



For Immediate Release
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Consolidated invests more than \$8 million in local infrastructure in 2003

MATTOON – Consolidated Communications will invest more than \$8 million this year in its 35-exchange service area on local service upgrades and new technologies.

Projects include upgrading existing cable systems and investments in digital switching equipment and expanded use of fiber optic cable. Work already completed this year enabled Consolidated Communications to be equipped to offer high-speed Internet in all of its exchanges.

The exchanges to see improvements this year and the investment amount include: Mattoon, \$1,270,000; Gays, \$170,000; Charleston, \$820,000; Oakland, \$50,000; Arcola, \$50,000; Arthur, \$190,000; Assumption, \$120,000; Atwood, \$130,000; Edinburg, \$265,000; Effingham, \$401,000; Farmersville, \$15,000; Hillsboro, \$260,000; Humboldt, \$50,000; Irving, \$15,000; Kincaid, \$30,000; Litchfield, \$268,000; Mt. Auburn, \$16,500; Nokomis, \$85,000; Pana, \$277,000; Raymond, \$75,000; Shelbyville, \$290,000; Stonington, \$30,000; Strasburg, \$50,000; Taylorville, \$660,000; and Windsor, \$50,000.

“Our 2003 service improvement plan in our telephone service area will ensure we continue to provide our customers with the finest telecommunications services and products available,” said Jim Watkins, vice president, Operations and Engineering.

Founded in 1894, Consolidated Communications Inc., is a family of companies providing voice and data communications services to both business and residential customers including local and long distance, Internet, business systems, retail and wholesale operator services, public services and fully-integrated telemarketing and fulfillment services.