

AlaWebPioneer

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Pioneer Telephone Completes Merger With AlaWeb

Andalusia, Alabama: Pioneer Telephone Services, Inc., a local telecommunications service company formed in 1984, signed merger agreements with Andalusia based AlaWeb, Inc. on May 27th, 2005. AlaWeb, the oldest and largest Internet Service Provider in South Alabama, began its operations in 1996, partnering with Covington Rural Services, a subsidiary of Covington Electric Cooperative of Andalusia, the same year.

The new company will do business as **AlaWeb Pioneer Services** and will continue to provide the same level of service that each of their customers have come to expect. Pioneer Telephone Services' Jimmy Williamson says, *"This merger will allow us to provide the customer with a more complete variety of services. I am very excited about the opportunities that await us at AlaWeb Pioneer Services.* The company will serve South Alabama, S. W. Georgia, and N.W. Florida with a lineup of combined services to include its flagship Dial-up and Wireless Broadband services, Business & Residential Telephone & Networking services, Security & Surveillance Systems - Installation & Monitoring, and Home Theater Design & Installation.*

The company is also very excited to be the area's authorized distributor of the soon-to-release rural broadband satellite service, **WildBlue**, through its association with NRTC (National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative). WildBlue is a fast, affordable, always-on broadband service with a capacity of serving millions of rural customers across the country. AlaWeb Pioneer Services will roll out the service in July within a 100-mile radius of Andalusia to consumers previously unserved by a broadband service.

The new company will also be the area's premier **DirecTV Servicer-Retailer**, covering the same geographical footprint as with its other services, with Installation, Programming, Customer Service, and Billing for DirecTV's award-winning Digital Television service.

AlaWeb's Paul Spears states, *"Technology has advanced to the point that, along with the impact of this merger, we can now reach virtually every rural consumer in the area with services previously only available in the larger urban areas - services like WildBlue, HDTV, and more will offer area consumers choices they've never had."*

* AlaWeb Pioneer Services is a CEDIA Certified Member Company (Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association).