



July 24, 2014

Commissioner Steven Abrams

*Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners*

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## News Release

### Local Company Wins County Contract for New Communications System

Commissioner Abrams announced today that the Board of County Commissioners has approved a \$4.5 million contract with a local company, Unify, Inc. (formerly Siemens Enterprise Communications), for the replacement of the county's outdated telecommunications system. The new technology will save the county over \$2 million annually in operating expenses between maintenance and leased circuit costs.

Unify, Inc.'s division located in Boca Raton will be handling the installation over the next 36 months. The new system will support over 10,000 users and be installed at all county governmental locations (including Public Safety and Fire Rescue facilities), constitutional offices (Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, and Clerk and Comptroller) and the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit courthouses and offices including the Public Defender and State Attorney.

"I am thrilled that the county is contracting with a local employer on this important project," said Abrams. "Whenever possible, one of my priorities is to work with local businesses on county-funded projects," he added.

The county's Information Systems Services Department performed a comprehensive evaluation of unified communication solutions offered by the leading manufacturers in the U.S. Unify, Inc. was selected based upon a detailed technical evaluation, including lab testing of systems used by four competing manufacturers.

The project budget is financed through a seven-year low interest bank note, in the amount of \$10 million, to fund the component costs as well as necessary network upgrades and temporary staffing costs.

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