



NEWS RELEASE

NextiraOne Secures Leicestershire County Council Unified Communications Project

Strategy to bring benefit of IP communications to its staff and the public by helping to deliver faster and more effective public services

13 September 2005, Paris, France. NextiraOne today announced that it has been awarded a contract to provide a unified communications solution to Leicestershire County Council in the United Kingdom. The Council has developed a five-year strategy to move all its voice traffic to a unified communications platform provided by Alcatel. This will enable the Council to be more flexible and responsive in the way that it delivers its services, thereby helping towards the delivery of the Council's strategic "Better Access to Better Services" initiative.

Currently around 2,000 staff at the Council's main County Hall site in Glenfield already have the new telephony facilities and implementation is underway to start connecting the 250-plus satellite offices around the county. Leicestershire County Council delivers a range of public services to the citizens of this area of Central England such as Highways, Transportation, Social Services, Education, Trading Standards, Libraries and Museums.

The NextiraOne solution is based on the Alcatel OmniPCX Enterprise IP telephony platform and the Alcatel OmniTouch Unified Communications suite of software. The Alcatel solution provides advanced IP telephony, while enabling unified messaging, personal call routing and management, and instant audio conferencing and workgroup collaboration from any location.

"NextiraOne was awarded this contract on the basis of its proven expertise in convergence solutions. It also has the skills and resource to undertake this implementation to a tight timescale, backed up with solid project management capabilities," said Tony Collier, Technical Services Manager, Leicestershire County Council.

"Converged solutions deliver clear cost and management benefits. Organisations such as Leicestershire County Council are recognising the potential that unified communications offers to deliver improved service levels to citizens while reducing costs," said Simon Gibbs, Managing Director, NextiraOne UK.

“The forward thinking approach of Leicestershire County Council should see it reap the benefits of a quick return on investment. Similar projects have proved that Alcatel’s unified communications software is highly effective in the public sector – significantly improving the way individuals and groups communicate and complete work,” said Graeme Allan, vice president, Northern Europe Enterprise Solutions Division, Alcatel.

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About NextiraOne

Headquartered in Paris and Houston, NextiraOne is a leading global provider of integrated enterprise network solutions and services that enable effective, reliable business communications. We cover everything from planning and design to the implementation, support and management of voice, data and converged communications networks. We provide best-in-class technologies from leading partners including Alcatel, Cisco Systems, Genesys and Nortel Networks. And we offer consultation and solutions development ranging from contact centre applications to network infrastructure outsourcing. Discover more at www.nextiraone.com. NextiraOne is owned by Platinum Equity (www.platinumequity.com), a global acquisition firm specializing in the strategic operation of mission-critical services and solutions businesses according to a unique M&A&OSM model of value creation.

About Alcatel

Alcatel provides communications solutions to telecommunication carriers, Internet service providers and enterprises for delivery of voice, data and video applications to their customers or to their employees. Alcatel leverages its leading position in fixed and mobile broadband networks, applications and services to bring value to its customers in the framework of a broadband world. With sales of EURO 12.3 billion in 2004, Alcatel operates in more than 130 countries. For more information, visit Alcatel on the Internet: <http://www.alcatel.com>.

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