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Frost & Sullivan Honors Windstream With 2012 Best Practice Awards

Advanced Communications Provider Recognized as Industry Leader in VoIP Access, SIP Trunking, and Ethernet Services

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Nov. 14, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [Windstream](#) (Nasdaq:WIN), a leading provider of advanced network communications and managed services, was awarded two Best Practice Awards from [Frost & Sullivan](#), a leading independent research firm.

Windstream has been recognized with the 2012 U.S. Competitive Strategy Leadership Award in Retail Carrier Ethernet Services, as well as the 2012 North American Market Share Leadership Award in VoIP Access and SIP Trunking Services. Both were awarded at the annual Frost & Sullivan 2012 Excellence in Best Practices Awards banquet in San Antonio on Nov. 8.

The recipient of the Frost & Sullivan Competitive Strategy Leadership Award in Retail Carrier Ethernet Services was determined through an evaluation of Windstream and its competitors that rates each company's performance across multiple categories, including their ability to leverage competitive intelligence, execution of competitive strategy, impact on market share, competitive brand positioning, and impact on customer satisfaction and value.

"Windstream is clearly one of the nationwide leaders in business connectivity markets and has come a long way from its early days of being a regional ILEC," said Roopashree Honnachari, program manager, Frost & Sullivan. "Our research indicates that Windstream holds a significant market share in the Ethernet services market, which is a testament to the company's effective competitive strategy."

Windstream, which offers [cost-effective Ethernet Internet solutions](#), received the highest marks across all rankings and was the only company that scored perfect 10s in multiple categories. [Windstream Ethernet Internet](#) is a dedicated connection ensuring Internet traffic jams are bypassed so businesses are at optimum performance, even during peak usage hours, and is a secure way to transfer large data files, utilize hosted applications, and have the flexibility to add speed at any time.

Windstream was also recognized with the Frost & Sullivan Market Share Leadership Award in VoIP Access and SIP Trunking Services, which is presented to the company that has demonstrated excellence in capturing the highest market share within its industry. Windstream's advanced [VoIP solution](#)—Dynamic IP—enables businesses to dynamically alternate between voice and Internet as their call volume needs dictate. Utilizing SIP, voice and data are combined on a single circuit, delivering feature-rich VoIP capabilities, quality of service, and cost-savings compared to conventional, separate network connections for phone service and Internet.

"Windstream has earned the Market Share Leadership Award by promptly addressing the needs of its enterprise customers, and through the PAETEC acquisition, by combining two solid competitors into a single strong one," said Michael Brandenburg, industry analyst, Frost & Sullivan. "In addition, creative bundling of data and voice services in ways that make the most sense to the customer has helped Windstream find success in a highly competitive market."

"To be recognized by Frost & Sullivan for two of our core services is a huge honor for Windstream," said Don Perkins, vice president of Business Marketing for Windstream. "We work diligently on a daily basis to provide smart solutions and personalized service to our customers, and these awards are indicative of that commitment and our success."

Windstream offers a full suite of advanced network communications and technology solutions, including voice and data services such as [VoIP](#), 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 www.windstreambusiness.com.

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 www.frost.com.

About Windstream

Windstream Corp. (Nasdaq:WIN) is a leading provider of advanced network communications, 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. Windstream has more than \$6 billion in annual revenues and is listed on the S&P 500 index. For more information, visit www.windstream.com.

The Windstream Corporation logo is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=7044>

CONTACT: Windstream Contact:

Alice Hartnett

704-887-0327

alice.hartnett@windstream.com



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