PMT) established in 1916. Syringa Wireless' unique company ownership has yielded a service network built and customized to the people and communities of southern and eastern Idaho. Syringa Wireless is one of 10 other members in the Rural Independent Network Alliance (RINA). RINA provides a variety of operating systems and platforms including switching, SMS, MMS, nationwide roaming, Qualcomm® Brew®, and RIM® BlackBerry® mobile services. Services offered include traditional agreement plans and convenient pay as you go offerings. More information is available at: <http://www.syringawireless.com>

About Custer Telephone Cooperative:

February 1955 Custer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. filed its Articles of Incorporation with the State of Idaho and began serving the communities in Custer and Lemhi Counties with landline telephone service. The cooperative grew to include four other area exchanges in the municipalities of Clayton, Challis, May and Elk Bend. Throughout this growth Custer started to offer more than landline telephone services. Today a broad range of services are provided by Custer including: high speed internet, web design, cable television and wireless PCS. Custer's expansion also includes Salmon, Idaho where they currently provide broadband and cable television services with plans to soon offer Syringa Wireless PCS and 3G data services. Custer is one of 11 founding members of Syringa Networks, an Idaho fiber optic leader. For the past 54 years Custer Telephone Cooperative has continued to evolve as they strive to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Additional information about Custer can be found at <http://www.custertel.net>

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