

RNK Telecom gets new name, logo



Business

Brightpoint Inc. and **CellStar Corp.** have entered into a definitive agreement for a wholly owned subsidiary of Brightpoint Inc. to acquire substantially all of CellStar's assets and liabilities related to its U.S. operations and its Miami-based Latin America business. CellStar's operations in Mexico and Chile and other businesses or obligations of CellStar Corp. are excluded from the proposed transaction.

RNK Communications, a global telecommunications and high-tech services and software provider, has unveiled its new company logo and officially changed its name from RNK Telecom to RNK Communications.

These organizational moves reflect the company's recent expansion, in addition to its evolution to become a full-service global communications provider as it approaches its 10-year anniversary this year.

Answers etc., a financial services software provider, has announced that its PowerCheck32 check cashing, payday loan and retail accounting software now has the capability to also carry the **Coinstar Inc.** line of prepaid products and services. Approximately 3,000 financial service centers in banks, grocery stores, payday loan/check cashing businesses and convenience stores nationwide will now have the option of expanding their financial services product line by offering the Coinstar line of gift cards, prepaid cash cards, prepaid wireless, prepaid long distance and other financial products.

In other news, Coinstar Inc. announced that its board of directors has appointed retail industry veteran, **R. Michael Rouleau**, as a new independent director. This appointment fills a vacant seat on Coinstar's

board, bringing the number to seven directors, six of whom are independent. Rouleau is also expected to be named a member of the nominating and governance committee of Coinstar's board of directors.

Electronic commerce and payments provider **First Data Corp.** has renewed its agreement to provide signature debit processing for cardholders of **First Federal**. The contract names the STAR Network as First Federal's primary debit network in the United States. As a coast-to-coast electronic payments network, the STAR Network connects First Federal's U.S. customers with their cash at ATM and retail locations, as well as provides access to various national and international ATM and point-of-sale networks.

Alliance Data Systems Corp., a provider of transaction services, credit services and marketing services, has announced that its Epsilon unit has agreed to acquire **Abacus**, a division of **DoubleClick Inc.** Abacus is a provider of data, data management and analytical services for the retail and catalog industry, as well as other sectors.

VeriFone Holdings Inc. has announced that its Integrated Systems and Retail Systems management teams have added three former senior Hypercom executives. **Walter Allen**, formerly general manager for Hypercom's Multi-lane Retail Business, joins VeriFone as director of business development, reporting to **Bud Waller**, EVP of Integrated Solutions for VeriFone. **Marty Widmann**, who was responsible for solution engineering and sales support at Hypercom, assumes the same role at VeriFone, reporting to **Jennifer Miles**, general manager of Integrated Retail Solutions. **Joe Biondi**, who was the No. 1 multi-lane retail salesperson for Hypercom

continued on page 8