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Claris Networks Acquired by Managed & Cloud Services Company TekLinks

NASHVILLE, TN, May 12, 2015 – Nashville IT solutions provider [Claris Networks, LLC.](#), announced today that it has been acquired by [TekLinks, Inc.](#), making the company one of the highest-ranking providers of managed and cloud services in North America. The acquisition allows the two companies to provide an expanded suite of IT, cloud and security services to businesses throughout the Southeast U.S.

Headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., TekLinks is a leading service provider of integrated business IT solutions organizations across Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and the Gulf South. Established in 1998, Claris Networks is a privately-owned provider of advanced IT services including cloud, managed, healthcare IT and strategic consulting. Claris serves small and mid-sized businesses from its offices in Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville, Tenn. The companies' combined recurring revenue bolsters TekLinks' scalability and operational strength, while expanding the resources available to Claris Networks' existing customers. Both companies' clients will benefit from a deeper network of engineering talent and a broader portfolio of business IT solutions.

"I could not be more excited for what this partnership with TekLinks means for our customers and employees," said Larry Bodie, former CEO of Claris Networks and current TekLinks Senior Vice President of Tennessee. "This acquisition will enable us to better fulfill our dual missions: to provide the best service our customers will ever experience, and to be a place our employees love coming to work." Bodie also said that both he and Claris Networks' co-owner Dave Sagraves will maintain partial ownership in TekLinks and significant leadership roles in the company.

Earlier this year, TekLinks earned the distinction of being ranked [16th in Penton Technology's eighth-annual MSPmentor 200 North America Edition](#), a notable list and report identifying the continent's leading managed service providers (MSPs). TekLinks was also named to Computer Reseller News' (CRN) Tech Elite 250, an elite group of IT solution providers that have invested in the training and education needed to earn the most advanced technical certifications from leading vendors. The partnership with Claris Networks also supports TekLinks' commitment to recruiting, developing, and retaining some of the best IT talent.

Claris Networks has also distinguished itself as a premier provider of cloud computing, managed IT, and engineering services. The company prides itself on a customer-centric service model, with an emphasis on excellent support and data security. This year the company ranked [25th among MSPmentor's North American list of MSPs](#), and in 2014 the Talkin' Cloud 100 list ranked Claris Networks 51st among the world's top 100 Cloud Service Providers (CSPs), alongside Google, Amazon, and IBM. Last year Claris Networks was also ranked 138th among CRN's Fast Growth 150, a list recognizing the fastest-growing solution providers in North America.

Jim Akerhielm, CEO of TekLinks, Inc., said, "This partnership is exciting for a variety of reasons. Claris has demonstrated an impressive business model and an extremely focused sales structure; the company is also operationally robust, as evidenced in the explosive growth rate in its managed services business. Expanding our Tennessee footprint will also solidify our market presence in several key areas for potential growth. I look forward to seeing how our combined efforts and assets will enable us to

achieve service-delivery excellence for our clients. Together, we will continue to enrich the range of next-generation IT services and solutions that businesses rely upon each day to grow and succeed.”

About TekLinks

Headquartered in Birmingham, AL, TekLinks is a leading service provider of integrated business IT solutions to businesses throughout Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and the Gulf South. TekLinks partners exclusively with industry leading technology vendors such as Citrix, Cisco, EMC, VMware, and VCE; solutions include engineering architecture, support, and consulting services, as well as managed and cloud services. TekLinks offers a suite of XaaS solutions out of its network of proprietary data center facilities, ranging from desktop, server, and telecom support to dedicated connectivity and cloud-based business continuity services. For additional information on TekLinks’ premier business IT solutions, please visit www.teklinks.com or call 877.301.3125.

About Claris Networks

Claris Networks provides cloud computing, managed services and IT support to small & medium-sized businesses across the Southeast from its offices in Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga, Tennessee. Claris’ customer-centric service model focus on operational efficiencies through cloud computing has made it one of the fastest growing private companies in the United States. For more information, visit <http://clarisnetworks.com>.

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