

PRESS RELEASE

FOR INTEGRA TELECOM



MINNESOTA
TELECOM
ALLIANCE
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INTEGRA TELECOM CELEBRATES THE MINNESOTA TELECOM ALLIANCE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Integra Telecom Employees Serve as Active Members of the Alliance for Decades

Minneapolis – April 17, 2009 – Integra Telecom Inc., salutes the Minnesota Telecom Alliance's (MTA) 100th anniversary as the leading advocate for Minnesota's telephone and telecommunications companies, and celebrates decades of Integra employee service to the alliance's thousands of rural and urban customers. Employees of Integra Telecom's Prior Lake, Minn. operations have been active members of the MTA for several decades, serving on multiple MTA committees including the marketing, video and customer care committees.

Last month marked the centennial of the MTA, originally known as the Minnesota Independent Telephone Association. With the anniversary, the alliance launched a year of celebration at its 100th annual MTA Convention in Minneapolis.

"The MTA provides a great opportunity to connect with a large network of telecommunications providers similar to Integra," stated David Kunde, senior vice president and general manager of Integra Telecom of Prior Lake. "It also provides policy advocacy that ensures our customers have access to technologically advanced, reliable and competitive services."

The Centennial Convention commemorated the founding of the MTA on March 27, 1909, by a group of about 100 independent telephone company owners. Now serving roughly 400 members

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and more than 80 companies that offer telephone, wireless, cable television, video and high-speed Internet access to communities across the state, the cooperative trade association continues to lead the greater telecommunications industry by communicating with state and federal decision makers and advocating on behalf of the industry.

When the alliance began, the telephone industry was dominated by fierce competition among independently owned companies and the giant Bell system, which controlled the long-distance toll lines. The MTA was initially formed to advocate for the regulation of the telephone industry in an effort to help develop service standards, as well as to interconnect the thousands of small cooperatives and exchanges that were popping up all across the state. By 1920, there were 2,058 telephone companies operating in Minnesota.

The MTA helped Minnesota become a national leader in adopting widespread use of the telephone, and the cooperation between companies and cooperatives helped develop the industry at a time when possibilities for this new and exciting technology abounded. By 1923 more than 18 percent of Minnesotans owned a telephone, compared to just 13 percent nationwide.

The MTA also advocated for key legislation during the past 100 years, including the Communications Act of 1934, which saw universal service become a reality, and the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which inspired the growth of local competition through deregulation. Today, the MTA continues to advocate for less industry regulation to foster the unending development of new technologies and new services that will benefit all Minnesotans. From dial to push button, analog to digital and wired to wireless, the MTA has played a role in the advancement of Minnesota's telecommunications industry for 100 years, and through continued cooperation among its members, the alliance aims to continue far into the 21st Century.

About Integra Telecom

[Integra Telecom Inc.](#) provides voice, data and Internet communications to thousands of business and carrier customers in 11 Western states, including: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah and Washington. The company owns

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and operates a best-in-class fiber-optic network comprised of metropolitan access networks, a nationally acclaimed tier one Internet and data network, and a 4,700-mile high-speed long haul network. The company has earned some of the highest customer loyalty and customer satisfaction ratings in the telecommunications industry. Primary equity investors in the company include Warburg Pincus, Banc of America Capital Investors and Boston Ventures. Integra Telecom and Electric Lightwave are registered trademarks of Integra Telecom Inc. For more information, visit www.integratelecom.com.

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