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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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ROBERT ATKINSON, COMMON CARRIER BUREAU'S DEPUTY CHIEF, TO JOIN COLUMBIA INSTITUTE FOR TELE-INFORMATION

Washington, DC – Robert Atkinson, currently the Deputy Chief of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Common Carrier Bureau, has been named Executive Director of the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information (CITI) at Columbia Business School in New York. At the FCC, Atkinson has been responsible for two of the Bureau's divisions, Policy & Program Planning and Industry Analysis.

Working with Professor Eli Noam, CITI's Director and founder, Atkinson will be responsible for expanding CITI into a multidisciplinary center, dedicated to research on the telecommunications and information industry. He will begin his CITI duties in mid-May.

Chairman William E. Kennard said, "Bob's presence at the FCC was at a pivotal time for ensuring local telecommunications competition. His energy and hard work to open up local telecommunications markets were an invaluable asset to the FCC and he will surely be missed."

Larry Strickling, Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau commented, "The Bureau and I thank Bob for the major contributions he has made in public service as Deputy Bureau Chief. But the Bureau's loss is CITI's gain. Columbia has landed not only the most experienced and knowledgeable person on local competition but also a fine person. I and many others who depended on Bob for so many things will miss him very much."

Atkinson joined the FCC at the beginning of 1999 after a 27-year career in the telecommunications industry including 13 years with Teleport Communications Group (TCG), the nation's first Competitive Access Provider (CAP) and Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC).

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