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FARMSTEAD TELEPHONE GROUP INC

Form 10-K

March 26, 2002

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001

Commission file number 0-15938

FARMSTEAD TELEPHONE GROUP, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 06-1205743
(State or other jurisdiction of (IRS Employer Identification No.)
incorporation or organization)

22 Prestige Park Circle, East Hartford, CT 06108-3728
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (860) 610-6000

Securities registered under Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each Exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$.001 par value	American Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such report), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☒

As of February 28, 2002, the aggregate market value of the Common Stock of the registrant held by non-affiliates, based upon the last sale price of the registrant's Common Stock on such date, was \$2,254,568.

As of February 28, 2001, the registrant had 3,272,579 shares of its \$0.001 par value Common Stock outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Certain portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on June 13, 2002 are incorporated by reference in Items 10 through 13 of Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS TO FORM 10-K

PART I		Page

Item 1.	Business	3
Item 2.	Properties	6
Item 3.	Legal Proceedings	6
Item 4.	Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders	6
PART II		
Item 5.	Market for Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters	6
Item 6.	Selected Financial Data	7
Item 7.	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation	7
Item 7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	12
Item 8.	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	12
Item 9.	Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	12
PART III		
Item 10.	Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant	13
Item 11.	Executive Compensation	14
Item 12.	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	14
Item 13.	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions	14
PART IV		
Item 14.	Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules, and Reports on Form 8-K	14

PART I

Item 1. Business

General

Farmstead Telephone Group, Inc. ("Farmstead" or the "Company") was incorporated in Delaware in 1986 and became publicly held in May 1987 following the completion of an initial public offering. The Company's main offices are located at 22 Prestige Park Circle, East Hartford, CT 06108, and its telephone number is (860) 610-6000. The Company is principally engaged as an Authorized Remarketing Supplier of Classic Avaya(TM) and new business communication products manufactured by Avaya Inc. ("Avaya"). These products are primarily components of customer premises-based private

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switching systems and peripheral telecommunications products, including voice-processing systems. The Company also provides telecommunications equipment installation, repair and refurbishing, rental, inventory management, and related value-added services. Beginning January 2002, the Company also became a "Diamond Dealer" for new Avaya business communication products, authorized to sell complete telecommunication systems and associated applications. The Company sells its products and services throughout the U.S. to both large and small end-user businesses, government agencies, and dealers.

Effective February 1, 2001, the Company entered into a joint venture agreement with TriNET Business Trust ("TriNET"), forming a limited liability corporation operating under the name of InfiNet Systems, LLC ("InfiNet"). Under the agreement, the Company has a 50.1% ownership interest, and TriNET has a 49.9% ownership interest. Incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, and with operations based in East Hartford, CT, InfiNet was organized for the purpose of selling new Avaya telecommunications systems primarily to customers within the State of Connecticut and various counties in the State of New York. Effective January 1, 2002, the Company acquired TriNET's 49.9% ownership interest in InfiNet.

Product Offerings

Equipment

The Company sells a wide range of Avaya product offerings, including voice products branded as DEFINITY(R), MERLIN MAGIX(TM), SPIRIT(R) and PARTNER(R) Communications Systems, voice messaging products such as OCTEL(R) Messaging and INTUITY(TM) AUDIX(R) Messaging , and network support products such as Avaya Cajun(R).

The Company predominantly conducts an aftermarket parts business, selling both refurbished and new parts. Aftermarket parts include both digital and analog telephone sets and circuit packs, and other system accessories and related products such as headsets, consoles, speakerphones, paging systems and voice processing system add-on parts. Through its subsidiary InfiNet, the Company also sells complete systems. In January 2002, the Company also became an Avaya Diamond Dealer, authorized to sell new telecommunications systems. This development will also allow the Company to sell both new and used voice and data equipment, applications and related services. Refurbished products are primarily sold under the Classic Avaya(TM) label, pursuant to a licensing agreement with Avaya.

Equipment sales revenues accounted for approximately 93% of revenues in both 2001 and 2000, and 92% in 1999.

Customer Services

The Company is committed to respond to its customers' service or project-oriented telecommunications needs. While each type of service is not material to the Company's operations as a whole, the Company believes these services help differentiate it from its competitors, as well as contribute to longer-lasting customer relationships and incremental equipment sales. Services include:

Installation services: The Company utilizes Avaya and other equipment installation companies on a subcontract basis to install telecommunication parts and systems, as well as equipment moves, adds and changes.

Repair and Refurbishing: The Company performs fee-based repair and refurbishing services for its customers through its in-house facilities and use of subcontract repair shops. The in-house work includes cleaning, buffing and minor repairs. The Company outsources major repairs of printed circuit boards.

Equipment Rentals: The Company rents out equipment on a month-to-month basis, servicing those customers that have temporary, short-term equipment needs.

Other Services: The Company's technical staff currently provide system engineering and configuration, and technical "hot line" telephone support services.

The Company's combined service revenues accounted for 7% of revenues in 2001, 7% in 2000 and 8% in 1999. No individual service category accounted for more than 5% of revenues from continuing operations.

Relationship with Avaya Inc./Lucent Technologies

Lucent Technologies ("Lucent") was formed in 1995 from the systems and technology units that were formerly a part of AT&T Corp., including the research and development capabilities of Bell Laboratories. In April 1996, Lucent completed the initial public offering of its common stock and on September 30, 1996, became independent of AT&T when AT&T distributed to its shareholders all of its Lucent shares.

On September 30, 2000, Lucent completed the spin-off of its Enterprise Networks Group business segment (essentially its PBX business, and within which market segment the Company participates), as well as its SYSTIMAX(R) cabling and LAN-based data businesses to Lucent shareholders, forming a separate company named Avaya Inc. ("Avaya") that focuses directly and independently on the enterprise networking market. Avaya is a leading provider of telecommunications products in the U.S. The Company's contractual relationships with Lucent are being continued with Avaya.

Since 1985, AT&T, Lucent, and now Avaya, have provided support to the aftermarket by offering installation and maintenance services for its products purchased by end-users through equipment resellers. Equipment resellers such as the Company may also, with various restrictions, utilize Avaya documentation, technical information and software. Avaya also generally provides up to a one-year warranty on its products. Maintenance of Avaya equipment sold by the Company is generally provided by Avaya. The Company utilizes either Avaya, authorized Avaya subcontractors, or the Company's own network of subcontract installers throughout the United States to handle its customers's equipment installation needs.

The Company operates in an Avaya-sponsored Authorized Remarketing Supplier ("ARS") aftermarket program as an ARS Dealer (the "ARS Agreement"), selling Classic Avaya(TM) products to end-users nationwide. The ARS Agreement expires December 31, 2003. Classic Avaya(TM) products are defined as used Avaya PBX system and key system parts that have been refurbished by the Company under Avaya quality standards. The Company is currently one of four appointed ARS Dealers, none of whom has been granted an exclusive territory. The ARS Agreement also allows the Company to sell certain new Avaya PBX products and voice processing products to end-users, including government agencies. In February 1999, as a condition of its initial agreement with Lucent to become an ARS Dealer, the Company's new

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key system distributor agreement was terminated, and its associated dealer base was transferred to another Lucent distributor. Prior to the ARS Agreement, the Company was an "Authorized Distributor of Selected Lucent - Remanufactured Products" since 1991. In January 2000, the Company's direct supplier relationship with Lucent was assigned to Catalyst Telecom, a Lucent (and now Avaya) distributor, from whom the Company now purchases its new telecommunications products. In January, 2002, the Company additionally became a Diamond Dealer, authorized by Avaya to sell voice and data systems and applications.

The Company believes that its relationship with Avaya is satisfactory and has no indication that Avaya has any intention of terminating its ARS Agreement, or any other agreement, with the Company. The Company could be materially adversely affected should Avaya decide to terminate its agreements.

4

Marketing and Customers

The Company markets its product offerings nationally through a direct sales staff, which includes salespersons located throughout the Eastern Seaboard, Texas and California. In February 2002, the Company opened a sales office in New York City. The Company also sells Avaya products through a call center operation started up in 1999. The Company's customers range from large, multi-location corporations, to small companies, and to equipment wholesalers, dealers, and government agencies and municipalities. End-user customers accounted for approximately 86% of the Company's revenues in 2001, 91% in 2000 and 96% in 1999, while sales to dealers and other resellers accounted for approximately 14%, 9% and 4% of revenues during the same respective periods. During the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000, no single customer accounted for more than 10% of revenues. One customer, Lucent Technologies Inc., accounted for approximately 15% of the Company's revenues during the year ended December 31, 1999. The Company's business is not considered seasonal.

Competition

The Company operates in a highly competitive marketplace. Telephone equipment product competitors currently include Avaya and other new equipment manufacturers such as Nortel Networks Corporation, other new equipment distributors, as well as other equipment resellers. In the sale of Classic Avaya(TM) products, the Company competes with the other Avaya-designated ARS Dealers. The Company believes that key competitive factors in its market are timeliness of delivery, service support, price and product reliability. The Company also considers its working relationships with its customers to be an important and integral competitive factor. The Company anticipates intensified competition from larger companies having substantially greater technical, financial and marketing resources, as well as larger customer bases and name recognition. As the industry further develops voice and data convergence products, the Company anticipates that it will encounter a broader variety of competitors, including new entrants from related computer and communication industries.

Suppliers

Lucent, and since October 1, 2000 Avaya, have historically been the Company's largest suppliers of new telecommunication products and, until 1999, was one of its largest suppliers of refurbished products. In January 2000, the Company's direct supplier relationship with Lucent was assigned

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to Catalyst Telecom ("Catalyst"), a former Lucent, and now an Avaya distributor, from whom the Company has since purchased its new telecommunications products. The Company acquires used equipment from a variety of sources, depending upon price and availability at the time of purchase. These sources include other secondary market equipment dealers, leasing companies and end-users. The equipment so acquired may be in a refurbished state and ready for resale, or it may be purchased "as-is", requiring repair and/or refurbishing prior to its resale. The Company is dependent upon its relationships and agreements with Catalyst and Avaya for the provision of new equipment for resale. The Company is not otherwise dependent upon any other single supplier for used equipment. The Company believes that the availability of used equipment in the marketplace is presently sufficient to allow the Company to meet its customers' used equipment delivery requirements. See also "Relationship with Avaya Inc./Lucent Technologies."

Patents, Licenses and Trademarks

No patent or trademark is considered material to the Company's continuing operations. Pursuant to agreements in effect with Avaya, the Company may utilize, during the term of these agreements, certain Avaya designated trademarks, insignia and symbols in the Company's advertising and promotion of Avaya products. The Company operates under a license agreement with Avaya, in which the Company was granted a non-exclusive license to use the Classic Avaya TM trademark in connection with the refurbishing, marketing and sale of Avaya products sold under the ARS Agreement. Under this agreement, the Company is obligated to pay Avaya a fee, which has ranged from 10% to 6.5% (6.5% effective October 1, 2001) of the sales price, on Classic Avaya products sold by the Company. The license agreement and ARS Agreement expire December 31, 2003.

Research and Development

The Company did not incur any research and development expenses during the three years ended December 31, 2001, and research and development activities are not material to the Company's business.

5

Backlog

The backlog of unshipped orders believed to be firm was approximately \$1,732,000 at December 31, 2001 and \$1,556,000 at December 31, 2000.

Employees

At December 31, 2001, the Company had 91 full-time employees, and 1 part-time employee. The Company's employees are not represented by any organized labor union and are not covered by any collective bargaining agreements.

Item 2. Properties

At December 31, 2001, the Company operated two facilities under long-term lease agreements, occupying in excess of 49,000 square feet of warehouse and office space in East Hartford, CT. The lease agreements expire December 31, 2004. The Company believes that its facilities are adequate for its present needs and suitable for their intended uses. If new or additional space is required, the Company believes that adequate facilities are available at competitive prices in the immediate areas of

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its current operations.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

From time to time the Company is involved in legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. The Company believes there is no litigation pending that could have, individually or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

No matter was submitted to a vote of security holders in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year covered by this report.

PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters

The Company's securities are traded on the American Stock Exchange, under the following symbols: Common Stock - "FTG"; Warrants issued in the Company's 1987 initial public offering ("IPO Warrants") - "FTG.WS"; Redeemable Class A Common Stock Purchase Warrants - "FTG.WS.A"; Redeemable Class B Common Stock Purchase Warrants - "FTG.WS.B". The following sets forth the range of quarterly high and low sales prices for these securities, for the two years ended December 31, 2001:

Quarter Ended	Common Stock: 2001		2000		IPO Warrants: 2001		2000	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
	-----	----	-----	----	-----	----	-----	----
March 31	\$ 2.13	\$1.13	\$2.13	\$1.13	\$.25	\$.25	\$.50	\$.25
June 30	2.00	1.02	1.69	1.00	.40	.10	.38	.25
September 30	1.35	.65	1.50	1.00	.40	.10	.38	.25
December 31	.85	.56	1.81	1.06	.20	.05	.13	.13

6

Quarter Ended	Class A Warrants: 2001		2000		Class B Warrants: 2001		2000	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
	-----	----	-----	----	-----	----	-----	----
March 31	\$.33	\$.06	\$.56	\$.13	\$.25	\$.07	\$.56	\$.13
June 30	.06	.02	.31	.13	.06	.02	.31	.13
September 30	.20	.02	.13	.06	.04	.01	.31	.06
December 31	.04	.01	.38	.13	.04	.01	.50	.06

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There were 3,272,579 common shares outstanding at December 31, 2001 and 2000. There were 183,579 IPO Warrants, 1,137,923 Class A Warrants and 1,137,923 Class B Warrants outstanding at December 31, 2001 and 2000. As of December 31, 2001 there were 522 holders of record of the common stock representing approximately 2,800 beneficial stockholders, based upon the number of proxy materials distributed in connection with the 2001 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The Company has paid no dividends and does not expect to pay dividends in the foreseeable future as it intends to retain earnings to finance the growth of its operations. Pursuant to a revolving credit agreement with First Union National Bank, the Company is prohibited from declaring or paying any dividends or making any other distribution on any of the shares of its capital stock, without the prior consent of the lender.

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	Years ended December 31				
	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
	----	----	----	----	-----
					(1) (2)
Revenues	\$33,339	\$42,786	\$32,871	\$27,738	\$20,559
Income (loss) from continuing operations	(1,708)	1,753	57	780	(600)
Income (loss) from continuing operations per common share:					
Basic and diluted	(.52)	.54	.02	.23	(.18)
Total Assets	10,342	15,494	15,657	13,498	10,829
Long term debt	-	1,726	4,578	1,916	1,997
Stockholders' equity	6,531	8,202	6,417	6,344	5,769
Dividends paid	-	-	-	-	-