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FAIRPOINT PREPARING FOR DEPLOYMENT OF ADVANCED BROADBAND NETWORK ACROSS MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AND VERMONT

Network to Use Advanced Fiber-Optic Technology and IP Transport for Voice, Data and Video Services

Bangor, ME (Sept. 19, 2007) – FairPoint Communications, Inc. (NYSE:FRP) today announced that it will begin development and construction of an advanced broadband network using Internet Protocol (IP) and Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) infrastructure over the existing Verizon fiber network in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Once regulatory approvals for its proposed acquisition of Verizon's wireline operations in those three states are received, FairPoint will deploy the advanced network. The full deployment is expected to take 12 to 24 months.

"Upon completion of the merger in northern New England, FairPoint will begin to deploy a leading business-class network scalable to meet our customer's needs today and into the future," said Peter G. Nixon, FairPoint's president. "We expect the reach, flexibility and scalability of this new MPLS platform to strengthen the region's economic foundation, attracting businesses and industries that follow investment in advanced network infrastructure."

MPLS is a data-specific network that belongs to the family of packet-switched networks. It was designed to provide a unified data-carrying service for both circuit-based clients and packet-switching clients. FairPoint's MPLS network design will increase availability of high bandwidth services to all areas across the three states, including many underserved areas with quality of service assurances that enable services over a common IP connection to the network. The 100 percent fiber optic MPLS network will be designed with diverse routes for dependable network access and uptime.

FairPoint's MPLS platform will create the foundation for a large number of highly reliable and efficient business class services, including Ethernet WAN and IP-based applications such as Layer 2 and Layer 3 VPN, VPLS, E-LAN and E-LINE Services. This advanced network will also support existing services such as Frame-Relay, Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP), and Circuit Emulation Services for Backhaul in DS1 to DS3 (clear channel or channelized) circuits.

"Businesses require this advanced type of infrastructure to remain competitive, and we believe the business community in northern New England will benefit from the competitive cost and performance advantages of FairPoint's network," said Jeff McCarthy, assistant vice president for Business Services at FairPoint. "We will essentially be providing a network that will allow a company with multiple locations in the region to experience LAN-like performance across the sites."

FairPoint believes that its MPLS backbone investment, in conjunction with the new back office support systems currently under development which will be staffed locally, will enhance FairPoint's position as both a telecommunications technology and service quality leader in northern New England.

About FairPoint

FairPoint is a leading provider of communications services to rural and small urban communities across the country. Incorporated in 1991, FairPoint's mission is to acquire and operate telecommunications companies that set the standard of excellence for the delivery of service to rural and small urban communities. Today, FairPoint owns and operates 30 local exchange companies located in 18 states offering an array of services, including local and long distance voice, data, Internet and broadband offerings. FairPoint is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "FRP".

This press release may contain forward-looking statements by FairPoint that are not based on historical fact, including, without limitation, statements containing the words "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," "estimates" and similar expressions and statements. Because these forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, there are important factors that could cause actual results, events or developments to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Such factors include those risks described from time to time in FairPoint's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), including, without limitation, the risks described in FairPoint's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K on file with the SEC. These factors should be considered carefully and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. All information is current as of the date this press release is issued, and FairPoint undertakes no duty to update this information. Source: FairPoint Communications, Inc., www.fairpoint.com.

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