



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***TRILLIUM GROUP AND NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER ALAN G. HEVESI ANNOUNCE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT IN 5LINX
Investment Positions Telecommunications Direct-Seller for Expansion***

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Trillium Group and the New York State Common Retirement Fund announced a multi-million dollar equity investment in 5Linx, a Henrietta, N.Y.-based direct-selling company for telecommunications products and services with an emphasis on voice over Internet protocol (VOIP). The investment will provide the financial base necessary for 5Linx to expand including implementation of a local customer service center.

Christopher O'Donnell, a general partner with Trillium — a regional growth equity fund targeting growth and expansion opportunities across Upstate New York — said 5Linx's sales model attracted Trillium to 5Linx.

“Their direct sales model which is centered around independent representatives sets 5Linx apart from their competition,” O'Donnell said. “The company benefits significantly from an independent, entrepreneurial sales force. Such independent representatives are operating their own businesses with product, marketing and customer service provided by 5Linx. It is a viral approach to marketing quality telecommunication products and services.”

This is the sixth investment from the Trillium Lakefront Partners III Fund. The New York State Common Retirement Fund is the single largest investor in Trillium Lakefront Partners III.

“This investment represents a great opportunity for New York State,” said Alan G. Hevesi, New York State Comptroller. “Investing in New York State companies such as 5Linx is one of the best ways to earn a competitive return for the state's pension fund and to help these companies to grow throughout New York State and beyond.”

Founded in 2000, 5Linx is a direct-seller of affordable VoIP telephone and videophone communication services to domestic and emerging-market populations around the globe. The company is currently focused on selling VoIP — or voice over Internet protocol — services due to the rising demand in the marketplace, according to Craig Jerabeck, president and CEO of 5Linx. The company has more than 10,000 active independent representatives selling communications products and services to both residential and small to mid sized business. The Company has a customer base of more than 100,000 residential and business customers in the U.S. and eight countries abroad.

5Linx has added 16 new full time employees since Trillium's investment and anticipates hiring an additional nine full time employees in the balance of 2006.

The Trillium Lakefront Partners III Fund seeks to make growth, buyout/recapitalization, and early stage minority equity investments in businesses that are either based in New York State or that maintain a significant presence within the state. Investments range from \$2 to \$6 million. For more information about the fund, contact Trillium Group at 585-383-5680 or visit www.trillium-group.com.

About Trillium Group

Trillium Group is a private equity firm focused on the financing needs of startup, early stage, and high growth businesses in New York State. Trillium invests through private equity funds under management, including the University Technology Seed Fund, the Monroe Fund, and the Trillium Lakefront Partners III Fund. Depending on business needs, equity investments range from as little as \$250,000 to several million dollars. Partners of Trillium Group are José J. Coronas, Dennis M. DeLeo, Bud Frame, Chris O'Donnell, Kevin J. Phelps and Frank P. Strong, Jr. For more information on Trillium, visit www.trillium-group.com.

About Alan G. Hevesi and the New York State Common Retirement Fund

Alan Hevesi was elected New York State Comptroller in 2003 and administers the State Retirement System, which represents 971,000 members and retirees, in addition to serving as sole trustee of the state's pension fund, which currently has assets of about \$120 billion. The fund, which is the second largest public pension fund in the United States, invests in a variety of securities, including public and private equity, real estate and fixed income. The \$364 million in-state investment program is part of the private equity portfolio.

This program helps small businesses in New York State, which often have problems finding private equity investors to help them grow. For more information about the Fund and the program, visit www.osc.state.ny.us.

About 5Linx

Founded in 2000, 5Linx is a leading marketer of a broad array of telecommunications services, including VoIP videophone, VoIP-based local and long-distance telephony, pre-paid cellular, high-speed Internet access and satellite TV services. For more information, visit www.5linx.com.

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