



Windstream Enhances New Merge Service With Exclusive Web Series Featuring Veteran Entertainment Journalist Mark Steines

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., April 17, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Windstream (Nasdaq:WIN) is unveiling an exclusive behind-the-scenes web series featuring Emmy-award winning entertainment journalist Mark Steines. The series, "On The Mark," will give consumers Mark's firsthand insights into pop culture and entertainment news.

The first of 14 episodes is available beginning today on the company's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages and will air on a bi-weekly basis for six months. The first two episodes of On the Mark will feature Mark's thoughts on the history of the red carpet and the evolution of television show names.

On March 1, Windstream launched Merge, its new high-speed Internet and streaming entertainment service. Merge allows consumers to customize their entertainment experiences with high-speed access to their specific programming choices from the Internet directly to their television. A look at a portion of the company's Merge broadcast advertising campaign is available on [YouTube](#).

"We're changing the way people think about their entertainment choices and giving them new ones," said David Redmond, Windstream's vice president of consumer marketing. "Our customers can now access exclusive content by the very best in entertainment news, like Mark Steines, delivered to them as a complement of Merge."

Windstream also is introducing "Merge Me!" exclusively on [Facebook](#). By answering specific questions based on each episode of On The Mark, consumers will have the opportunity to be transformed into an animated character. The first Merge Me! question can now be found on [Facebook](#) and asks, "For what role in movie history would you want to win an Oscar? And why?" One person will be randomly selected to have his/her image animated into their chosen role.

To experience Merge or to subscribe, visit <http://www.mergenow.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>

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