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**MERGER OF NTELOS WITH CONESTOGA CONFIRMS ILEC  
RESTRUCTURING ANALYSIS**

New Paradigm Resources Group, Inc. On Point in Merger Activity in Independent  
Sector

**Sector Also Viewed as Target Area for Vendors and Investors**

**JULY 26, 2001** — Yesterday's announcement by NTELOS, Inc. (NASDAQ: NTLO) and Conestoga Enterprises, Inc. (CENI) that they would merge was foreseen by the competitive telecom industry's top research analysis firm. New Paradigm Resources Group, Inc. (NPRG) anticipated such events in its *Competitive IOC Report™: New Challenges, Established Carriers*. As stated in the report, CENI had been "seeking to be acquired completely rather than selling individual business segments." The name of this merged company has yet to be determined.

"This is a great match and a strong move for both companies," stated John Laprise, analyst with NPRG. "By merging with a company that is proximate to it's current operating area, NTELOS will be able unify it's network and decrease volatility within their operating expenditures. Because both companies are Competitive IOC's (Independent Operating Company) in the same area, the merged company is well on it's way to becoming a regional power in the mid-Atlantic region."

In addition to merger and acquisition activity, the *Competitive IOC Report™* additionally examines at expansion strategies, presents forecasts of revenue growth and capital expenditure, and offers in-depth profiles within the competitive independent sector.

This merger also signals the strength of the competitive activities of the ILECs. "If companies feel that investing in similar companies is a profitable move," states Craig M. Clausen, COO of NPRG noted, "this is an indication that there is money in the sector. Vendors and investors should feel confident that this is an emerging sector within the competitive telecom industry and is where a source of new revenues can evolve."

Information on numerous Competitive IOC companies can be found in the new production of the *Competitive IOC Report™: New Challenges, Established Carriers*, which will be released to the public in early August. Pre-orders are now being taken on this report priced at \$3,450. For more information, visit NPRG's website at <http://www.nprg.com> or call 312-980-4796.

### ***About New Paradigm Resources Group***

New Paradigm Resources Group, Inc. is a research and consulting firm monitoring and analyzing developments in the competitive telecommunications industry. NPRG maintains an extensive array of proprietary databases that support our foundational industry reports, which, in turn, fuel our client-specific expert consulting work. NPRG publishes the *CLEC Report™*, a biannual multi-volume review of the state, trends and future of the competitive local telecom industry, as well as the *ISP Report™*, *DSL Report™*, *ASP Report™*, *Utilities in Telecom Report™*, and the *BLEC Report™*.