



Windstream Adds New 'Merge' Channel to Television

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 1, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Windstream (Nasdaq:WIN) today announced the launch of Merge, the company's new high-speed Internet and streaming entertainment service.

Merge allows consumers to customize their entertainment experience with high-speed access to their specific programming choices from the Internet directly to their television.

"With the explosive growth of streaming content, the 'information superhighway' has become outdated," said David Redmond, Windstream's vice president of consumer marketing. "We created Merge to give our customers access to something better: what we call the 'entertainment superhighway.' From movies to first-run and classic television shows, gaming to social networking and more, our customers will use Merge to experience their favorite content on the biggest screens in their homes...their TVs."

Merge is available in all Windstream residential service areas and includes:

- High-speed Internet connection with Wi-Fi
- Roku™ streaming box
- Unlimited nationwide calling
- 24/7 U.S.-based customer support

A six-month contract may apply.

Customers who sign-up for Merge through June also will receive:

- Free six month membership to Hulu Plus™
- First month free Merge service
- Free installation

A new website, www.mergenow.com, is at the center of Windstream's integrated marketing campaign to support Merge. In addition to new television spots, print advertising and alternative media like digital and social advertising, the website gives customers the opportunity to:

- Explore: Merge innovative features and choices
- Experience: Merge streaming entertainment choices, control and personalization
- Shop: Browse Merge packages and sign-up for service

"Merge by Windstream adds to the growing conversation about the changes in traditional television viewing habits," according to Redmond. "Merge speaks to the desires of our customers for more personalized entertainment options backed by a strong network. Merge is the new web-enabled path to entertainment."

To experience Merge visit www.mergenow.com.

About Windstream

Windstream Corp. (Nasdaq:WIN) is a leading provider of advanced network communications, including cloud computing and managed services, to businesses nationwide. The company also offers broadband, phone and digital TV services to consumers primarily in rural areas. Windstream has more than \$6 billion in annual revenues and is listed on the S&P 500 index. For more information, visit www.windstream.com.

The Windstream Corporation logo is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=7044>

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Source: Windstream Corporation

News Provided by Acquire Media