



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: August 24, 2020

Pineland Cogentes Announces Merger with Professional Network Services

Pineland Cogentes, Inc., a subsidiary of Pineland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and technology solutions and managed service providers in Georgia and North Carolina, announced today the merger of Pineland Cogentes and Professional Network Services. Professional Network Services, PNS, was founded in Roanoke, Virginia by David Topping, Gary Klik, and Jeff Lunsford in 1994. Professional Network Services provides experience and service offerings in IT Managed Services, Infrastructure cabling, telephony, video surveillance and building access control systems.

By joining the team at Pineland Cogentes, Inc., Professional Network Services will be able to bring more value to businesses, "I see incredible opportunities and synergy in combining our resources," commented Professional Network Services Managing Partner, Gary Klik, on the acquisition. "The combination of our resources and team of talented engineers will help further our efforts to deliver a unique value to our combined client base."

"We are thrilled to have the added expertise that Professional Network Services offers in the areas of IT support, telephony and security," stated Mike Abbott, President of North Carolina Operations for Pineland Cogentes, Inc. "We share the core values of integrity and best in class delivery of technical services, making this expansion a natural fit. The adjoining geographies will allow us to serve all our clients better and give us the depth to serve client organizations and projects of any size."

David Topping, Managing Partner at Professional Network Services, voices how "Professional Network Services was built from the ground up on customer relationships that we have enjoyed over 25 years in Roanoke, VA. Our firm has a very similar culture at Pineland Cogentes which enables us to fit in quickly. They strive for excellence in everything we do and with a servant's heart. He contends that "combining the strongest Managed Service Providers from multiple states will benefit our customers and employees. It already has. It is exciting to be a part of our company's growth and to hear customers say how much we mean to their business. We are well positioned to continue to offer more value to our customers and we are committed to making a difference for each one."

With this acquisition, as well as the January merger of First Service Carolina in Raleigh and the addition of Wilkesboro, NC based RiverStreet Networks as an equity partner in Pineland Cogentes, the current name does not adequately describe who the company has become. Pineland Cogentes announced the changing of the company name to **Responsive Technology Partners**. Tom Glover, Georgia President stating, "We chose the word *Responsive* because we

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are 100% committed to be the most responsive technology company in the southeast, period. We chose the word *Partners* because we add the most value to your company when we serve as an integral part of your team who can help with anything related to technology, not just another vendor. This new brand reflects both who we are today and who we strive to be tomorrow. We are proud of the team we have built and all the capabilities that we can now bring to you to handle any technology needs you may have. The future is bright, and we are excited to have you as a partner as we move forward.”

The merger became official July 1st, 2020. To learn more about the merged operation or its partners visit www.responsivetechologypartners.com

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Responsive Technology Partners provides technology solutions to serve the needs of businesses across the southeastern United States offering managed technology and security services, Infrastructure cabling, telephony, video surveillance and building access control systems.