



Media Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USConnect Names Steven Drew as CEO

Manchester, New Hampshire (October 1, 2015) – USConnect Holdings, Inc. (USConnect) has named Steven Drew as chief executive officer of USConnect Services, Co. and of USConnect’s operating properties. In this capacity, Drew will have overall responsibility for directing the management teams and operations of the company’s seven RLEC properties and affiliated unregulated operations. Steven will also work with the USConnect board and its advisors to develop and execute acquisition and diversification strategies in pursuit of the company’s growth objectives. Steven brings two decades of experience spanning the telecommunications, information technology, cyber security and managed service provider industries.

Prior to joining USConnect, Steven was the Executive Director of Global Operations for Dell SecureWorks, an information security service provider, where he was a member of the senior management team responsible for the operations of seven global Security Operations Centers providing security infrastructure monitoring and management services.

Steven began his career in rural communications. In 1995, upon graduating from college, he joined USConnect investor Horry Telephone Cooperative (HTC) and helped the cooperative sell, service and support Internet services as an information systems engineer and director of HTC’s Network Control Center. In 1999, Steven joined LURHQ, a provider of managed IT and data security services including intrusion prevention, vulnerability scanning, threat intelligence, intrusion detection, managed firewall and managed enterprise security monitoring. LURHQ merged with SecureWorks in 2006. In 2011, Dell acquired SecureWorks as part of its strategy to expand its portfolio of IT-as-a-Service solutions.

“We are very happy to have Steven joining the USConnect family,” said Denny Law, general manager and CEO of Golden West Telecommunications in Wall, SD and chairman of the board of USConnect. “USConnect and its properties continue to invest and expand and Steven’s experience will be vital as we enter new markets and offer a growing portfolio of services.”

"I am thrilled to be joining USConnect and look forward to working with the USConnect board, staff and partners to continue down the path of realizing the mission and goals of USConnect's founding partners" said Drew. "USConnect provides an ideal opportunity to bring my experience across telecom, IT and managed services with companies across the United States bringing advanced services to rural communities."

"Steven exemplifies USConnect and its vision for the future – deep roots in the rural communications industry coupled with a strong commitment to acquire, develop and expand advanced services in markets served by rural and community-based independent communications providers" said Law. Steven is a graduate of Clemson University, where he received a B.S. in computer engineering, and Winthrop University, where he received an MBA.

About USConnect USConnect was formed in 2013 as a platform to promote and facilitate collective efforts to realize growth and efficiencies through acquisitions, develop collaborative initiatives to leverage the collective size and industry expertise of USConnect and its owners and advocate for the future success and viability of rural and community-based communications providers.

USConnect owns and operates seven RLEC properties and their affiliated operations, which collectively serve approximately 19,000 voice, data and video connections over a combined service area spanning 4,400 square miles. Combined, USConnect and its owners employ 1,500 employees, generate revenue of \$470 million, and serve 445,000 voice, video and data connections over a collective service area spanning 45,000 square miles.

For more information, visit www.usconnectholdings.com.