Baja Bought Out by TPS

Cable Provider Purchased for $267 Million by Chicago Based Company

CHICAGO -- Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. [NYSE: TDS], parent company to TDS Telecommunications Corp. (TDS Telecom), through a Tuesday morning press release, announced an agreement to acquire substantially all of the assets of Baja Broadband, LLC ("Baja"), a cable company headquartered in Alamogordo, N.M., for a purchase price of $267.5 million, subject to working capital and other adjustments.

Baja, which is the primary cable service provider for the Seminole and Seagraves communities, generated annual revenues of $82.4 million in 2012, and has approximately 285 employees.

The transaction is expected to close in the third quarter of 2013, pending regulatory approvals.

Baja Broadband is a full-service communications company, providing video, high-speed broadband and voice services to residential and commercial customers in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah.

"Baja Broadband is a natural extension of our existing businesses, with significant potential to deliver increased returns over time," said David A. Wittwer, president and CEO, TDS Telecom. "Our strategy is to leverage our expertise and existing platform and technologies to accelerate growth in underserved, high-potential markets. We plan to build on Baja's solid customer base and upgraded network to increase penetration and revenues with new services and products and outstanding customer experiences. And our experience with commercial customers will enable us to target new services and products to this fast-growing sector in Baja's service areas."

As of Dec. 31, 2012, Baja passed approximately 212,000 homes, with approximately 74,000 video subscribers, 56,000 high-speed broadband subscribers and 15,000 digital voice subscribers. Approximately 96 percent of Baja's network is equipped to deliver high-speed, high-capacity broadband and video services.

"Baja's strong network capabilities will enable us to deliver highly competitive data services, while reducing the need for future capital investment," added Wittwer.

"Each of our team members has contributed to developing Baja Broadband into a leading communications operator," said Peter Kahelin, CEO of Baja Broadband. "TDS Telecom's focus on quality, integrity and outstanding service will enhance our already strong relationships with our customers, our employees and our communities."

"This acquisition is an important step in our ongoing efforts to build value over the long term," said LeRoy T. Carlson, Jr., president and CEO, Telephone and Data Systems. "We continue to seek opportunities to invest our resources where we believe they can deliver strong returns over time, and expand into adjacent businesses like cable and hosted and managed services that enable us to leverage our core competencies to support our strategy to grow profitably."

RBC Capital Markets served as the exclusive M&A advisor to Baja in connection with this transaction. Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP served as legal counsel to Baja.

About Telephone and Data Systems

Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. (TDS), a Fortune 500® company, provides wireless; broadband, TV and voice; and hosted and managed services to approximately 7 million customers in 36 states through its business units, U.S. Cellular, TDS Telecom and TDS Hosted & Managed Services. Founded in 1969 and headquartered in Chicago, TDS employed 12,300 people as of Dec. 31, 2012. Visit teldta.com for comprehensive financial information, including earnings releases, quarterly and annual filings, shareholder information and more.

About TDS Telecommunications Corp.

TDS Telecommunications Corp. is the seventh largest local exchange telephone company in the U.S. Headquartered in Madison, Wis., it is a wholly owned subsidiary of Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. For 44 years, the company has been connecting people with high-speed Internet, phone, and TV entertainment services in over a hundred rural, suburban, and metropolitan communities across 32 states. Today, TDS has nearly 1 million customer connections in service and 2,900 employees. Business customers select from the latest technologies, including: VoIP (managedIP Hosted) phone service, dedicated high-speed Internet and hosted-managed services. Visit tdstelecom.com or tdsbusiness.com for more information.

About Baja Broadband

Baja Broadband is a full-service communications company offering best-in-class residential and commercial video, high-speed internet, and voice services. Baja is committed to being the leading provider of entertainment, information, and communication services in the communities it serves. Baja owns and operates broadband networks in communities within Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Utah. Visit bajabroadband.com for more information.

Baja is currently owned by M/C Partners, a leading private equity firm focused on communications, media and information technology; and Columbia Capital, a premier investment firm in wireless, broadband, media and enterprise technology. Visit mcpartners.com and colcap.com to learn more. Baja is currently managed by Last Mile Communications, an international management partnering and telecommunications consulting firm. Visit lastmile.net for more information.

Sandyland Conference Slated Thursday

The annual Sandyland Agricultural Conference will be held this Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Gaines County Civic Building in Seminole.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. with the program beginning at 8:25 a.m. and concluding at approximately 3:45 p.m.

According to officials with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service's Gaines County office, this year's conference will focus on the Production of Cotton and Peanuts as it relates to minimum rainfall and irrigation.

Irrigated & Dryland Cotton Production, Peanut Fungicides & Disease Control, Water Quality & Quantity, Weed Control, Herbicide Damage, Insect Management, Variety Trials, and Fertility are just a few of the cotton and peanut topics that will be discussed.

Those attending will also gain information on the Economic Timing of Irrigation, Pesticide Applicator License Requirements, Pesticide Laws and Regulations, and industry updates..

Program Presenters will include Dr. Mark Kelley - Agronomist, Dr. Jason Woodward - Plant Pathologist, Charles Stickler - Retired Extension Agronomist, Dr. Peter Dotray - Weed Specialist, Dr. Dana Porter - Agricultural Engineering Specialist, Dr. Terry Wheeler - Plant Pathologist, Dr. Jackie Smith - Extension Economist, Management, Terry Millican - Gaines County Agricultural Extension Agent, Manda Anderson - Gaines County IPM Agent, Jay Yates - Economist/Risk Management, all with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Other Presenters include Debbie Slocum - Texas Department of Agriculture.

Licensed pesticide applicators will receive Continuing Education Units (CEU's) toward their Pesticide License Requirements for attending this conference.

Local and surrounding businesses will be allowed to set up booths with educational and promotional information. Anyone wanting to sponsor this program or reserve a booth space should contact the Gaines County Extension Office at (432) 758-4006 ext. 140.

Educational programs of the Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodations in order to participate in an Extension sponsored activity are encouraged to contact the Gaines County Extension Office no later than February 20, 2013 at 432-758-4006 ext. 140.

The Sandyland Ag Conference is sponsored by The Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service and the Agricultural Committees in Gaines, Yoakum, Andrews, and Cochran Counties.

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The *Seminole Sentinel* strives to bring you the best in local news, social, and sports coverage for, Seminole, Gaines County and the surrounding area, in a timely manner.

With that in mind, there will be certain times that there will be limitations to news stories, letters to the editor and briefs, and their appearance in our publication to you.

The *Sentinel* does reserve the right to edit and restrict pre-produced stories and information for space limitations, editorial purposes, and time restrictions.

For further information or any questions regarding this policy, contact Dustin Wright, Managing Editor, at (432) 758-3667 or by email at news@seminolesentinel.com.

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News Briefs

Citywide Easter Egg Hunt Scheduled March 23; Donations Sought for Event

Hess Corp. will be hosting their annual Citywide Easter Egg Hunt on the morning of Saturday, March 23, at the M.S. Doss City Park.

The event, which is co-sponsored by several other local businesses, is open to the general public and will begin at 10 a.m.

Hess Corp. officials anticipate having over 15,000 plastic eggs for the event, and are currently looking for sponsors for candy and prizes for the program.

For more information about the Easter Egg hunt, or to help sponsor, contact Michelle Marquez at (432) 758-8636.

Have a news brief you need publicized or announced? Let us help!!!
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