



## **Iridium Upgrades Ground Station Infrastructure Worldwide for Enhanced Reliability and Performance**

MCLEAN, Va., April 28, 2014 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Iridium Communications Inc. (Nasdaq:IRDM) today announced the completion of an extensive upgrade to its ground station infrastructure in advance of the launch of its next generation constellation, Iridium NEXT, which is scheduled to begin in 2015. The upgrade encompasses several major components, designed to provide seamless connectivity with the new Iridium NEXT satellites as well as backward compatibility to its current network.

With 66 low-Earth orbiting (LEO), cross-linked satellites and multiple in-orbit spares, the fully meshed network is the largest commercial satellite constellation in the world. The upgrade modernizes five global ground stations and 21 antennas allowing the ground infrastructure to support:

Enhanced reliability

Added capacity to handle more customers and throughput

Rapid re-routing of traffic

Increased redundancy

High power amplifier enhancements to meet Iridium NEXT power control and phase noise requirements

As part of the upgrade process, Iridium has deployed a new TelePort Network architecture allowing dynamic routing of traffic versus the legacy 'fixed' network design. The upgrade replaces ground station hardware and software, resulting in higher expected reliability and performance. Iridium NEXT mission team partner Thales Alenia Space participated in the efforts to verify that system performance meets expectation and confirmed that Iridium has passed its TelePort Network (TPN) factory acceptance test.

Furthermore, as part of this ground network modernization Iridium has incorporated feeder link terminals to include new antenna and pedestals designed by L3 Datron. TelePort Controllers incorporating high availability Radisys T-Series platforms with autonomous failover capability and increased reliability have also been integrated into the network. The enhancements also include the implementation of new software-defined modems from RT Logic, a Kratos company, which allow the seamless communication of the Iridium NEXT and existing space vehicle waveforms.

"As we advance toward the Iridium NEXT launch, we are making sure everything in our network infrastructure is primed and ready to go," stated Scott Smith, Chief Operating Officer, Iridium Communications Inc. "We are confident that our ground network is ready to handle the higher performance and bandwidth of our new constellation. Additionally, our current network is healthy and performing well with continued very high availability and robust service quality for our customers."

For more information on Iridium NEXT, go to [www.iridium.com](http://www.iridium.com).

### **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](http://www.iridium.com).

## 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. The Company has based these statements on its current expectations and the information currently available to us. Forward-looking statements in this presentation include statements regarding upgrades to and expected performance of the Company's ground station infrastructure and related network architecture; the development of and transition to the Iridium NEXT constellation; features of the Iridium NEXT system; and the expected Iridium NEXT project costs and deployment schedule. 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 overall Iridium NEXT development and costs, potential delays in the Iridium NEXT deployment and the company's ability to maintain the health, capacity and content of its satellite constellation, 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, 2013, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("the SEC") on March 4, 2014, 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.*

CONTACT: Press Contact:

Diane Hockenberry

Iridium Communications Inc.

+1 (703) 287-7421

Diane.hockenberry@iridium.com

