



France Telecom Launches NHC's Largest Operational ControlPoint® Systems in Europe

MONTREAL, Quebec, December 22, 2004 – NHC Communications Inc. (TSX: NHC) (NHCMF), a leading provider of automated main distribution frames and cross-connect solutions for the copper-based telecommunications market, today announced that France Telecom (NYSE: FTE) has successfully completed and approved a ControlPoint® field trial in Boisemont headed by FTR&D and France Telecom's IDF West regional management. The three-unit interlinked system, serving over 6,000 customers of France Telecom's IDF West region, makes it the largest operational automated main distribution frame ("MDF") in Europe, and the largest MDF worldwide with respect to supported digital subscriber lines ("DSL").

Accelerated deployment of broadband access and improved quality of service are the key factors that have driven France Telecom to innovate in the automated MDF domain. The trial site of Boisemont was selected by France Telecom based on the its high percentage of customers using DSL in order to meet the increased number of manual operations generated by the success from new service offerings. "With the growing need for high-speed services, and the ability to effectively manage a mass deployment, we are extremely pleased that France Telecom has selected NHC as a partner in this trial", said Didier Hangeois, Vice President of European Sales.

During the launch of the trial site, Mr. Jerome Faul, Director for Customer Service of the Ile-de-France West Unit, stated: "This innovative technology is allowing us to provide our customers with multi-offerings (high-speed Internet, video and voice over DSL) more rapidly, and with an absolute guaranty of high quality services."

The Boisemont site incorporates three ControlPoint® solutions working as a single system. This is driven by NHC's latest CMS software, which has been translated into French. One unique feature of the CMS software is the ability to fully integrate seamlessly the management of ControlPoint® solutions into France Telecom's Operational Support System., thus automated service orders communicate directly with ControlPoint® on a real-time basis with no manual intervention.

Sylvain Abitbol, President and CEO of NHC added, "This is an honor and a very exciting time for our Company to have our technology recognized by France Telecom".

About France Telecom

France Telecom is one of the world's leading telecommunications carriers, with 119.6 million customers on the five continents (220 countries and territories) and consolidated operating revenues of 46.1 billion euros for 2003. Through its major international brands, including Orange, Wanadoo, Equant and GlobeCast, France Telecom provides businesses, consumers and other carriers with a complete portfolio of solutions that spans local, long-distance and international telephony, wireless, Internet, multimedia, data, broadcast and cable TV services. France Telecom is the second-largest wireless operator and Internet access provider in Europe, and a world leader in telecommunications solutions for multinational corporations. France Telecom (NYSE: FTE) is listed on the Paris and New York stock exchanges.

About NHC Communications Inc.

NHC Communications Inc. is a leading provider of products and services enabling the management of voice and data communications for telecommunication service providers. NHC's ControlPoint® solutions utilize a high-performance software driven Element Management System (EMS) controlling an automated, true any-to-any copper cross-connect switch, to enable incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) and other service providers to remotely perform the four key tasks that historically have required manual on-site management. These four tasks fundamental to all operations are loop qualification, deployment and provisioning, fallback switching and service migration of Voice and Data services including DSL and T1/E1. Using ControlPoint® NHC's customers avoid the risk of human error and dramatically reduce labour and operating costs. NHC maintains offices in Montreal, Quebec, and Paris, France. "ControlPoint®" is a registered trademark of NHC Communications Inc. NHC may be contacted through its web site at www.nhc.com.

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