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MEMBERS OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVE MERGER

ATLANTA – February 5, 2009 – With a “Yes” vote of more than 95%, the voting representatives of both SOLINET and PALINET approved the merger of the two organizations, and the creation of a new organization — Lyrasis. The effective date of the merger is April 1, 2009.

“Our members will now be able to collaborate with peers at diverse institutions throughout the Mid-Atlantic, the Southeastern US and nationally, working together to respond to constantly changing expectations of our users, wherever they may be,” stated Kate Nevins, Executive Director at SOLINET.

Both organizations are committed to continuing business as usual as they evolve into a single entity. To ensure a smooth integration, representatives from both organizations will keep members informed of progress and new initiatives during this transition period.

“Our vision for Lyrasis is to be an acknowledged regional and national leader in innovation, collaboration and effective support for libraries looking to enhance their education, information and community-building missions,” stated Catherine Wilt, Executive Director at PALINET.

The combined resources, shared expertise, and improved operating efficiencies will result in:

- Rapid implementation of new programs
- Greater consortial savings opportunities
- Extended networking and collaboration among members
- Innovative technology solutions in areas including open source, digitization, and collection management
- An expanded education curriculum covering the latest topics with industry experts from both networks

“The current economic realities for both libraries and their communities underscore the necessity of a strong consortium like Lyrasis – we are leading the charge to bring more savings to members through active negotiations with the vendor community,” added Kate Nevins.

SOLINET

The Southeastern Library Network, Inc. (SOLINET) is an Atlanta-based not-for-profit library cooperative serving Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the Caribbean. A membership network of libraries and other information organizations, SOLINET works in collaboration with many partners, from local to international, to provide leadership for cooperative action, improve access to information, and enable members to effectively anticipate and address the region's needs for education, economic development, and improved quality of life. www.solinet.net.

PALINET

PALINET is a member-owned and governed regional library network, one of the largest in the US, serving 612 libraries and cultural heritage institutions. Offering products and services from over 80 business partners, PALINET members maximize their budgets through group discounts and consortial savings programs. PALINET serves as a premier technology advisor for members, providing access to cutting-edge education and leadership. PALINET offers consulting and is the region's provider of OCLC services. The PALINET membership supports collaborative projects in digitization, preservation, and resource sharing on national, regional, and statewide levels. For more, visit www.palinet.org.

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