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FAIRPOINT SELECTS CISCO TO SUPPORT NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND BROADBAND INITIATIVE

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (July 23, 2008) – FairPoint Communications, a leading provider of communication services to communities across the country, today announced it has selected Cisco as one of the primary solution providers for the company's proposed New England Internet Protocol (IP) and Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) broadband initiative. The implementation of the IP/MPLS network is a major step in the commitment FairPoint has made to increase broadband availability in the region.

FairPoint and Cisco see the emergence of a global digital networked economy with IP Next Generation Network (IP NGN)-based intelligent information networks that remove the barriers of time, place and media to allow the seamless interaction of people, processes and technology. With this collaboration, FairPoint will have enhanced solutions to meet the needs of customers and their applications. FairPoint will also be able to help companies remake their business models by delivering end-to-end IP-based solutions that can adapt rapidly to support continual business change.

"FairPoint will provide Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont with a state-of-the-art IP-based communications network needed to compete in the new economy," said Peter Nixon, president of FairPoint. "Cisco's selection demonstrates our commitment to deploying one of the best technologies available to help stimulate economic growth throughout the region."

"FairPoint Communications' IP NGN network, enabled by Cisco, allows businesses and consumers of northern New England to compete more effectively in the new global digital networked economy, which is vital to the continued economic development of the region," said Kelly Ahuja, vice president and general manager, service provider routing technology group of Cisco. "As a global leader in providing IP-based networking products and services, Cisco has described ways in which IP networking products and services can enable FairPoint to achieve its business and financial goals."

FairPoint has selected the Cisco Carrier Routing System (CRS-1) as the core platform of its IP/MPLS infrastructure, the Cisco 7600 Series Routers for the IP/MPLS edge and the Cisco 10000 Series Edge Services Router (ESR) for aggregation and termination. The Cisco CRS-1 is designed to help enable continuous system operation, service flexibility and system longevity. The Cisco CRS-1 marks a new era in carrier IP communications by powering the foundation for IP networks today while protecting investments for decades to come.

About Multi-Protocol Label Switching

MPLS provides increased control, enhanced reliability, and multiservice VPN services for IP networks to better support voice, video, and data traffic for business and consumer customers. FairPoint's MPLS network design will increase availability of high-bandwidth services across the three states, including many underserved areas with quality-of-service assurances that help enable services over a common IP connection to the network. The 100-percent fiber optic MPLS network will be designed with diverse routes for more reliable 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 as well as set the groundwork for IPTV. 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.

About FairPoint

FairPoint Communications, Inc. is an industry leading provider of communications services to communities across the country. Today, FairPoint owns and operates 32 local exchange companies in 18 states offering advanced communications with a personal touch including local and long distance voice, data, Internet, television and broadband services. FairPoint is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol FRP. Learn more at www.FairPoint.com.

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 Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q 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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