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Source: PenTeleData

## PenTeleData Joins Forces with Cisco Systems for National FutureTruck Competition

**Palmerton, PA -- 11 March, 2002: PenTeleData**, Pennsylvania's oldest and largest provider of Internet and data transport services proudly announces its participation in national competition as the relationship between **PenTeleData**, FutureTruck, Argonne National Laboratory and Cisco Systems continues to pick up speed.

How is **PenTeleData** involved, and what is FutureTruck all about?

The FutureTruck competition, held from June 11 – 21, 2002 in Arizona and California, challenges teams of students from 15 North American Universities to reengineer a conventional, mid-size Ford Explorer into a low-emissions vehicle with at least 25% higher fuel economy -- without sacrificing performance, utility, safety, and affordability.

Students employ cutting-edge automotive technologies, encompassing fuel cells and other advanced propulsion systems, space-age materials, and alternative fuels, such as ethanol and hydrogen. All of the teams in FutureTruck 2002 are implementing hybrid electric design strategies: an internal combustion engine with a battery and electric motor, or a fuel cell with a battery and electric motor.

Finally, students develop the concept of making vehicles nodes on a network rather than endpoints, allowing a vehicle to traverse multiple networks simultaneously -- a secure virtual private network for business along with

several service provider networks. Down the road, this developing technology will reach consumers as traffic and weather navigation – among other things – which can be administered to all vehicles.

“In the near future, every electronic device past a certain price point will have a network connection,” said Cisco CEO John Chambers in a 2001 Comdex keynote address.

For the competition, Cisco provided each student team with network equipment for their truck. Because most team members are student mechanical engineers, **PenTeleData** has been fielding support, answering technical questions and satisfying inquiries relating to networking matters.

Furthermore, **PenTeleData** continues to work closely with one of the U.S. Department of Energy's largest research centers and the nation's first national laboratory, chartered in 1946 -- Argonne National Laboratory. ANL provides management, team evaluation, and technical and logistical support to the FutureTruck competition.

“We’re thrilled to be involved in such an exciting project with Cisco in support of the Futuretruck program,” said Bob Bartholomew, **PenTeleData** Backbone Engineer. “The challenge of providing design and installation of the Cisco Wireless network equipment is particularly interesting, as is integration of IP-based services into the mobile application of FutureTruck Telematics.”

Having designed the wired and wireless networks where the FutureTruck competition is hosted in June, **PenTeleData**’s reach has stretched to embrace the Ford proving ground in Yuka, Arizona and at the California Speedway in Fontana, California.

“Cisco is very excited to have us taking charge in the project management matters,” said Michael Costello, **PenTeleData** Backbone Engineer. “The teams also have appreciated the quality of the support and the timeliness of the responses, such as answering questions in the evening.”

**PenTeleData** is coordinating with Internet Service Providers local to those areas to bring Internet access to the event and is coordinating the entire FutureTruck telematics effort. Telematics is defined as the combination of telecommunications and computing, data communications between systems and devices.

**PenTeleData** is also designing client and server software employed to collect data telemetry from the trucks via near real-time wireless communication. Once per second, data is collected from each truck. During the competition, each truck's speed, position, battery pack power, voltages and other vital signs could be displayed to a public webpage.

Although **PenTeleData** receives no proceeds from participation in the FutureTruck competition, PenTeleData is a sponsor of FutureTruck.

**PenTeleData's** Network Control Center will be trained to answer questions from teams during the competition.

Depending on the success of this year, next year may see the same **PenTeleData** involvement. **PenTeleData** has received only praise from all parties involved.

FutureTruck 2002 is scheduled for June 11-21, 2002. Events will be held at Ford's Arizona Proving Ground in Yucca, Arizona; the California Air Resources Board in El Monte, California; and the California Motor Speedway in Fontana, California. The teams will then travel to Los Angeles, California, for a vehicle display and awards ceremony.

#### **Company Information**

Founded in 1994, **PenTeleData** is currently Pennsylvania's largest provider of Internet service and Data connectivity. PenTeleData has engineered one of the sturdiest, multi-megabit, redundant, fully meshed, privately owned networks in the nation. Running on high-speed lines (OC-12, OC-3, DS3, DS1) and OC-12/OC-3 SONET rings, the **PenTeleData** ATM network (asynchronous transfer mode) -- with more than 60 Points of Presence (PoPs) throughout Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey -- delivers Voice, Video, Data and Internet services through the region.

**PenTeleData** is an industry-leading provider of information security management services for Internet access, networks, servers, applications and desktops. **PenTeleData** provides security management systems for the assessment of networks, policing of policy and intrusion detection. More over, **PenTeleData's** exemplary customer and consulting services, and special accommodations to educational institutions reduces the expense and complexity of protecting your online capital.

Enjoying nearly two decades of combined security industry experience, **PenTeleData's** team of security experts is focused on protecting you against

the latest threats. This team of specialists understands exactly how to transform the complex technical challenges into practical and affordable strategies. Our security team is comprised of security professionals with industry training / certification and former law enforcement experience including Technical Trainers, Consultants for Federal and State Law Enforcement Agencies and membership in numerous government and private sector security organizations.