

The United States Attorney's Office

## Western District of Michigan

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### Press Release

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### U.S. SIGNAL'S DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS GETS JAIL TIME

**Tuesday, January 13, 2009 - GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan** – Timothy Hall, 48, of Grandville, Michigan, Director of Operations for U.S. Signal, Inc., was sentenced yesterday to 46 months of imprisonment, followed by two years of supervised release, announced U.S. Attorney Donald A. Davis. U.S. District Court Judge Robert Holmes Bell also ordered Hall to perform 250 hours of community service and pay restitution of over \$4.7 million, with a majority of it to be paid to U.S. Signal and over \$192,000 due immediately to the Internal Revenue Service. This sentence was imposed as the result of an August 6, 2008 guilty plea to mail fraud and filing a false tax return, signed under penalties of perjury.

Mr. Davis was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division (IRS CID) and Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to court records, Hall, along with Barry Raterink, 43, of Middleville, Michigan, and Douglas Lautenbach, 41, of Caledonia, Michigan, who were part owners of Turnkey Network Solutions, Inc., participated in a scheme to illegally sell property stolen from U.S. Signal, Inc. and submit false construction and maintenance billing invoices from Turnkey Network Solutions, Inc., to U.S. Signal, Inc. The maintenance work was not being performed and the contract prices for the construction work were artificially inflated by using Hall's "insider" knowledge within U.S. Signal, Inc. Hall was instrumental in these schemes, as he was in a fiduciary position with U.S. Signal to provide final approval on the fraudulent contracts provided by Turnkey Network Solutions. As a result of these fraudulent schemes, Hall, Raterink, and Lautenbach caused over \$4.7 million loss to U.S. Signal, Inc. Also according to court records, Hall filed a false 2006 tax return, signed under penalties of perjury, where he omitted over \$210,000 in taxable income.

On January 6, 2009, Raterink, was sentenced to 60 months imprisonment, followed by two year of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay restitution of \$4,885,659.50, with over \$200,000 of it to be paid first to the Internal Revenue Service.

On August 6, 2008, Lautenbach pleaded guilty to mail fraud and filing a false tax return, signed under penalties of perjury. He is schedule to be sentenced on January 29, 2009, at 1:15 pm in front of U.S. District Court Judge Bell.

This case was investigated by special agents of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigations. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael A. MacDonald, Heath M. Lynch, and Matthew G. Borgula.

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