

TSTCI INFORMATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TSTCI MEMBER COMPANIES

MAY 2007

www.tstci.org

Texans Helping Texans

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Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is a statewide telecommunications non-profit organization representing the interests of Texas rural independent telephone systems. All member companies are regulated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.



We're Moving!

On June 11, the TSTCI Austin office will be in a new location. Our telephone and fax numbers will remain the same. Our new physical address will be:

Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
5929 Balcones Drive, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78731

TSTCI SPONSORED RURAL SCHOLARSHIP LEGISLATION HEADED FOR THE GOVERNOR'S DESK!

In 1977, the Texas Legislature created the Rural Scholarship Fund to allow the awarding of cash scholarships to those rural students desiring to pursue their post-secondary education or vocational training. It is not funded by state taxes, fees, or state or local surcharges, but is funded by abandoned and unclaimed customer funds held by Texas' 50-plus rural telephone companies. These funds were previously turned over to the state under escheat laws. The source of the funds may vary dramatically from company to company and from year to year. Original legislation capped the statewide aggregated funds for all companies at \$400,000 for such scholarships.

Representatives from TSTCI have been working hard for several sessions to convince state legislators to increase or remove the cap on the rural scholarship fund. All this hard work has finally paid off.

TSTCI's proposed legislative language was sponsored this year in the House of Representatives (House Bill 2277) by Representative Warren Chisum, and in the Senate (Senate Bill 947) by Senator Robert Duncan. Senate Bill 947 increases the total amount of money that may be transferred (cap) to \$800,000 in order to allow more of the unclaimed and abandoned funds left with the rural telephone companies to be used solely for such scholarships. The bill passed the Texas Senate with a vote of 30-0 on April 27, and passed the Texas House of Representatives on May 9 with a vote of 144-0. The bill now awaits the Governor's signature and will then be effective September 1, 2007.

TSTCI extends a special thanks to our legislative advocate, Bill Stinson, for his hard work in enlightening lawmakers as to the benefits this legislation will have for our rural school children.

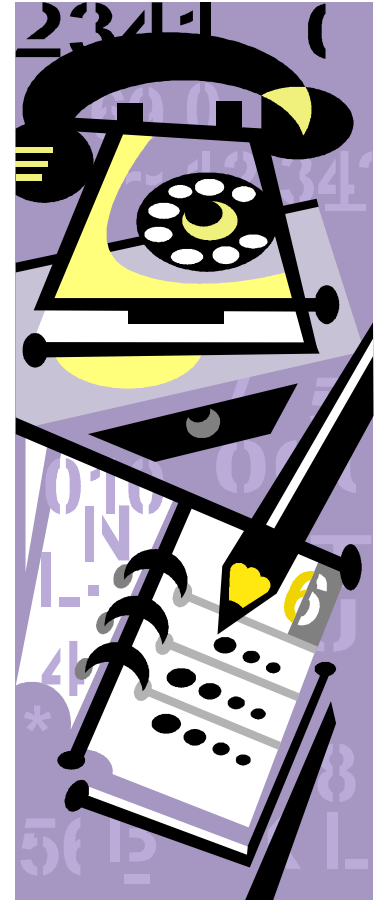
TSTCI CONFERENCE UPDATE

The **TSTCI Spring Managers' Conference**, June 6-8 on South Padre Island, is just around the corner! The sessions, sun and socializing are all great aspects of this conference. It's a great time to network with colleagues at the golf tournament, during the session day and at the reception. If you haven't registered yet, check the TSTCI website for the meeting information or contact Martha Shepperd at martha@tstci.org or call 972-484-2323.

In July, the **TSTCI Bookkeepers/Accountants/Commercial Conference** will be held July 11-13 in Austin. Once again, there will be some great speakers, informative sessions and networking opportunities. Registration packets were sent by e-mail on May 21. If you have any questions or need assistance with registration or sponsorship, feel free to contact Martha.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this year's **TSTCI Futures Retreat**, August 8-9. It will be at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in Mescalero, New Mexico. This is a new location for the conference; if you would like more information on this spectacular resort, visit www.innofthemountaingods.com. The program and other information will be sent by e-mail to all TSTCI members in the near future.

If you have questions on any of the conferences, please be sure to contact Martha in the TSTCI Dallas office.



Attention Fishermen!



If you're looking for something fun to do just before the Spring Managers' Conference, David Cotten at CopperCom has informed us that he and Richard Dzanski at AllOptic are sponsoring a fishing tournament at the beginning of the week.

Fishing begins bright and early the mornings of June 5-6. Each day's catch is taken to Blackbeard's, where the fish is cooked six different ways and served family style with sides and drinks.

For information on participating in this tournament, please contact David Cotten at CopperCom (972-567-1636) or by e-mail: dcotten@coppercom.com.

SS8 NETWORKS AND MARTIN GROUP JOIN TO OFFER SERVICE PROVIDERS TRUSTED THIRD-PARTY SERVICES FOR LAWFUL INTERCEPT NEEDS

Martin Group to use SS8 Networks' XciproT platform to provide fast, secure CALEA compliance

SS8 Networks and Martin Group, a TSTCI associate member company, announced that the two leading companies will collaborate to provide customers a facilities-based trusted third-party service to meet the federal CALEA mandate for lawful intercept.

Under the terms of the agreement, Martin Group, the nationwide leader in software solutions, business services and engineering services for communications providers, will use XciproT from SS8 Networks®, the leading source of lawful intercept solutions for telecommunication service providers. On behalf of third parties, this service will conduct the intercepts, provide intercepted information to law enforcement agencies, assist with filing compliance reports and regularly test the installed solution.

Communications service providers are required under the Federal Communications Commission's CALEA (Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act) legislation to provide the ability to intercept VoIP and broadband communications by May 14, 2007. In order to simplify and cost-reduce the compliance process, some service providers are looking for a highly reliable third-party organization to conduct the intercept and secure the information.

“Local exchange carriers, VoIP operators, and Internet service providers seeking a third-party CALEA implementation will see this as a stand out solution. It uses powerful technology that is deployed and managed by an absolutely credible engineering firm,” said Stephen Gleave, SS8 Networks vice president of marketing. “The communications industry knows and respects Martin Group.”

SS8 Networks' Xcipro has proven interoperability with a broad range of networking equipment products and vendors. At the heart of the Xcipro solution, SS8's nuLIusT control logic provides the intelligence for Martin Group to rapidly integrate an active or passive solution into their customers' heterogeneous network environments.

“Xcipro's scalable, reliable, and high-performance lawful intercept platform simplifies our role as a third-party provider of lawful intercept solutions,” said Peter Rasmusson, President of the Telecommunications Consulting and Engineering department at Martin Group. “Our customers place their trust in Martin Group to provide the best solutions, and simply put, Xcipro is the best technology available.”

A court fine of up to \$10,000 per day and potential additional FCC fines are a hefty price tag for many communications providers.

“We simply can't afford to be non-compliant let alone adding staff to manage and implement an in-house CALEA solution,” said Mark Harrison of USA Communications, the first of over 50 Martin Group TTP clients in the U.S. “We selected Martin Group's Trusted Third Party Services because they've been our trusted engineering and regulatory partner for 20 years. They know our network, equipment, requirements, and regulatory processes.”

Martin Group's Trusted Third Party Service is immediately available. For additional information, visit www.martin-group.com.

INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS ANNOUNCES NEW WEST REGION ACCOUNT MANAGER

New sales representative brings extensive industry experience to IOC's in the western U.S.

Innovative Systems, LLC, a TSTCI associate member company, has announced Howard M. Fuller as its AP Account Manager for the western region of the United States.

Fuller will play a major role in introducing Innovative System's two new product lines, APMAX, and IPTV Middleware to tier 3 companies. A next generation IMS Application Server, APMAX will provide the IOC market with improved wireline and wireless features along with an optional integrated IPTV middleware solution. Fuller will also be providing continued sales support for the Application Peripheral (AP).

According to Ryan Tupper, Director of Voice and Video, Innovative Systems, "We interviewed several highly qualified candidates for this opportunity, and were pleased that our top choice accepted the position." Regarding Fuller's abilities, Tupper added, "He has mentored some of the top people in the industry and will be a tremendous resource for our customers in the western United States."

Fuller is a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston with a BS in computer science and an MBA in marketing from DePaul University in Chicago. Mr. Fuller resides in Phoenix AZ.

About Innovative Systems

Innovative Systems is a dominant provider of enhanced service platforms and Operational Support Systems (OSS). The Innovative Systems Application Peripheral (AP) is the most feature rich and widely deployed platform in the industry with over 750 systems in service interfacing with all switch types. The eLation OSS solutions have already proven to be a market success with sixty plus customers in the first 30 months. For more information, please contact your Innovative Systems sales representative, Innovative Systems office or visit www.innovsys.com.

Upcoming Events

May 2007

- 28 Texas Legislature Adjourns
- 28 Memorial Day Holiday (TSTCI Offices Closed)**
- 30-June 1 Rural Independent Competitive Alliance (RICA) Annual Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada

June 2007

- 6-8 TSTCI Spring Managers' Conference – South Padre Island, Texas**
- 25 TTA Foundation Golf Tournament – Austin, TX

July 2007

- 4 **Independence Day (TSTCI Offices Closed)**
- 11-13 TSTCI Bookkeepers/Accountants/Commercial Conference – Austin, Texas**