

NEWS RELEASE

Spirit Communications Proves the Whole Is Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts

COLUMBIA, S.C., April 4, 2016 — It's often said you can accomplish more as a team than you can individually. And indeed, "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts," especially when it comes to Spirit Communications.

<u>Spirit Communications</u> is a privately held communications firm headquartered in Columbia, S.C. On the surface, it looks like any other telecommunication company. But when you look at its structure and makeup, you find something unique.

Established in 1985, Spirit Communications operates on a unique business model. The innovative business structure is composed of 11 telecommunications companies across the region, with a goal of providing leading-edge support to their customers.

Spirit and its leaders believe that the future of business, educational, social, economic, healthcare and industrial development depends on the availability of a strong telecommunications infrastructure. To achieve this, they combined their efforts to ensure the state received the latest, most innovative technology for voice, data, Internet and fiber optic solutions, along with a full suite of cloud services.

Spirit stays on the forefront of innovation by releasing one new product every three months. Ranked among the top 35 privately held firms in South Carolina, Spirit serves thousands of customers in more than 150 service locations.

To leverage the strength of this unique alliance, the member-owners of Spirit Communications embarked on a project to increase awareness of the alliance, as well as awareness of the innovative technologies they are bringing to the state. As part of the process, they introduced a new logo to clearly identify the member-owners of the company.

"We believe through the unique structure of our company — with 11 member-owners working together — we have been able to provide innovative telecommunications technology to the state," said Bob Keane, President and Chief Executive Officer, Spirit Communications. "For too long, this alliance for the greater good has been behind the scenes. With our new logo and more active efforts to raise awareness of our alliance, Spirit Communications will continue to be at the forefront of technological leadership."

The 11 companies that make up Spirit Communications include:

- 1. <u>Chesnee Communications, Inc.</u>
- 2. <u>Comporium</u>
- 3. <u>FTC</u>
- 4. <u>Hargray Communications</u>
- 5. <u>Home Telecom</u>
- 6. Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- 7. Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- 8. <u>Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative</u>
- 9. Sandhill Telephone Cooperative
- 10. TruVista
- 11. West Carolina Rural Telephone

About Spirit Communications

Established in 1985, Spirit Communications operates on a unique business model. The innovative business structure is comprised of 11 telecommunications companies across the region, with a goal of providing leading-edge support to their customers. In their own markets, these companies provide voice, Internet, video and fiber-optic solutions, along with a full suite of cloud services to residential customers, commercial businesses and government agencies. For more information, visit http://spiritcom.com/proudowner.

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