

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jackson, Tenn. — July 31, 2018 — Aeneas Communications, LLC today announced that it has appointed Stephen Thorpe as Chief Executive Officer effective August 1, 2018. Jonathan Harlan founder and former CEO will assume the role of Executive Chairman on August 1, and will continue to serve as the Chairman and Strategic Advisor.

“This is the perfect time for Stephen Thorpe to become Aeneas’ next Chief Executive Officer. We've selected a very strong leader at a time when Aeneas is in a very strong position,” said CEO Jonathan Harlan. “Today’s pace of change in the telecommunications and IT world is exponential. Every company, city, and country is becoming digital, navigating disruptive markets, and Aeneas’ role in the digital transformation has never been more important. Our next CEO needs to thrive in a highly dynamic environment, to be capable of accelerating what is working very well for Aeneas, and to disrupt that which needs change. Stephen is unique in his ability to translate vision and strategy, into world-class execution, bringing together teams and ecosystems to drive results. Stephen knows every Aeneas segment, technology area, and geography and will move the company forward with the speed required to capitalize on the opportunities in front of us. He is a champion of the Aeneas culture and has an incredible ability to inspire, energize, and connect with employees, partners, customers and community leaders. Stephen’s vision, strategy and track record of execution is exactly what Aeneas needs as we enter our next chapter, which I am confident will be even more impactful and exciting than our last.”

Stephen joined Aeneas in June of 2006 and has quickly risen through the company’s ranks. He most recently served as Aeneas’ Senior Vice President of Operations, leading the company’s product development, Managed IT Division, billing and voice switching operations. Stephen has driven the reinvention of the Aeneas organization, cementing its place as the envy of the industry.

“I joined Aeneas 12 years ago because I wanted to be a part of a company where I believed the possibilities were limitless. Today, I am even more convinced that Aeneas is that company,” said Stephen Thorpe. “Over the past 20 years, Jonathan Harlan’s vision and leadership have built Aeneas into one of the most important companies in western Tennessee; a company fiercely committed to delivering for its customers and employees. The opportunity that lies ahead for Aeneas is enormous, and the ability to lead this next chapter is deeply humbling and incredibly exhilarating. I am focused on accelerating the innovation and execution that our customers need from us. Their success will continue to drive us. At a time when our industry is on the cusp of more disruption than we’ve ever encountered, I couldn’t be more confident in our ability to win, or more honored to lead this great company.”

“I’ve had the opportunity to watch Stephen grow as a leader at Aeneas over the last 12 years and am convinced there is no better leader for Aeneas today,” said Jason Warren, Chief Technical Officer for Aeneas. “Stephen has demonstrated the same energy and passion to make Aeneas great that Jonathan Harlan has demonstrated during his entire 20 year career as CEO. Finding a successor who could follow Jonathan was a challenge we took very seriously. All those we considered have the intellect, integrity, and charisma required for the position. Stephen stood apart as a leader with an extraordinary ability to connect vision, people, and ideas to drive strategy and execution.”

Aeneas also announced that Jonathan Harlan, currently CEO will remain on the board and assume the role of Executive Chairman on August 1. He will devote his time to supporting Stephen Thorpe and engaging closely with customers and governments around Tennessee. Jonathan Harlan has served as CEO of Aeneas since its founding as “Aeneas Internet Services” in April 1995. He has created the company from a series of “firsts”; first internet service provider, first broadband provider, first Tennessee owned and operated competitive local

exchange carrier (CLEC/regulated telephone company), and first gigabit capable fiber optic network provider in rural WTN.

“Stephen is clearly the leader for Aeneas’ future, and he has the unanimous support of the Aeneas Team, ownership, and customers,” said Jonathan Harlan. “The company has always had a strong focus on succession planning. Aeneas initiated the formal CEO succession process 16 months ago, searching internally and externally to find the best leader for our employees, customers, and partners. With Stephen Thorpe taking the role of CEO, Aeneas has the leadership to drive its success for the next chapter.”

Note to editors: For photos and more information on Stephen Thorpe, facts and stats about Jonathan Harlan’s 20 years as CEO, please visit: <http://Aeneas.com> or call 731-554-9239

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CONTACT:

Russ Talley, Media Relations

Aeneas Internet and Telephone

Phone - (731) 554-9200 // Fax – (731) 554-8003

www.aeneas.com