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THE “KIDS ONLINE” HELPDESK OPENS IN RUSSIA

February, 1st, 2010, Moscow. The Friendly Runet Fund, the Internet Development Fund, Comstar–United Telesystems (OJSC Comstar-UTS, LSE: CMST), the largest supplier of integrated telecommunication services in Russia and the CIS, and the Moscow City Telephone Network (MGTS), a member of the Comstar-UTS Group, announced the launching of their joint All-Russia social project – “Kids Online” helpdesk making part of the Safe Internet Year drive. Through it, the users can get an expert advice concerning the safe usage of the Internet and mobile.

Its trial run began since December, 15th, 2009.

For the purpose of this project Comstar-UTS, having it own DLD/ILD access, has assigned a uniform federal number **8-800-25-000-15** to enable free long-distance calls across all Russia (Toll Free service), while MGTS has provided the workstations for Line Operators in the call-centre of the nation’s largest directory assistance **009 service**.

Through Kids Online helpdesk one can reach professional experts – psychologists and technical experts. The helpdesk specialists have been trained by psychological department of the Moscow State University and Federal Institute for a education development at the RF Ministry of Education and Science and others.

The aim of this socially significant project is to bring psychological and practical assistance to children and teenagers facing a real danger or an adverse situation when using the Internet and-or mobile communication (virtual persecution, harassment, roughness, blackmail, fraud, unauthorized access, unsolicited content etc.), and also advice to parents and teachers on the safe use of the Internet and mobile by children. The Kids Online helpdesk will cultivate the skills of the safe Internet usage by children, parents and teachers and inform on the

spread and trends of threats and effectiveness of actions to thwart them in the field modern IT and communications.

You can call the HelpDesk by telephone free of charge from anywhere in the country, or reach it by e-mail: helpdesk@detionline.org. Calls are accepted on business days from 9.00 to 18h00 Moscow time.

The Kids Online HelpDesk aims three target groups in Russia: the young (under 18) users of Internet and mobile, their parents, teachers and employees of educational and pedagogical establishments.

Galina Soldatova, Director of the Internet Development Fund commented: “The Internet usage by the Russian schoolchildren has dramatically surged over the past few years owing to substantially increased penetration of computers to households and connection to the Internet of almost every school as a result of the national project. According to the Internet Development Fund surveys there is a high degree of children and teenagers exposure to negative content and other risks in the Internet environment. Yet the children had nowhere to turn to for help when faced with Internet threats. The efforts exerted by some public and educational organizations, charged to enlighten and make people aware of the problems and risks posed by the Internet, in the circumstances, were obviously not enough. Creation of Kids Online helpdesk is an important practical move towards fixing those setbacks. Professional experts of the helpdesk will help children in trouble, instruct them about necessary steps, will consult parents and teachers about how to organize the safe Internet for children and actions to be taken by the adults in various situations”.

“There are about 10 million young mobile and Internet users across Russia. New technologies have expanded communicative opportunities for our children. But at the same time there is crime rising against minors through IT and communications means. Cyber hacking, exposure to negative content, harassments, fraud are a few of many such dangers. And a significant amount of such crime is latent”, said Evgeny Beshpalov, the general director of Friendly Runet Fund. - The Kids Online is focused on prevention in the field of safety in the Internet and mobile communication. Its prime goal is to avert illegal actions against minors, and in cases when a child falls victim of illegal actions, to provide a concrete psychological help and advice”.

Sergey Pridantsev, the President and CEO of Comstar-UTS Group commented: “Last year COMSTAR and MGTS signed a frame agreement with Friendly Runet Fund on cooperation to counter the spread of adverse content via the Internet, including, by supporting the Hot Line created to receive information about propagation of children pornography. We have also energetically joined in the Safe Internet Year events in Russia, becoming an official partner of this important public drive, and have held a number of joint actions for informing the audience on potential Internet threats and methods of protection against them. We consider the safety of users and especially children to be a key priority of the social policy to which a telecommunication operator should adhere. Therefore we provided the resources of our DLD/ILD network for the Kids Online Help Desk

now available not only to over one million of our BBA Internet subscribers, but to all Network user in need of real help and expert advice”.

“Expansion of the worldwide net broadens the limits of our knowledge and experience. And we should now heed the Internet particular features the in the education process and when conceiving the practical programs of psychological assistance. The psychology department of the Moscow State University, besides producing various scientific and training programs offered through the Internet, pays special attention to shaping methodical principles for online consultation as a new type of psychological aid to population. Employees of psychology department were involved through scientific and methodical, organizational and expert advice efforts in this socially significant project on its trial operation stage. We envisage to continue this important work in the long-term as well”, said Yury Zinchenko, the Dean of Psychology department of the Moscow State University.

The Helpdesk has a central node at its core which role is multifold: to receive, analyze and screen the calls; bring psychological, legal and technical help to minor users, their parents and teachers; inform the state departments (Internal Affairs and Emergency Situations Ministries of Russia) about the occurrences threatening the life of citizens or indications of illegal acts. The project is open for new participants. The next stage in evolution of the Kids Online HelpDesk will be formation of the net partnership including regional organizations working in the field of protection of children and legal aid to the population.



The Friendly Runet Fund implements projects in the field of the Internet safe use. One of the Fund’s first projects was the Hot line to receive information on propagation of children's pornography via the Internet. The purpose of this hot line is clean Runet of illegal and aggressive content, assist the users, representatives of the Internet industry and the state departments in their struggle against distribution theirs the net materials of sexual nature targeting the minors. The Friendly Runet operates actively supported by representatives of the Internet industry and in interaction with the governance agencies. The Fund activity is highly

appreciated by the Russian and foreign partners. The fund is a member of the international association of hot lines INHOPE and is a member of the Organizing committee of the Safe Internet Year drive in Russia. Its site is: [www. FriendlyRunet.ru](http://www.FriendlyRunet.ru).

The Internet Development fund is formed at the initiative of the companies Relcom-DS and Demos-Internet. The Fund's activity aims to assist development of global information networks and information infrastructure of society; it assists introduction of promising developments, ideas, projects for implementation in telecommunication networks; assists development of legal support in the Internet; sponsors scientific researches in the field of IT and telecommunications etc. In 2009 the Fund has initiated the creation of Organizing committee for conducting the Safe Internet Year drive in Russia. As part of this drive the fund alone jointly with others was involved in: conferences, forums, seminars and the round tables dedicated protection of children and teenagers in the Net, and issues of shaping the safe Internet space; it implements various projects targeting the young age bracket of the Internet users and focused on development of a positive content, increase awareness on the safe use of online technologies. A site: www.fid.su.

«КОМСТАР – Объединенные ТелеСистемы» (ОАО «КОМСТАР-ОТС») - крупнейший оператор фиксированной связи в Москве, предоставляющий операторам, корпоративным клиентам и частным пользователям услуги телефонии, передачи данных, доступа в Интернет, платного телевидения и другие дополнительные услуги, используя базовую сеть и доступ к «последней миле» в 97% московских домохозяйств. Кроме того, Группа предоставляет телекоммуникационные услуги в шести федеральных округах России, а также в Армении и на Украине. Абонентская база «КОМСТАР-ОТС» по состоянию на конец 3-го квартала 2009 года включает 3,6 млн. квартирных абонентов услуг телефонной связи и 812 тыс. квартирных абонентов ШПД в Москве, а также 343 тыс. квартирных абонентов ШПД и 2 млн. абонентов платного телевидения в регионах России и СНГ. Консолидированная выручка Группы компаний за 9 мес. 2009 года составила US\$ 1 073,1 млн., а маржа показателя OIBDA – 39,9%. Ценные бумаги «КОМСТАР–ОТС» допущены к торгам на Лондонской фондовой бирже под тиккером CMST. Дополнительную информацию о Группе компаний можно получить по адресу www.comstar.ru.

«Московская городская телефонная сеть» (ОАО МГТС) - одна из крупнейших в Европе компаний местной проводной связи. МГТС входит в группу компаний «КОМСТАР – Объединенные ТелеСистемы». Основными акционерами являются ОАО «КОМСТАР-Объединенные ТелеСистемы» (доля в уставном капитале – 69,93%, доля обыкновенных акций - 69,96%) и ОАО «Связьинвест» (доля в уставном капитале - 23,33%, доля обыкновенных акций – 28,00%). Постоянная и приоритетная задача ОАО МГТС - предоставление качественной и доступной телефонной связи и доступа в Интернет жителям Москвы. Персонал предприятия обслуживает более 4,4 млн. абонентов. Число пользователей, подключенных к Интернету от МГТС, по технологии ADSL, превысило 250 тыс. человек. На сети действует более 500 телефонных станций. Таксофонная сеть компании насчитывает на сегодняшний день около 3 тысяч аппаратов. В настоящее время доля основных телефонных аппаратов МГТС на московском рынке фиксированной связи составляет 77,2%. Адрес: Москва, ул. Большая Ордынка, д.25, стр.1. Адрес в Интернете: www.mgts.ru.

Отдельная информация, содержащаяся в этом пресс-релизе, может содержать предполагаемые показатели или другие опережающие заявления, относящиеся к будущим событиям или будущей финансовой деятельности компании «КОМСТАР – ОТС». Вы можете определить опережающие заявления по наличию терминов «ожидать», «полагать», «предполагать», «оценивать», «намереваться», «будет», «возможно», «может», «вероятно», по наличию негативных производных от этих терминов, или по другим аналогичным выражениям. Мы хотим предупредить Вас, что эти заявления носят исключительно прогнозный характер, и что действительные события или результаты могут существенно от них отличаться. «КОМСТАР – ОТС» не намерен корректировать эти заявления с целью отражения событий и обстоятельств, имевших место после указанной здесь даты, или отражения наступления непредвиденных событий. Существует множество факторов, способных привести к тому, что действительные результаты будут существенно отличаться от тех, которые содержатся в наших предположениях или опережающих заявлениях. Они включают в себя (среди прочих) общие экономические условия, нашу конкурентную среду, риски, связанные с ведением деятельности в России, быстрые технологические и рыночные изменения в наших областях деятельности, а также многие другие риски, конкретно относящиеся к компании «КОМСТАР – ОТС» и ее деятельности.