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## Windstream Begins 1 Gigabit Internet Service Trial in Lexington, KY

### New 1 Gbps Service Will Launch in Five Markets During First Half of 2016 and Help Expand Kinetic TV Service to Additional Customers

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 18, 2015 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Windstream (NASDAQ:WIN), a leading provider of advanced network communications, today announced the start of its ultra-fast 1 gigabit-per-second (Gbps) Internet service trial in Lexington, KY, with plans for a full launch in five markets during the first half of 2016.

In addition to Lexington, Windstream will launch 1 Gbps service for residential and small business locations in Lincoln, Neb.; Sugar Land, Texas; Concord, N.C. and Matthews, N.C. during the first half of 2016. These network enhancements will make it possible to expand the availability of Kinetic, Windstream's next generation television service, in Lincoln and Lexington.

"We're proud of what we have accomplished in 2015," said Tony Thomas, president and chief executive officer at Windstream. "It has been a year of tremendous progress, and we're delivering on our commitment to upgrade our network to provide faster Internet speeds."

The 1 Gbps service trial follows Windstream's recently announced expansion of Internet speeds of up to 100 Mbps to more than 800 markets, and Project Excel, a \$250 million program that will accelerate further upgrades of broadband speeds, support network capacity speeds and improve reliability.

"We understand the value our customers place on reliable high-speed Internet, which is why we're making a commitment to offering 1 Gbps service," added Thomas. "We will continue to expand services in 2016 to meet our customers' growing demands and needs."

For more information about Windstream's residential and small business services, including premium speed and Kinetic, visit [Windstream.com](http://Windstream.com).

#### About Windstream

Windstream Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ:WIN), a Fortune 500 company, is a leading provider of advanced network communications and technology solutions for consumers, small businesses, enterprise organizations and carrier partners across the U.S. Windstream offers bundled services, including broadband, security solutions, voice and digital TV to consumers. We also provide data, cloud solutions, unified communications and managed services to business and enterprise clients. The company supplies core transport solutions on a local and long-haul fiber-optic network spanning approximately 121,000 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 [@WindstreamNews](https://twitter.com/WindstreamNews).

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