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## Nextera Completes Acquisition of StoneBridge Wireless Creates unique, all digital infrastructure targeting Midwest business market

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (February 11) – Nextera Communications, LLC, a provider of business class network delivered services, today announced that it has acquired the assets of StoneBridge Wireless Inc. StoneBridge, has an extensive wireless digital network with more than 60 tower sites currently serving Twin Cities business customers from River Falls, Wisconsin to Monticello, Minnesota.

Nextera will integrate the StoneBridge wireless network with its existing all digital fiber and wired network anchored by full Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) core facilities in Duluth, Brainerd, St.Cloud and the Twin Cities. Nextera will also expand the acquired wireless network by extending the coverage, adding capacity and enhancing the network's managed services delivery infrastructure.

"We've committed extensive resources to build an all digital infrastructure that delivers high-quality virtual private networking, wide area networking, business PBX and call center telephony services, and data services to small, mid-size and enterprise businesses," said Greg Arvig, chief executive officer at Nextera. "The addition of StoneBridge Wireless further positions us to be the premier provider in the Minnesota regional marketplace."

Having the option of wireless and/or wired last-mile connections will allow Nextera customers to experience the unprecedented flexibility and reliability needed for today's increasingly demanding business needs. Mr. Arvig further adds, "We also believe our expanding data services offerings will provide significant additional customer value and opportunity to the StoneBridge customers."

Data services, also referred to as Software as a Service (SaaS), is a rapidly growing market. IDC has published projections showing managed storage services alone will reach \$15 billion by 2011.

"Nextera was looking for an enterprise class wireless system," said Tim Johnson, StoneBridge general manager. "Most wireless providers cannot stand up to that kind of standard. StoneBridge's customers range from enterprise to SOHO businesses. StoneBridge accepted Nextera's bid because they are uniquely positioned in the exploding Network Delivered Services market."

The combined infrastructures will enable more connectivity and pricing options for Nextera's Twin Cities customers. Nextera customers can take advantage of the wireless costs and flexibility in their plans for broadband Internet access, true redundancy with assured network diversity, virtual private networking and wide area Ethernet services.

The combined company will operate under the Nextera name. Nextera and StoneBridge personnel are complementary and Nextera believes that the excellent customer service and technical support StoneBridge

customers have always received from StoneBridge's friendly and knowledgeable employees will be enhanced by Nextera's additional resources.

## **About Nextera Communications**

Nextera Communications, headquartered in Baxter, Minnesota, delivers a portfolio of leading edge digital networking, telecom and data services to small, mid-sized and enterprise businesses throughout Minnesota and into adjacent states. Nextera also delivers traditional local and long distance voice services. This support of both traditional and digital era services uniquely enables Nextera customers to migrate from their current networking and telecom systems to the next generation of highly cost effective digital solutions on their own schedule. The company is a single point of contact for its entire portfolio of services and proud of its local customer service including web-based account management tools and a primary point-of-contact for real-time, personal customer care. The company is privately held. For more information about Nextera Communications, please visit <u>www.nextera.net</u>.

## About StoneBridge Wireless, Inc.

Stonebridge was a privately held Wireless Internet Services Provider (WISP) founded in 2000. For more information about StoneBridge Wireless, Inc., please visit <u>www.sbwireless.net</u>.

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