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A New Communications Paradigm: earthphone™ From Five Star Telecom

earthphone™

SAN FRANCISCO/ EWORLDWIRE /March 18, 2003 --- Today Five Star Telecom took the wraps off its 'earthphone™' Internet Telephony solution, so named because the use of 9-digit phone numbers allows these devices to be used anywhere in the world to both make and receive calls. The ability to receive calls from any location is thought to be unique, as is the ability to deliver crystal clear reception over dialup.

Earthphones™ not only enable free, high fidelity telephony over the Internet, but also offer 'anytime, almost anywhere' functionality. 'Almost' indicates the need for an Internet connection, which is rapidly become semi-ubiquitous via the rapid installation of Wi-Fi hot spots. If Wi-Fi access is free then so are the calls. Thus, the new communication paradigm is a combination of totally free telephony over the Net (the early promise of Internet telephony) with similar reachability to that of cellular (no location dependency).

In addition, earthphones™ work over dial-up connections, can pass through corporate firewalls, and connect to PBXs. The latter feature is enabled when one or more earthphones™ are connected to the trunk lines. This allows mobile workers to talk to colleagues and interconnect offices and conference rooms, again calls are free; they can also break out to the public network and make calls at local or national rates. In the US the term Lata (Local Access and Transport Area) is used to describe the geographic area handled by the local phone company. Outside that area toll charges begin; calls made inside the Lata are not metered. Since earthphone enables a de facto global Lata the company has registered the name Global Local Lata™.

Sy Richardson, President and founder: "Earthphones™ have a unique 9-digit code. To call another party, once you launch the application, you simply pick up the phone — dial tone is established immediately — and dial nine digits. Nothing could be simpler; you use regular phones the same way but now the calls are free. There is no service charge, no need to enter IDs and account numbers."

Earthphones™ are small hardware boxes that weigh in at a mere 3oz/84g and as illustrated, they connect to a USB port on the PC, and are used with regular analog phones. Both attachments are powered via the USB port.

The PC powers the hardware earthphone™ box and phone. Boxes also connect to the PBX, enabling mobile workers to connect to the PSTN. The same phone can also be employed for regular telephony.

Hearing is believing

Bill Brady, Director of Business Development: "Historically Internet Telephony has been associated with poor quality and even loss of signal. This is no longer the case;

the technologies employed by earthphones™ result in call quality as good as that of the public network and that is far superior to cellular. It has to be heard to be believed.”

Visitors to the site (www.fivestartel.com) can watch and listen to a video and also by listening to recordings made to and from Australia, California, India, Israel, the Netherlands and Pakistan.

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with questions or to set up a demonstration or interview.

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