

28 October 2022

## **Vonex Appoints Stephe Wilks as Chair and Brent Paddon as Non-Executive Director**

Telecommunications innovator Vonex Limited ("Vonex" or the "Company") (ASX: VN8) is pleased to announce the immediately effective appointments of Stephe Wilks as Non-Executive Chair and Brent Paddon as Non-Executive Director.

Stephe Wilks is an experienced company director with a long record leading successful global technology companies in high growth and disruptive industries. He has headed several Australian and international telecommunications and technology companies, including as Regional Director (Asia and Japan) Regulatory Affairs for BT Asia Pacific, Managing Director of XYZed Pty Ltd (an Optus company where Stephe developed and managed Australia's first competitive broadband wholesaler), Chief Operating Officer of both Nextgen Networks and Personal Broadband Australia, and as Consulting Director of NM Rothschild and Sons.

Stephe's extensive technology leadership, strategic finance, M&A and governance expertise provide a useful foundation to contribute to achieving Vonex's strategic goals. Based in Sydney, he has Science and Law degrees from Macquarie University and a Master of Laws from the University of Sydney.

Stephe is currently Non-Executive Chair of 1st Group Limited (ASX: 1ST) and a Non-Executive Director of Bluglass Limited (ASX: BLG).

Brent Paddon is an experienced company director and manager with over 25 years experience in the telecommunications and IT services sectors. After completing a Bachelor of IT from QUT in 1996, Brent co-founded Brisbane Internet Technology which was sold to Asia Online in 1999. He then held senior management roles at WebCentral and PIPE Networks and subsequently co-founded Over the Wire (OTW) in 2007, which listed on the ASX in 2015.

Brent has detailed knowledge of the telecommunications industry and hands-on experience in starting and scaling successful businesses in that space. Based in Brisbane, Brent additionally holds a Graduate Diploma in Business Administration from QUT.

Both Stephe and Brent were Directors of Over the Wire Holdings Limited (ASX: OTW) (Brent as co-founder) prior to its acquisition in March 2022 by Aussie Broadband Limited (ASX: ABB).

Vonex CEO and Managing Director, Matt Fahey, said:

*"We are delighted to welcome Stephe and Brent to Vonex at a time when our company is performing strongly and focused on growth opportunities. Both directors bring us a wealth of experience and commercial nous in telecommunications M&A. Along with my fellow directors, I look forward to working with Stephe and Brent to build on the solid foundations established in the years since Vonex's ASX listing."*

As part of the changes at Board level, Nick Ong will step down from the role of Chairman, effective immediately, while staying on as a Non-Executive Director.

Non-Executive Director Winnie Lai Hadad has confirmed she will not stand for re-election at the Company's upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Matt Fahey said:

*"On behalf of the Board, I would like to pay tribute to both Nick Ong and Winnie Lai Hadad for their tremendous contributions to the Company. Nick has led Vonex's Board with great vision and drive through a variety of challenging situations over the course of the Company's tenure on the ASX.*

*"Since early in the Company's life, Winnie has been an integral part of the Vonex journey. We thank Winnie for her diligent service and for the integral role she has played in fostering Vonex's growth."*

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board of Vonex Ltd.

**ENDS**

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**ABOUT VONEX:**

Vonex is a full service, award-winning telecommunications service provider selling mobile, internet, traditional fixed lines, infrastructure solutions and hosted PBX and VoIP services - predominantly to small to medium enterprise ("SME") customers under the Vonex brand. Vonex also develops new technologies in the telecommunications industry, including a feature-rich cloud-hosted PBX system.

The Company also provides wholesale customers, such as internet service providers, access to the core Vonex PBX, 5G mobile broadband and call termination services at wholesale rates via a white label model. Vonex is pursuing a disciplined M&A growth strategy, targeting profitable IT and telco businesses that offer potential for growth through further product expansion, scale and cross-selling.