



## **1.19.2018 PISCATAWAY, NJ, Wilmington, DE AND LOS ANGELES, CA – 1STPOINT COMMUNICATIONS AND EMPIRE VENTURES COMPLETE SHELCOMM ACQUISITION**

1stPoint Communications and Empire Ventures jointly announced today that they completed the acquisition of majority of the outstanding shares of Shelcomm, Inc. Shelcomm has been a paging and mobile operator since 1998 in Los Angeles, CA and surrounding markets.

The acquisition of Shelcomm will provide 1stPoint and Empire’s affiliates the ability to greatly enhance both their retail and wholesale SMS networks. “1stPoint sees messaging and collaboration as the future of the telecommunications and IT industry,” said Kristen Vasicek, the Director of Marketing for 1stPoint, who lead the initial discussions with Shelcomm. “Building on our enterprise and carrier messaging solutions is a priority for us,” she added.

The acquisition provides Shelcomm the ability to expand its footprint quickly, with immediate plans to build out the network in New York City, NY and Miami, FL. “We are thrilled to be working with 1stPoint and Empire,” said Michael Schelin, Shelcomm’s CEO. “The scope of 1stPoint’s operational capability will create opportunities for expansion.” Several key partnerships have already been implemented that will enhance Shelcomm’s operations, including improved support for short code and a variety of end user APIs that allow service providers to easily transition their messaging applications to the 1stPoint and Shelcomm platforms.

“We expect that messaging will be the fastest growing component of our business,” said Erik Levitt, CEO of 1stPoint and the new co-Chairman of Shelcomm. “Along with blockchain, which is going to drive substantial revenues toward our hosting business, SMS will be a key growth component of our New Way to Work strategy.”

This acquisition is timely and pivotal to Empire’s portfolio entities which includes a number of messaging companies, including Empire’s affiliate Tunnel.com. Tunnel is a leader in SMS management platforms for call centers. This acquisition provides unprecedented access to provide mobile numbers and short code messaging to customers of its portfolio companies.

“SMS and mobile messaging has become essential not only to consumers, but businesses alike. This acquisition catapults our investment companies’ ability to outperform any competitors in the marketplace” said Kent Charugundla, the Co-Chairman of the Empire ventures.

The terms of the transaction have not been disclosed.

**About 1stPoint Communications**

1stPoint Communications provides integrated messaging, voice, data and mobile service for small businesses, enterprises and carriers. 1stPoint is committed to delivering all of the services business need to interact with their customers, employees and suppliers, providing its clients a New Way to Work.

**About Empire Ventures and Tunnel**

Empire Ventures provides catalytic funding to telecom ventures and continues to look for partnerships and investment opportunities within the ICOs, Blockchain, mobile, SMS, and IoT space. Tunnel.com, an affiliate of Empire, is committed in providing mobile messaging management platform in the cloud from SME to large call centers.

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