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## **Local Internet Services Providers, DakotaCom.Net, Gain Communications to Merge**

*Contact: Bill Bosmeny*

Two local companies, Dakota Internet Partners (DakotaCom.Net) and Gain Communications (GainBroadband.com) announced today an agreement to merge. This combination will bring together two companies with differing strengths to create Southern Arizona's largest independently owned and locally operated Internet Service Provider (ISP).

As a result, the combined company, which will use the Dakota branding, will be better able to speed the delivery of new and improved services for consumers and businesses, who are embracing the shift to Internet Protocol (IP) network-based technologies for their voice and data communications needs.

"The merger combines our extensive wireless background and deployment with Dakota's similar background in server collocation, DSL, dial-up, hosting, premium email and other services. The combined company will be years ahead in terms of technology and customer service capabilities." said Steve Millaway, Owner and Founder of Gain Communications.

"Through the elimination of redundant expenses and overhead, we will accelerate our investment in the Tucson community which we all call home. We believe that Tucson should be a leader in Internet technology – and we intend to continue to lead in this area. This transaction will help the community by offering advanced services that increase our own productivity and helping to attract new businesses to the Tucson area. Both of these focuses will have a big impact our local economy" said Bill Bosmeny, President and CEO of DakotaCom.Net.

"Gain Communications has built a solid reputation over the past 10 years in the Tucson Community and has always had a mission of providing the best technology with old-fashioned customer service," said Steve Millaway. "DakotaCom.Net has an excellent reputation in this community and was a logical partner because of their serious customer service focus."

"This transaction combines two companies with very similar, customer-driven focuses." said Bill Bosmeny. "Moreover, we have gained a significant edge in being able to offer fixed broadband wireless services to our customers without the steep learning curve associated with building a fixed-wireless network from scratch. Our customers are the real winners here, because now we will be able to service those consumers and businesses located in areas that have been underserved for years by both the local telephone and cable companies.

### **Customer Benefits**

Consumers and businesses seeking an alternative to large monopolies like the cable companies and the local telephone company can continue to rely on a stronger and more competitive locally-owned and operated firm that has a track record of providing excellent customer service. Gain's customers will soon see expanded technical support hours and access to a variety of upgraded services that Dakota customers already enjoy. Dakota's customers will soon be able to choose fixed-wireless as an option to receive ever-faster Internet connections.

All of our employees live in Tucson, we have families in Tucson, and we are focused on delivering the very best for your Tucson friends and neighbors.

### **Making the Most of Wireless Broadband Internet**

One of the most important benefits of the transaction will be an increase in the service area to DakotaCom.Net customers. Gain Communications has a wireless footprint of more than 250 square miles in Pima County.

"By having a division focused entirely on the advancement of fixed-wireless technologies to deliver broadband Internet service we will be able to accelerate our growth and position ourselves to deploy promising new technologies like WiMAX, as it becomes available in the near future" said Millaway.

"We are excited about the potential for bringing a robust set of integrated products and services to our customers in a faster and more effective manner under one brand," said Bosmeny.

Gain Communications was founded in 1996 and was one of the first Internet Service Providers in the country to deploy fixed-wireless high speed Internet service. Gain is the only Internet service provider to operate under the same name and ownership for more than a decade in Southern Arizona.

DakotaCom.Net has been operating in Tucson and Southern Arizona since 1995 and has one of the most advanced networks and server collocation facilities in Southern Arizona. The company provides a wide range of broadband services and data solutions to both business and residential customers.

DakotaCom.Net received the coveted 2006 Better Business Bureau of Southern Arizona's Business Ethics Award.

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