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News Release

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**CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS'
CORE NETWORK**

***Company to Invest \$56 Million in New Hampshire's Broadband
Infrastructure***

MANCHESTER, N.H. (July 28, 2008) – FairPoint Communications will invest more than \$56 million in the next five years to build a state-of-the-art broadband network reaching nearly every corner of the state. As a result of this investment, FairPoint will make high-speed Internet service available to approximately 95 percent of its access lines in New Hampshire, and businesses will have expanded access to ultra high-speed, customized, secure transport of voice, video and data services across the region. This investment will enable the company to offer enhanced services on the existing fiber-to-the-premise network in southern New Hampshire and expand high-speed Internet service to approximately 75 percent of its New Hampshire access lines by September 2009.

The new backbone network is designed, equipment has been ordered, and construction is underway.

In the first stage of this network expansion, FairPoint is building a new Internet Protocol/Multiprotocol Label Switching (IP/MPLS) fiber-based core network across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont that is extremely flexible and capable of integrating various technologies and services over the same secure network infrastructure. The state-of-the-art network infrastructure will be the foundation to providing new and enhanced IP-based products and services across the region. The build-out includes the network elements to provide virtual private networking capabilities which can be combined with customized end-to-end quality of service attributes to assign priority to the network traffic.

"We are excited we have now moved from the engineering and planning phase of the project to the implementation phase," said Michael Brown, vice president of network engineering. "This next generation network allows FairPoint to respond to our customers' explosive demand for secure transport of large amounts of data simultaneously and to be plugged into the global economy."

This next generation network (NGN) consists of three distinct networks: the core network, the transport aggregation network and the edge network.

The core or backbone network carries traffic within each state as well as regionally across all three northern New England states. This all fiber network provides an interface for services such as Internet access, video networks, Internet2 for higher education and research institutions, and local area networks, metropolitan area networks, and virtual private networks to connect businesses.

The transport aggregation network is also completely fiber-based and extends to the FairPoint central office switching stations that deliver communications services in local communities. This network connects the central offices to the core network using 10 Gigabit Ethernet survivable rings. This allows all of the services available on the core network to be delivered to every community regardless of size.

The third network is the edge or last mile network that delivers services to the home or business from the central office.

"We will have multiple ways of delivering service to the customer," said Brown, "including copper solutions such as ADSL2+ and VDSL2 (super-fast DSL), fiber to the customer location or even wireless solutions.

"The key is providing broadband service that meets the needs of the customer today while providing the capability to grow as the customers' needs grow," he said.

About FairPoint

FairPoint Communications, Inc. is an industry leading provider of communications services to communities across the country. Today, FairPoint owns and operates 32 local exchange companies in 18 states offering advanced communications with a personal touch including local and long distance voice, data, Internet, television and broadband services. FairPoint is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol FRP. Learn more at www.FairPoint.com.

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Source: FairPoint Communications, Inc., www.FairPoint.com.

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