



'Eventis Telecom' Is New Name for MP Telecom, Eventis

(Duluth, Minn.) – ALLETE, Inc. (NYSE: ALE) announced today that it intends to merge its telecommunications business, MP Telecom, and its network services business, Eventis. The combined operation will be known as Eventis Telecom and will have offices in Minneapolis, Duluth and Rochester, Minn.

“Eventis and MP Telecom provide business customers a unique menu of telecom and network integration services which extend both inside and outside the walls of buildings,” said Robert Adams, Eventis Telecom chief executive officer. “Bringing the two companies under one roof as Eventis Telecom will allow us to better market the unique blend of services and expertise we offer.”

Richard Henderson has been named president of Eventis Telecom and Walter Prah has been named chief operating officer. Henderson and Prah previously held leadership positions at Eventis and MP Telecom respectively. The companies currently employ 69 people throughout Minnesota.

MP Telecom provides fiber optic-based communications and advanced data services to businesses and communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and is a Cisco Powered Network provider in Minnesota. Eventis is a data network systems integrator that designs, deploys and supports multi-service networks combining voice, video and data traffic into a single standards-based infrastructure. The Minneapolis-based company is Cisco Systems Partner-Gold Certified and was acquired by ALLETE in 2001.

The Eventis Telecom logo can be downloaded for news media use by accessing the ‘news releases’ page at www.allete.com.

ALLETE’s corporate headquarters are located in Duluth, Minn. ALLETE’s holdings include the second largest wholesale automobile auction network in North America, the leading provider of independent auto dealer inventory financing, significant real estate holdings in Florida and a low-cost electric utility that serves some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. For more information about ALLETE, visit the company’s web site at www.allete.com.

The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.