

**STANDARD & POOR'S AFFIRMS ROSTELECOM'S LONG-TERM  
CREDIT RATING AT "BB" WITH A STABLE OUTLOOK**

**Moscow – March 30, 2010 – Rostelecom** (RTS, MICEX: RTKM, RTKMP; OTCQX: ROSYY) today announced that Standard & Poor's (S&P) has affirmed the long-term credit rating on Rostelecom as standing at "BB" with a stable outlook.

S&P commented that the major positive factors include Rostelecom's resilient financial profile, its ongoing dominant position in the long-distance market alongside the state-of-the-art nationwide network considered to be one of the Company's key competitive advantages.

According to S&P, the current financial position of Rostelecom continues to be characterized by minimal debt and ample liquidity.

The stable outlook reflects Standard & Poor's expectation that Rostelecom will maintain its leading position in the long-distance market, and will continue business diversification.

S&P commented that any possible upgrade to the Company's rating would be contingent on Rostelecom meaningfully improving diversification by either organic expansion into unregulated segments or the acquisition of businesses with strong business risk profiles. In addition, Rostelecom would need to sustain limited debt leverage and sound credit protection.

**Rostelecom** ([www.rt.ru/en](http://www.rt.ru/en)) is Russia's national telecommunications operator. The Company owns and operates a nationwide network (about 150,000 km in length), enabling Rostelecom to handle the majority of long-distance and international voice traffic transmission as well as TV and radio broadcasting channels in Russia. Additionally, the Company is the domestic market leader in the wholesale Internet services segment.

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*Certain statements in this press release are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. federal securities laws and are intended to be covered by the safe harbors created thereby.*

*Those forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:*

- *Management's assessment of the Company's future operating and financial results as well as forecasts of the present value of future cash flows and related factors;*
- *the Company's anticipated capital expenditures and plans to construct and modernize its network;*
- *the Company's expectations as to the growth in demand for its services, plans relating to the expansion of the range of its services and their pricing;*
- *the Company's plans with respect to improving its corporate governance practices;*
- *the Company's expectations as to its position in the telecommunications market and the development of the market segments within which the Company operates;*
- *economic outlook and industry trends;*
- *the Company's expectations as to the regulation of the Russian telecommunications industry and assessment of impact of regulatory initiatives on the Company's activity;*
- *other statements regarding matters that are not historical facts.*

*Such forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. These risks, uncertainties and other factors include:*

- *risks relating to changes in political, economic and social conditions in Russia as well as changes in global economic conditions;*

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- risks relating to Russian legislation, regulation and taxation, including laws, regulations, decrees and decisions governing the Russian telecommunications industry, securities industry as well as currency and exchange controls relating to Russian entities and their official interpretation by regulatory bodies;
  - risks relating to the Company, including the achievement of the anticipated results, levels of profitability and growth, ability to create and meet demand for the Company's services including their promotions, and the ability of the Company to remain competitive in a liberalized telecommunications market;
  - technological risks associated with the functioning and development of the telecommunications infrastructure, technological innovations as well as the convergence of technologies;
  - other risks and uncertainties. For a more detailed discussion of these and other factors, see the Company's Annual Report and the Company's other public filings.

Many of these factors are beyond the Company's ability to control or predict. Given these and other uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any of the forward-looking statements contained herein or otherwise. The Company does not undertake any obligation to release publicly any revisions to these forward-looking statements (which are made as of the date hereof) to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as may be required under applicable laws.

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