



Iridium Announces Fourth-Quarter and Full-Year 2013 Results; Company Issues 2014 and Long-Range Outlook

MCLEAN, Va., Feb. 27, 2014 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Iridium Communications Inc.

(Nasdaq:IRDM) ("Iridium") today reported financial results for the fourth quarter of 2013 and issued its full-year 2014 and long-range outlook. Net income was \$15.6 million, or \$0.18 per diluted share, for the fourth quarter of 2013, as compared to \$16.7 million, or \$0.19 per diluted share, for the fourth quarter of 2012. Operational EBITDA ("OEBITDA")⁽¹⁾ for the fourth quarter was \$49.8 million, as compared to \$52.3 million for the prior-year period, representing a year-over-year decline of 5 percent and an OEBITDA margin⁽¹⁾ of 51 percent. OEBITDA fell largely due to lower equipment revenue.

Iridium reported fourth-quarter total revenue of \$98.2 million, which consisted of \$76.5 million of service revenue and \$21.7 million of equipment, engineering and support revenue. Total revenue increased 6 percent versus the comparable period of 2012, while service revenue grew 15 percent from the year-ago period. Service revenue, which represents primarily recurring revenue from Iridium's growing subscriber base, was 78 percent of total revenue for the fourth quarter of 2013 as compared to 72 percent in the year-ago period.

The Company ended the quarter with 664,000 total billable subscribers, which compares to 611,000 for the year-ago period and is up from 655,000 for the quarter ended September 30, 2013. Total billable subscribers grew 9 percent year-over-year, driven by strength in machine-to-machine ("M2M") and commercial voice customers.

"We achieved our most important strategic objectives in 2013 including the favorable renewal of services and support contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense ("DoD") and securing a \$120 million investment commitment from three European Air Navigation Service Providers ("ANSPs") for our AireonSM global aviation monitoring business," said Matt Desch, CEO, Iridium. "The agreements with the DoD, worth \$438 million over five years, deliver growing and predictable cash flow during the Iridium NEXT launch and construction period, while the investment commitments for our Aireon joint venture provide access to the needed funding to develop an operational Aireon system in 2017. And, while 2013 saw us navigate through challenges in our commercial handset and maritime businesses, we're poised for better performance as we consider our prospects this year. The handset market is growing more slowly than we've seen in past years, but we have a defensible leadership position and continue to expand our product portfolio with new offerings including the recently announced Iridium GO!TM satellite Wi-Fi hotspot. We've also improved our maritime broadband platform, which should lead

to a nice rebound in 2014 as industry dynamics are strong. The M2M market remained a bright spot in our portfolio, growing both subscribers and revenue 20% last year. We expect continued robust gains in this sector, and are just beginning to penetrate the lucrative OEM segment."

Desch continued, "Our network is the best in the industry today with true global coverage, very high availability and robust service quality for our customers. Our Iridium NEXT build remains on budget, and the new constellation is still on track to be fully deployed in 2017. While the first launch date hasn't officially changed yet, we expect that extensive payload and software testing schedules will push out our first launch a few months to the second quarter of 2015. All in all, with Iridium NEXT fast approaching, we have excellent long-term growth prospects and will continue to execute against the key targets that ensure our success."

Full-Year 2013 Iridium Business Highlights

For the full year, Iridium reported net income of \$62.5 million, or \$0.71 per diluted share, as compared to net income of \$64.6 million, or \$0.83 per diluted share, for 2012. The Company reported 2013 total revenue of \$382.6 million, which was relatively unchanged from the year-ago period. Total revenue included \$292.1 million of service revenue and \$90.6 million of equipment, engineering and support revenue. OEBITDA for 2013 was \$201.1 million, down 2 percent from \$205.8 million in the prior-year, representing an OEBITDA margin of 53 percent. Capital expenditures were \$403.5 million for the full-year 2013.

Fourth-Quarter Iridium Business Highlights

Service - Commercial

Commercial service remained the largest part of Iridium's business, representing 62 percent of the Company's total revenue during the fourth quarter. The Company's commercial customer base is diverse and includes markets such as maritime, aviation, oil and gas, mining, recreation, forestry, construction, transportation and emergency services. These customers rely on Iridium's products and services as critical to their daily operations and integral to their communications and business infrastructure.

Commercial service revenue was \$60.9 million, an 18 percent increase from last year's comparable period, primarily supported by a gain in voice and M2M data subscribers and a change in the Company's prepaid airtime policy.

Commercial voice and data subscribers increased 2 percent from the year-ago period to 340,000

Commercial voice and data subscribers increased 2 percent from the year-ago period to 340,000 customers. Commercial voice and data average revenue per user ("ARPU") was \$47 during the fourth quarter, a 15 percent year-over-year increase. Voice and data ARPU grew primarily due to higher recurring subscriber fees and a non-recurring benefit of \$3.6 million related to a change in the Company's prepaid airtime policy. Commercial M2M data subscribers grew 20 percent from the year-ago period to 273,000 customers. Commercial M2M data ARPU was \$16 during the fourth quarter, unchanged from last year's comparable period.

Iridium's commercial business ended the quarter with 613,000 billable subscribers, which compares to 560,000 for the prior-year quarter and is up from 604,000 for the quarter ended September 30, 2013. M2M data subscribers represented 45 percent of billable commercial subscribers, an increase from 41 percent at the end of the prior-year period.

Service - Government

Iridium's voice and data solutions improve situational awareness for military personnel and track critical assets in tough environments around the globe, providing a unique value proposition that is not easily duplicated. The Company was recently awarded two Defense Information Systems Agency contracts, which include a \$400 million, five-year, fixed-price agreement renewing its satellite communications services relationship and a \$38 million deal to support and maintain the DoD's dedicated gateway.

Government service revenue was \$15.6 million, a 3 percent increase from the prior-year period, driven by the Company's new airtime services contract with the DoD.

Iridium's government business ended the quarter with 51,000 billable subscribers, which is unchanged from the prior-year quarter and the quarter ended September 30, 2013. M2M data subscribers increased 33 percent year-over-year and represented 39 percent of billable government subscribers, an increase from 29 percent at the end of the prior-year period.

Equipment

Equipment revenue was \$15.9 million during the fourth quarter, a 28 percent year-over-year decrease. Revenue declined from the year-ago quarter primarily due to lower overall handset sales. The Company's equipment revenue in 2014 is expected to be greater than it was in 2013 due to higher overall unit sales.

Engineering & Support

Engineering and support revenue was \$5.8 million during the fourth quarter, up 66 percent from the prior-year period, primarily resulting from an increased scope of work for ongoing government projects.

Capital expenditures were \$140.1 million for the fourth quarter and primarily related to spending for the Company's next-generation satellite constellation, Iridium NEXT, and upgraded ground network infrastructure at its commercial gateway. The Company ended the fourth quarter with a cash and marketable securities balance of \$263.0 million and gross debt of \$1.0 billion. Net debt was \$695.2 million.

2014 Outlook

The Company issued its full-year 2014 outlook for total service revenue growth and OEBITDA. The Company expects:

Total service revenue growth between 2 percent and 4 percent for the full-year 2014
Full-year 2014 OEBITDA between \$205 million and \$215 million. OEBITDA for 2013 was \$201.1 million.

Total Service Revenue Growth
2014 Operational EBITDA (OEBITDA)

Long-Range Outlook

The Company issued its projections for compound annual service revenue growth, OEBITDA margin and cash taxes. The Company expects:

Compound annual service revenue growth between 8 percent and 12 percent between 2014 and 2018
OEBITDA margin of approximately 60 percent in 2018
Negligible cash taxes from 2014 to approximately 2020

**Compound Annual
Service Revenue Growth**

**Operational EBITDA
(OEBITDA) Margin**

Cash Taxes

Non-GAAP Financial Measures & Definitions

(1) In addition to disclosing financial results that are determined in accordance with U.S. GAAP, the Company discloses Operational EBITDA and Operational EBITDA margin, which are non-GAAP financial measures, as supplemental measures to help investors evaluate the Company's fundamental operational performance. Operational EBITDA represents earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization, Iridium NEXT revenue and expenses (for periods prior to the deployment of Iridium NEXT only), share-based compensation expenses, and the impact of purchase accounting. The Company also presents Operational EBITDA expressed as a percentage of GAAP revenue, or Operational EBITDA margin. Operational EBITDA, along with its related measure, Operational EBITDA margin, does not represent, and should not be considered, an alternative to U.S. GAAP measurements such as net income or loss, and the Company's calculations thereof may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies. By eliminating interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization, Iridium NEXT revenue and expenses (for periods prior to the deployment of Iridium NEXT only), share-based compensation expenses, and the impact of purchase accounting, the Company believes the result is a useful measure across time in evaluating its fundamental core operating performance. Management also uses Operational EBITDA to manage the business, including in preparing its annual operating budget, debt covenant compliance, financial projections and compensation plans. The Company believes that Operational EBITDA is also useful to investors because similar measures are frequently used by securities analysts, investors and other interested parties in their evaluation of companies in similar industries. However, there is no standardized measurement of Operational EBITDA, and Operational EBITDA as the Company presents it may not be comparable with similarly titled non-GAAP financial measures used by other companies. As indicated, Operational EBITDA does not include interest expense on borrowed money, the payment of income taxes, amortization of the Company's definite-lived intangible assets, or depreciation expense on the Company's capital assets, which are necessary elements of the Company's operations. It also excludes expenses in connection with the development, deployment and financing of Iridium NEXT. Since Operational EBITDA does not represent a financial measure, it is not subject to the same level of audit as the Company's financial

not account for these and other expenses, its utility as a measure of the Company's operating performance has material limitations. Due to these limitations, the Company's management does not view Operational EBITDA in isolation and also uses other measurements, such as net income, revenues and operating profit, to measure operating performance. Please refer to the schedule below for a reconciliation of consolidated GAAP net income to Operational EBITDA and Iridium's Investor Relations webpage at www.iridium.com for a discussion and reconciliation of this and other non-GAAP financial measures.

	Supplemental Reconcil
	I
	For the Three Months Ended Decer
	2013
GAAP net income	\$15,585
Interest expense	202
Interest income	(643)
Income taxes	18,776
Depreciation and amortization	18,775
Iridium NEXT expenses, net	(3,563)
Share-based compensation	358
Non-cash purchase accounting	334
Operational EBITDA	\$49,824

Conference Call Information

As previously announced, the Company will host a conference call to discuss its results at 8:30 a.m. ET on Thursday, February 27, 2014. Callers should dial (877) 334-1964 (U.S. only) or (631) 291-4574 (from outside the U.S.) to access the call. The conference call will also be simultaneously webcast on Iridium's Investor Relations webpage at www.iridium.com. A replay of the conference call will be available beginning Thursday, February 27, 2014 through Thursday, March 6, 2014 at Iridium's Investor Relations webpage. Callers can also dial (855) 859-2056 (U.S. only) or (404) 537-3406, Access Code 10601409, for an audio replay of the conference call.

About Iridium Communications Inc.

Iridium® is the only mobile voice and data satellite communications network that spans the entire globe. Iridium enables connections between people, organizations and assets to and from anywhere, in real time. Together with its ecosystem of partner companies, Iridium delivers an innovative and rich portfolio of reliable solutions for markets that require truly global communications. The company has a major development program underway for its next-generation network - Iridium NEXT. Iridium Communications Inc. is headquartered in McLean, Va., U.S.A., and its common stock trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol IRDM. For more information about Iridium products, services and partner solutions, visit www.iridium.com. IRDM-F

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements in this press release that are not purely historical facts may constitute forward-looking statements as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements include statements regarding Iridium's expectations with respect to total service revenue growth and OEBITDA for the full-year 2014; compound annual service revenue growth, OEBITDA margin and cash taxes in the longer-term; the development of and timing for launch of Iridium NEXT; anticipated equipment revenue; expected revenue from Iridium's new contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense; prospects for our handset, maritime and M2M product offerings and the funding, development and launch of the Aireon system. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the words "anticipates," "may," "can," "believes," "expects," "projects," "intends," "likely," "will," "to be" and other expressions that are predictions or indicate future events, trends or prospects. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Iridium to differ materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, uncertainties regarding increases in customer demand for Iridium's products and services, including demand from the U.S. Government; Iridium's ability to maintain the health, capacity and content of its current satellite constellation; the development of and transition to Iridium NEXT, including expanded capacity and features; the completion of funding milestones for, and the development and deployment of, the Aireon system, and the development of and market for Iridium's products and services, as well as general industry and economic conditions, and competitive, legal, governmental and technological factors. Other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements include those factors listed under the caption "Risk Factors" in the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("the SEC") on March 5, 2013, and the Company's Form

Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), on March 9, 2013, and the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2013, filed with the SEC on October 31, 2013, as well as other filings Iridium makes with the SEC from time to time. There is no assurance that Iridium's expectations will be realized. If one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if Iridium's underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those expected, estimated or projected. Iridium's forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this press release, and Iridium undertakes no obligation to update forward-looking statements.

Iridium Communications Inc.	
Consolidated Statements of Operations	
(In thousands)	
Three Months Ended	
September 30,	
2013	
Revenue:	
Service revenue	
Commercial	\$ 60,890
Government	15,630
Total service revenue	76,520
Subscriber equipment	15,900
Engineering and support service	5,780
Total revenue	98,200
Operating expenses:	
Cost of services (exclusive of depreciation and amortization)	15,880
Cost of subscriber equipment sales	12,490
Research and development	4,620
Selling, general and administrative	20,160
Depreciation and amortization	18,770
Total operating expenses	71,950

Operating profit (loss)	26,257
Other (expense) income:	
Interest income (expense), net	44
Undrawn credit facility fees	(1,706)
Other (expense) income, net	9,368
Total other (expense) income	8,106
Earnings (loss) before income taxes	34,363
Benefit from (provision for) income taxes	(18,776)
Net income (loss)	15,587
Series A Preferred Stock dividends	1,750
Net income attributable to common stockholders	\$ 13,837
Operational EBITDA	\$ 49,824

(1) The impact of purchase accounting on the carrying value of inventory, favorable lease assets Communications Inc., was an increase of approximately \$19.8 million, \$0.2 million, \$348.2 million Holdings LLC's balance sheet as of September 29, 2009. Similarly, Iridium Holdings LLC's deferred purchase accounting, the decrease in the carrying value of deferred revenue caused a decrease the increase in accruals had the effect of reducing cost of services (exclusive of depreciation and increase in property and equipment and intangible assets had the effect of increasing depreciation periods. The increase in favorable lease assets and related amortization thereof had the effect of will continue into future periods.

Iridium Communications Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Operations
(In thousands)

Year Ended

2013

Revenue:

Service revenue

Commercial	\$ 232,92
Government	59,16
Total service revenue	292,08
Subscriber equipment	73,30
Engineering and support service	17,25
Total revenue	382,64
Operating expenses:	
Cost of services (exclusive of depreciation and amortization)	59,34
Cost of subscriber equipment sales	52,06
Research and development	11,14
Selling, general and administrative	75,21
Depreciation and amortization	74,98
Total operating expenses	272,73
Operating profit (loss)	109,89
Other (expense) income:	
Interest income (expense), net	2,27
Undrawn credit facility fees	(7,70)
Other (expense) income, net	6,00
Total other (expense) income	57
Earnings (loss) before income taxes	110,46
Benefit from (provision for) income taxes	(47,94)
Net income (loss)	62,51
Series A Preferred Stock dividends	7,00
Net income attributable to common stockholders	\$ 55,51
Operational EBITDA	\$ 201,08

(1) The impact of purchase accounting on the carrying value of inventory, favorable lease assets

Communications Inc., was an increase of approximately \$19.8 million, \$0.2 million, \$348.2 million. Similarly, Iridium Holdings LLC's deferred revenue purchase accounting, the decrease in the carrying value of deferred revenue caused a decrease in the carrying value of deferred revenue. The increase in accruals had the effect of reducing cost of services (exclusive of depreciation and amortization) and the increase in property and equipment and intangible assets had the effect of increasing depreciation and amortization periods. The increase in favorable lease assets and related amortization thereof had the effect of increasing amortization periods and will continue into future periods.

Iridium Communications Inc.

Summary Revenue and OEBITDA Highlights

	Three Months Ended December	
	2013	2012
	(In thousands)	
<u>Revenue</u>		
Service revenue ⁽¹⁾		
Commercial		
Voice and M2M data service		
Voice and data	\$ 48,378	
M2M data ⁽²⁾	12,515	
Total commercial voice and M2M data service	60,893	
Government service revenue ⁽³⁾	15,630	
Total service revenue	76,523	
Subscriber equipment	15,904	
Engineering and support ⁽⁴⁾		
Government	5,436	
Commercial	344	
Total engineering and support	5,780	

Total Revenue	\$ 98,207
---------------	-----------

Operational EBITDA

Operational EBITDA	\$ 49,824
--------------------	-----------

Other

Capital expenditures ⁽⁵⁾	\$ 140,102
-------------------------------------	------------

Net debt ⁽⁶⁾	\$ 695,214
-------------------------	------------

Cash, cash equivalents, and marketable securities	\$ 262,989
---	------------

Credit Facility	\$ 1,039,203
-----------------	--------------

(1) Service revenue consists of primarily subscription-based services which often generate a long

(2) M2M data service provides a two-way short burst data transmission between Iridium Commu
example, on a container in transit or a buoy monitoring oceanographic conditions.

(3) Government service revenue consists of voice and M2M data subscription-based services pro
subcontracts.

(4) Engineering and support includes maintenance services to the U.S. government's dedicated
developing new technologies for use on Iridium Communications Inc.'s satellite system.

(5) Capital expenditures based on cash spent in the respective period.

(6) Net debt is calculated by taking the sum of the short term and long term debt less cash and c
the credit facility.

Iridium Communications Inc.

Subscriber Highlights

Billable Subscribers ⁽¹⁾	As of December 31,	
	2013	2012
	(In thousands, except ARPU)	
Commercial		
Voice and M2M data service		
Voice and data	340	
M2M data	273	
Total commercial voice and M2M data service	613	
Government		
Voice and M2M data service		
Voice and data	31	
M2M data	20	
Total government voice and M2M data service	51	
Total billable subscribers	664	

	Three Months Ended December 31,	
	2013	2012
	(In thousands, except ARPU)	

Net Subscriber Additions		
Commercial		
Voice and M2M data service		
Voice and data	(5)	
M2M data	14	
Total commercial voice and M2M data service	9	
Government		
Voice and M2M data service		

Voice and data	(1)
M2M data	1
Total government voice and M2M data service	--
Total billable subscribers	9

<u>ARPU</u> ⁽²⁾	Three Months Ended December 31	
	2013	2012
Commercial		
Voice and data	\$ 47	
M2M data	\$ 16	

(1) Subscribers as of the end of the respective period.

(2) ARPU is calculated by dividing the revenue in the respective period by the average of billable subscribers at the beginning and end of the period and then dividing the results by the months in the period. Historically, government service revenue is a fixed-price contract and government service revenue will not be presented, as it is no longer a relevant government service revenue metric.

CONTACT: Investor Contact:

Steve Kunszabo

Iridium Communications Inc.

+1 (703) 287-7570

steve.kunszabo@iridium.com

Press Contact:

Diane Hockenberry

Iridium Communications Inc.

+1 (703) 287-7421

diane.hockenberry@iridium.com

