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Windstream Receives 2014 Frost & Sullivan Growth Excellence Leadership Award

Windstream Recognized for Its Superior North American VoIP Access, SIP Trunking Services for Third Year in a Row

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Jan. 28, 2015 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Windstream (Nasdaq:WIN), a leading provider of advanced network communications and managed services, has again earned Frost & Sullivan's 2014 North American VoIP Access and SIP Trunking Services Growth Excellence Leadership Award. Based on the findings of Frost & Sullivan's Best Practices research, this award marks Windstream's third consecutive win.

Windstream achieved the highest marks based on all of the criteria set for the Frost & Sullivan Competitive Strategy Leadership Award, which focuses on growth performance and customer impact. Frost & Sullivan evaluated growth strategies, year-over-year performance, diversification, sustainability, pricing and customer purchasing experiences.

"Windstream is honored to be recognized by Frost & Sullivan. The award truly reflects all of the hard work and dedication we have put forth to provide our customers with reliable and effective VoIP access and SIP trunking services," said David Works, president of enterprise at Windstream. "The VoIP access and SIP trunking services market is extremely competitive. Our team remains keenly focused on our people, our products and our customers. This award further reinforces our ongoing commitment to the industry and to our brand promise of providing 'smart solutions, personalized service.'"

Windstream received the Frost & Sullivan Growth Excellence Leadership Award for capturing the highest market share growth rate among the leading VoIP Access and SIP trunking service providers industry in North America during the 2011 to 2013 period. The company was recognized for effectively creating a sustainable growth strategy, exceeding the industry's year-over-year growth rate, and maintaining competitive brand positioning, as well as focusing on customer satisfaction and value.

"The sustained market share growth exhibited by Windstream is a strong indicator that the service provider's VoIP offering in the North American enterprise market is highly competitive and attractive to customers," stated Michael Brandenburg, industry analyst at Frost & Sullivan. "This is attributable to Windstream's ability to flexibly design solutions that meet the specific needs of customers based on the provider's comprehensive suite of voice, unified communication, data and cloud services. Windstream's success in the VoIP access and SIP trunking services market has come from a combination of organic growth and a successful acquisition strategy, which positioned the company among the market share leaders in 2012. which it maintained in 2013."

According to Frost & Sullivan market estimates, the North American VoIP access and SIP trunking services market is projected to grow 24.5% on a cumulative annual basis between 2013 and 2020, reaching a total market size of \$88.9 billion in 2020.

Windstream offers a full suite of advanced network communications and technology solutions, including voice and data services such as [VoIP access](#), SIP trunking, [MPLS](#) and [dedicated high-speed Internet](#). Windstream also offers [managed services](#), [cloud computing](#), [disaster recovery](#) and networking services designed to help businesses increase productivity and improve operational costs. For more information, visit windstreambusiness.com.

For the full Frost & Sullivan Best Practices Research report on Windstream's 2014 VoIP access and SIP trunking Growth Excellence Leadership award, visit www.windstreambusiness.com or [click here](#).

About Frost & Sullivan

Frost & Sullivan, the Growth Partnership Company, enables clients to accelerate growth and achieve best-in-class positions in growth, innovation and leadership. The company's Growth Partnership Service provides the CEO and the CEO's Growth Team with disciplined research and best-practice models to drive the generation, evaluation and implementation of powerful growth strategies. Frost & Sullivan leverages 50 years of experience in partnering with Global 1000 companies, emerging businesses and the investment community from more than 40 offices on six continents. To join the Growth Partnership, visit frost.com.

About Windstream

Windstream, a FORTUNE 500 and S&P 500 company, is a leading provider of advanced network communications and

technology solutions, including cloud computing and managed services, to businesses nationwide. The company also offers broadband, phone and digital TV services to consumers primarily in rural areas. For more information, visit the company's online newsroom at news.windstream.com or follow on Twitter at [@WindstreamNews](https://twitter.com/WindstreamNews).

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