

## Windstream Receives 2013 ShoreTel Circle of Excellence Award

### Windstream Recognized for Outstanding Business Performance, Expertise and Sales

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Jan. 30, 2014 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Windstream (Nasdaq:WIN), a leading provider of advanced network communications, announced today that it has received ShoreTel's Circle of Excellence Award for the 2013 partner year. The award recognizes Windstream for exceptional achievement in areas including customer satisfaction, revenue growth and proficiency with advanced applications. [ShoreTel, Inc.](#) is the leading provider of brilliantly simple [phone systems](#) and [unified communications](#) solutions.

"Windstream is proud to partner with ShoreTel in offering the latest unified communications solutions for the diverse business communication needs of our customers, continuing our promise of 'smart solutions, personalized service,'" said Matt Preschern, Windstream's senior vice president and enterprise chief marketing officer. "Windstream shares a common goal with ShoreTel—to deliver UC solutions that improve communication and collaboration, with superior levels of customer satisfaction, at a low cost of ownership."

As a ShoreTel partner, Windstream specializes in delivering ShoreTel's solutions portfolio, training and supporting end-user customers. This partnership allows Windstream to offer productivity-enhancing solutions, such as call center functionality and advanced mobility, while delivering cost-saving solutions that enable businesses of all sizes to connect with their customers.

"The Circle of Excellence is the highest award given by ShoreTel to its partners and we're very pleased to welcome Windstream into this elite group," said David Petts, senior vice president of worldwide sales at ShoreTel. "The Circle of Excellence Award is presented to ShoreTel's top global reseller partners, and each year, less than one-half of one percent of all partners earn this distinction. We're proud that Windstream surpassed the strict criteria required to earn Circle of Excellence status this year."

Windstream recently reached the Platinum—and highest—level of ShoreTel's Champion Partner Program. The Champion Partner Program was designed to help partners succeed in delivering and supporting ShoreTel products for their customers. ShoreTel partners have expertise in disciplines such as LAN, WAN, call centers and voice and data application integration.

"Windstream's certified IP PBX platforms enable the service provider to meet the needs of a variety of enterprises," said Cindy Whelan, principal analyst at Current Analysis. "Windstream has astutely developed a comprehensive managed IP telephony solution suite leveraging the feature rich capabilities of its partner platforms in combination with the company's advanced VoIP capabilities."

For more information about Windstream's unified communications solutions, visit [www.windstream.com](http://www.windstream.com).

### About ShoreTel

ShoreTel, Inc. (Nasdaq:SHOR) is a leading provider of brilliantly simple [IP phone systems](#) and [unified communications](#) solutions. Its award-winning on-premises IP-PBX solution and cloud-based [hosted phone system](#) eliminate complexity and improve productivity. Recognized for its industry-leading customer experience and support, ShoreTel's innovative [business phones](#), application integration, collaboration tools, [mobility](#), and [contact center](#) applications enable users to communicate and collaborate no matter the time, place or device, with minimal demand on IT resources. ShoreTel is headquartered in Sunnyvale, Calif., and has regional offices and partners worldwide. For more information, visit [www.shoretel.com](http://www.shoretel.com).

### About Windstream

Windstream (Nasdaq:WIN), a FORTUNE 500 and S&P 500 company, 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. For more information, visit [www.windstream.com](http://www.windstream.com).

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