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**NEUTRAL TANDEM ANNOUNCES SERVICE TO NORTHERN NEW JERSEY**

**Tandem Service Provider Offers Alternative to ILEC Monopoly,  
Enhances Network Redundancy in New York Metro Area**

**CHICAGO, June 19, 2006** – Neutral Tandem, Inc., the nation’s only provider of inter-carrier independent tandem and voice peering services, today announced service to Northern New Jersey, adding to its national footprint of over 40 U.S. markets.

Neutral Tandem operates a carrier-neutral TDM and IP-based tandem network for wireless, wireline, cable and broadband service providers to exchange traffic, providing the only alternative to monopoly-based ILEC interconnections. Neutral Tandem offers more interconnections—with over 100 million telephone number end points—to more carriers, in more locations than any other alternate tandem provider.

Neutral Tandem’s New York and Northern New Jersey tandem network provides New York metropolitan carriers with diverse network routing outside of the traditional Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), enhancing the existing telecommunications infrastructure in the area. Access to the Neutral Tandem network is provided via either TDM or IP-based interconnections.

“Carriers are frustrated with the cumbersome interconnection choices offered by monopolistic ILECs that impede network redundancy on the PSTN, slow competitive growth and increase costs,” said Rian Wren, Chief Executive of Neutral Tandem. “Our diverse network frees competitive carriers of those constraints and is of significant importance to the New York metropolitan area concerned with natural disasters and homeland security.”

“We are delighted to launch service in Northern New Jersey, as an extension of our rapid growth in the New York area,” said Dave Lopez, Senior Vice President of Sales for Neutral Tandem. “We have a robust combination of CLECs, cable and wireless companies as customers, and we continue to see demand accelerate as we expand our footprint across the nation.”

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Neutral Tandem currently provides tandem services to more than 45 major carriers, including nearly all of the major wireless, competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs), cable and VoIP providers. The company is operational in U.S. markets including: Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus (OH), Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York, Northern New Jersey, Orlando, (FL), Tampa (FL) and the state of Connecticut and is increasing its geographic footprint to include additional markets in 2006: Boston and Washington, D.C.

**About Neutral Tandem, Inc.**

Neutral Tandem, Inc. is the nation's only provider of independent tandem and voice peering services to wireless, wireline, cable and VoIP companies. Founded in 2003, the company has created the largest non-PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) tandem network in the U.S., facilitating inter-carrier communications with a cost-effective alternative to the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) network. Neutral Tandem's solutions build redundancy, security and operational efficiencies into the nation's telecommunications infrastructure by connecting over 100 million end points (terminating numbers) in over 40 U.S. markets. The company is headquartered in Chicago. Please visit Neutral Tandem's website at: [www.neutraltandem.com](http://www.neutraltandem.com).