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FCC Increases Fees on Interstate and International Calls in Q1 2010

Gage Telephone Systems Helps Businesses Avoid These Costs Through SIP Technology

Baton Rouge, LA — February 28, 2010 — Gage Telephone Systems, an industry leader in unified communications, has begun to inform their customers on the Federal Communications Commission decision to raise the Universal Service Fund fee levied on interstate and international calls. According to a public notice released by the FCC, the increase will be a record 14.1% for the first quarter of 2010. Gage Telephone Systems is placing special emphasis on helping businesses avoid these substantial costs through Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Trunking.

“The popularity of SIP Trunking has exploded and has rapidly become the transport of choice for voice communications,” commented Jason Landry, VP of Sales of Gage Telephone Systems. “With the current economic environment the last thing most businesses need is an increase in their telecom costs. SIP technology empowers companies to reduce cost and improve productivity through advanced business applications. Through the implementation of SIP, new technology costs most companies absolutely nothing.”

SIP technology supports any form of real-time communication regardless of whether the content is voice, video, instant messaging, or a collaboration application. SIP enhances employee productivity by enabling users to inform others of their status (also known as presence management), their availability, and how they can be

contacted before a communication is even initiated.

SIP Trunking improves the bottom line of companies combining their voice and data services onto a SIP-based Trunk rather than using a costly primary rate interface (PRI) or T-1. SIP lets organizations converge their traffic onto a single line allowing them to see how they can best utilize or reduce bandwidth.

Another telltale sign driving the demand for SIP technology is a statement made recently by AT&T telling U.S. telecom regulators that it should set plans for phasing out older telephone networks if the government wants to make high-speed Internet access available across the country. AT&T stated that the government's goal of 100% broadband Internet access is in reach only if resources are moved away from "plain-old telephone service", known in the industry as POTS and the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). AT&T described circuit switched telephone systems as relics of a bygone era.

“A few years ago SIP was considered bleeding edge technology. Today it's considered cutting edge and tomorrow it will be mainstream. During SIP's infancy we conducted our own testing so we could properly position and deploy it to our customers when the time was right. Well, the time is right and those that have decided to adopt it are reaping its many benefits and are truly giving themselves an advantage against their competition,” added Landry.

ABOUT GAGE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

GAGE Telephone Systems, Inc. was established in 1980 by Gregory A. Wood, Sr. The company's original mission continues today, which is to provide the very best products and services that enable its clients to increase their profitability, obtain a competitive advantage, and improve employee productivity. GAGE has served the Baton Rouge and South Louisiana business community for nearly 30 years through a culture of striving towards excellence and unparalleled commitment to customer service.

GAGE helps companies of all sizes simplify their technology decisions with straight answers about everything from business telephone systems and computer networking to VoIP and voicemail services. The company conducts a complete needs analysis to ensure that each customer implements the right technology to meet their needs now and into the future.

GAGE has built a strong team of highly experienced and industry certified voice and data specialists. These individuals proactively assist customers through high level support and strive to exceed their expectations on a daily basis. The team is backed by a fleet of state-of-the-art service vehicles ready to respond to customer calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. GAGE has distinguished itself from the competition by becoming one of the region's leading telecommunications companies.

For more information on GAGE please call (225) 753-4243 or visit <http://www.GAGEtelephone.com>.