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Contact: Jim Crawford  
Crawford Public Relations  
703-318-5460  
jcrawford@crawfordpr.com

**NEW *CLEC REPORT*<sup>TM</sup> TRACKS OVER 200 FACILITIES-BASED CLECS; DATA CONTINUES TO DRIVE EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF COMPETITIVE LOCAL TELECOM INDUSTRY**

**Semiannual Report Shows New Technologies, Content Providers as Driving Growth**

**CHICAGO, MAY 1, 2000** – New Paradigm Resources Group, Inc. (NPRG), the leading research firm covering the competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) industry, today released the 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of its semiannual *CLEC Report*<sup>TM</sup>. The new *CLEC Report*<sup>TM</sup> contains a comprehensive study of over 200 CLECs, and confirms that high-speed data services continue to drive explosive growth in the CLEC industry.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *CLEC Report*<sup>TM</sup> outlines the tremendous growth that the CLEC industry has experienced. From a handful of competitive providers just five years ago, the industry now has 147 facilities-based CLECs, with 57 more companies that have announced intentions of becoming facilities-based carriers in the near future. The number of CLEC-provisioned access lines has also risen from zero in 1996 to 11.8 million in 1999. From revenue of \$2 billion derived from access services in 1996, CLECs reported more than \$28.5 billion in 1999 derived from a plethora of services they now offer.

“As in past editions of the *CLEC Report*<sup>TM</sup>, this one reveals not only the compelling statistics about the growth of the CLEC industry, but also identifies exciting new trends,” said Terry Barnich, President of NPRG. “While DSL and other high-speed data services continue to propel growth in the industry, other interesting facts include the entry of ILECs into the CLEC industry, the ease with which CLECs raise capital in the financial markets, changes in senior management staff, the development of new technologies, and a rapid increase in content providers delivering services to CLECs’ existing customer bases.”

NPRG said it is moving towards Web functionality in the near future. Customers will be able to buy the *CLEC Report*<sup>TM</sup> on the Internet, and will be given

the opportunity of purchasing regularly updated profiles and an extensive array of databases on the CLEC industry from the NPRG Web site.

“The comprehensive nature of the *CLEC Report*<sup>™</sup> makes it an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the competitive telecommunications industry,” said Craig Clausen, Senior Vice President of NPRG. “Given the depth of our research and analysis, this document will be useful to CLECs, investment banks and venture capitalists, equipment vendors, consulting firms, billing and management systems providers, information providers such as ISPs and ASPs, regulatory agencies, telecom publications, and anyone else interested in the competitive telecommunications industry.”

NPRG performs ongoing research on all facilities-based CLECs. While the number of CLECs has been estimated in several thousands, most of these entities have simply received some form of certification to provide local service. The *CLEC Report*<sup>™</sup>, committed to the idea that true competition comes from facilities-based CLECs, has focused its research and analysis on 204 current or future facilities-based providers.

“Because the CLEC industry is ever-changing and there is need to meet the expectations of our customers, it’s more important than ever to frequently update information on the industry,” said Steven B. Weinberg, Director of Research Services of NPRG. “CLECs are expanding into virtually all telecommunications service sectors, and the *CLEC Report*<sup>™</sup> is the only publication that continues to provide solid data on the CLEC industry on a regular basis.”

NPRG’s *CLEC Report*<sup>™</sup> is widely regarded as the definitive resource for the CLEC industry. The *CLEC Report*<sup>™</sup> is available twice a year with completely revised and updated editions in the spring and fall. Additionally, NPRG’s comprehensive databases on the competitive telecommunications industry are continuously updated. This 12<sup>th</sup> Edition is presently being sold in two bound volumes as well as on CD-ROM. Multi-user site licenses of the *CLEC Report*<sup>™</sup> are also available. Call 312-980-4796 for pricing.

New Paradigm Resources Group, Inc., based in Chicago, is the nation’s leading research firm covering the competitive communications industry. For more information or to place an order for the 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *CLEC Report*<sup>™</sup>, call 312-980-4796 or visit NPRG on the Web at [www.nprg.com](http://www.nprg.com).