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## Windstream announces inducement grants under NASDAQ listing rule 5635(c)(4)

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Aug. 14, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Windstream Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ:WIN) today announced the grant of 1,061,323 restricted shares of Windstream common stock to new executive employees, including 707,548 shares to Layne Levine, President - Enterprise; 94,340 shares to Shawn Murray, Executive Vice President - Enterprise Sales and 259,435 shares to four new employees that joined the company as part of the recent acquisition of Broadview Networks Holdings, Inc.

Each of the equity awards was granted as a material inducement to each recipient's acceptance of employment with Windstream and generally address forfeited compensation and compensation opportunities with a former employer. Subject to each recipient's continued service through each applicable vesting date, one-third of each reward will vest on March 1, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Each of the equity awards were approved by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of Windstream in accordance with Nasdaq Listing Rule 5635(c)(4). The shares were granted outside of the company's 2006 Equity Incentive Plan.

### About Windstream

Windstream Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ:WIN), a FORTUNE 500 company, is a leading provider of advanced network communications and technology solutions for consumers, businesses, enterprise organizations and wholesale customers across the U.S. Windstream offers bundled services, including broadband, security solutions, voice and digital TV to consumers. The company also provides data, cloud solutions, unified communications and managed services to small business and enterprise clients. The company supplies core transport solutions on a local and long-haul fiber network spanning approximately 150,000 miles. Additional information is available at [windstream.com](http://windstream.com). Please visit our newsroom at [news.windstream.com](http://news.windstream.com) or follow us on Twitter at @Windstream.

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