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July 11, 2003

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Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

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COMMISSION  
CLERK

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Dear Ms. Bayo:

I am pleased to advise you that Focal Communications Corporation ("Focal") has emerged from the bankruptcy protection of which you were notified in December 2002. The Company's Second Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization was approved June 19, 2003 by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of Delaware, becoming effective only six months after the initial plan was filed. Attached to this letter is a copy of the Company's press release issued on July 8, 2003.

Focal remains a leading national communications provider, offering a range of solutions, including local phone and data services, to communications-intensive customers. Focal, like so many carriers, had been affected by the problems besetting the entire competitive telecommunications industry. As a carrier emerging from Chapter 11 protection, Focal is a stronger competitor in the communications market and better positioned to continue providing customers high quality communications services at affordable rates. Focal will continue to work toward increasing the efficiency of its network and offering consumers an expanded array of innovative yet affordable services.

If you would like further information, please contact me at (312) 895-8491. You may also contact our outside counsel, Richard M. Rindler of Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP at 202-424-7771.

Very truly yours,

*Paul Rebey / ew3*

Paul Rebey  
Senior Counsel  
Focal Communications Corporation

Attachment

cc: Richard Metzger, Focal  
Richard M. Rindler, Esq.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Focal Communications Completes Financial Restructuring,  
Emerges from Chapter 11**

Chicago, July 8 – Focal Communications Corporation today announced that its financial restructuring is complete and that it has emerged from Chapter 11 protection. The Company's Second Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization was approved June 19, 2003, by the Federal Bankruptcy Court, becoming effective only six months after the initial plan was filed.

Kathleen Perone, Focal's President and Chief Executive Officer, said, "The Company's performance during our Chapter 11 proceedings was impressive, and for this we thank our employees, creditors, vendors, and especially our customers who stayed with us and, in many cases, grew their business with Focal during the six months since we filed. With the reorganization complete, we intend to continue to grow our customer base and revenue per customer, as well as improve operational efficiencies."

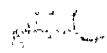
Focal said its strategy for future success includes increasing revenue per line, not just the total number of lines in service. The Company's objective is to increase the efficiency of the network and improve gross margins through expanded product penetration into the existing customer base. Layering additional services such as long distance, toll free, and conference calling onto customers' existing connections enables Focal to meet customers' diverse communications needs in a capital efficient manner, the Company said.

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“Our outlook is upbeat, and our prognosis healthy,” Perone commented. “At the end of the day, we are measured in the marketplace by the reliability of our network and the quality of service we provide. The support we have received from our customers demonstrates how well we have delivered on these two metrics. We intend to continue leveraging these competencies as we move forward and grow as a profitable business.”

The Company said it reported positive EBITDA results of \$7.3 million in the first quarter 2003.

Focal Communications Corporation is a national telecommunications provider serving enterprises, carriers and resellers with dedicated local sales and support, a robust national network, and innovative voice and data solutions in 23 U.S. markets.

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