

24 September 2009

PRESS INFORMATION

Phone Co-op acquires Avoco

The Phone Co-op has announced that it has acquired Avoco UK Ltd, the County Durham-based telecoms reseller.

As a result nearly 300 business customers across over 400 sites, mainly in the North East, have transferred to The Phone Co-op. These customers will continue to receive first line support from former Avoco staff based in Consett but will now have access to a wider range of services, benefiting from The Phone Co-op's greater buying power. They include a range of SMEs, as well as a large number of local authorities and public sector agencies, an area in which The Phone Co-op also has considerable experience.

Vivian Woodell, chief executive of The Phone Co-op, commented, "The addition of Avoco's customers to our business is an important step in our development. In pursuing this opportunity it was clear that there was a good match between our two organisations, both of which have a strong track record of providing excellent service. At the same time, we're delighted to be able to offer Avoco customers the opportunity to become members of the co-operative and to share in our success as we grow."

Martin Oswell, founder and chief executive of Avoco, added, 'We had established a strong business but to serve our customers' interests in the longer term we needed greater scale. The Phone Co-op will enable them to keep their telecoms costs down and enjoy high levels of service, whilst taking full advantage of a wider product portfolio.'

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The Phone Co-op is the UK's only telecommunications co-operative, procuring telecommunications services on behalf of its customers, many of whom are co-operatives, charities and other not-for-profit organisations. The Phone Co-op's service has been taken up by over 15,000 customers, including Midcounties, Channel Islands, Southern, East of England, and Radstock Co-operative Societies, Suma Wholefoods, Christian Aid, Amnesty International, Triodos Bank, the Centre for Alternative Technology, Manchester City Council and Unison. As a co-operative owned by its customer members, The Phone Co-op distributes any profits which are not re-invested back to members via a dividend based on each member's spend and through a loan fund which supports other co-operatives. For more information, visit www.thephone.coop

For further press information, please contact:

Claire Jarvis

The Phone Co-op

T: 0845 458 9013

M: 07773 845568

E: claire@thephone.coop

W: www.thephone.coop