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**COMPTEL to Host Wireless Backhaul Forum at
2012 RCA Competitive Carriers Global Expo**

***Member Companies to Discuss Alternatives to LEC Wholesale Wireless
Backhaul Offerings with Rural Cellular Carriers on March 28***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – COMPTEL, the leading trade association for the competitive communications industry, today announced that, in partnership with seven COMPTEL member companies, it will host a Wireless Backhaul Forum at the 2012 Rural Cellular Association Competitive Carriers Global Expo in Orlando. The COMPTEL luncheon event will take place on March 28, 2012, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort.

“Although incumbent local exchange carriers have been the dominant provider of wireless backhaul, many competitors, like our members, are offering rural wireless providers valuable alternatives to this critical service,” said Jerry James, COMPTEL’s CEO. “At our Wireless Forum, we’ll offer an interactive discussion about today’s wholesale wireless backhaul options, featuring presentations from our members, who can help rural carriers meet the exploding demand for wireless bandwidth, while providing the reliability, scalability and flexibility they need to serve their customers.”

“We are delighted to partner with COMPTEL at our 2012 Competitive Carriers Global Expo in March,” said Steven K. Berry, RCA president and CEO. “COMPTEL members provide a unique opportunity to assist RCA’s wireless competitive carriers to help better serve their customers with enhanced connectivity and cost savings. I am pleased we were able to bring the two groups together to explore new business opportunities.”

COMPTEL members sponsoring, and presenting at the Wireless Backhaul Forum include Charter Business, DukeNet Communications, EarthLink Inc., FiberLight LLC, Kansas Fiber Network, USCarrier Telecom LLC and Windstream Corp.

COMPTEL members are invited to attend 2012 Rural Cellular Association Competitive Carriers Global Expo and are eligible for the early bird RCA member rate if they register by March 2. For more information, or to register, visit the [RCA Competitive Carriers Global Expo website](#).

About COMPTEL

Based in Washington, D.C., COMPTEL is the leading industry association representing competitive communications service providers and their supplier partners. COMPTEL members are entrepreneurial companies driving technological

innovation and creating economic growth through competitive voice, video, and data offerings and the development and deployment of next-generation, IP-based networks and services. COMPTEL advances its members' interests through trade shows, networking, education, and policy advocacy before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the courts. COMPTEL works to ensure that competitive communications providers can continue to offer lower prices, better service, and greater innovation to consumers. For more information, visit www.comptel.org.

About RCA

RCA is the nation's leading association for competitive wireless providers serving rural and regional areas of the United States. The licensed service area of RCA's more than 100 members covers 95 percent of the nation. For more information, visit www.rca-usa.org.