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150 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1556

A. M. Lombardo  
Regulatory Vice President

970041-TP

January 8, 1997

Mrs. Blanca S. Bayo  
Director, Division of Records and Reporting  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399


Re: Approval of the Resale Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., ("BellSouth") and Interlink Telecommunications, Inc., and Interlink Telecommunications of Florida, Inc., pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Dear Mrs. Bayo:

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, BellSouth and Interlink Telecommunicatons, Inc., and Interlink Telecommunications of Florida, Inc., are submitting to the Florida Public Service Commission their negotiated agreement for the purchase of BellSouth's telecommunications services for the purpose of resale to end users by Interlink Telecommunications, Inc., and Interlink Telecommunications of Florida, Inc.

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Act, the Commission is charged with approving or rejecting the negotiated agreement between BellSouth and Interlink Telecommunications, Inc., and Interlink Telecommunications of Florida, Inc., within 90 days of its submission. The Act provides that the Commission may only reject such an agreement if it finds that the agreement or any portion of the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement or the implementation of the agreement or any portion of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

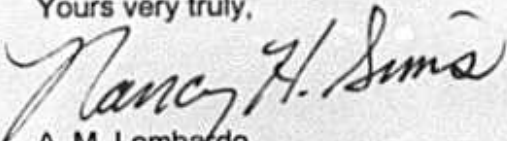
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Both parties aver that neither of these reasons exist as to the agreement they have negotiated and therefore, are very hopeful that the Commission shall approve their agreement.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy H. Sims". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

A. M. Lombardo  
Regulatory Vice President

Handwritten initials, possibly "AM", written in dark ink to the left of the typed name and title.

Enclosure

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**Agreement Between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and Interlink Telecommunications, Inc. Regarding The Sale of BST's Telecommunications Services to Interlink For The Purposes of Resale**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., ("BellSouth" or "Company"), a Georgia corporation, and Interlink Telecommunications, Inc., a Georgia corporation, and Interlink Telecommunications of Florida, Inc., a Florida corporation (collectively "Reseller"), and shall be deemed effective as of December 1, 1996.

**WITNESSETH**

WHEREAS, BellSouth is a local exchange telecommunications company authorized to provide telecommunications services in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Reseller is an alternative local exchange telecommunications company authorized to provide or is intending to provide telecommunications services in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Reseller desires to resell BellSouth's telecommunications services; and

WHEREAS, BellSouth has agreed to provide such services to Reseller for resale purposes and pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual premises and promises contained herein, BellSouth and Reseller do hereby agree as follows:

**I. Term of the Agreement**

- A. The term of this Agreement shall be two years beginning December 1, 1996, and shall apply to all of BellSouth's serving territory as of January 1, 1996, in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
- B. This Agreement shall be automatically renewed for two additional one year periods unless either party indicates its intent not to renew the Agreement. Notice of such intent must be provided, in writing, to the other party no later than 60 days prior to the end of the then-existing contract period. The terms of this Agreement shall remain in effect after the term of the existing agreement has expired and while a new agreement is being negotiated.
- C. The rates pursuant by which Reseller is to purchase services from BellSouth for resale shall be at a discount rate off of the retail rate for the telecommunications service. The discount rates shall be as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

**II. Definition of Terms**

- A. **CUSTOMER CODE** means the three digit number following a customer's telephone number as shown on the customer's bill.
- B. **CUSTOMER OF RECORD** means the entity responsible for placing application for service; requesting additions, rearrangements, maintenance or discontinuance of service; payment in full of charges incurred such as toll, directory assistance, etc.
- C. **DEPOSIT** means assurance provided by a customer in the form of cash, surety bond or bank letter of credit to be held by the Company.
- D. **END USER** means the ultimate user of the telecommunications services.

E. **END USER CUSTOMER LOCATION** means the physical location of the premises where an end user makes use of the telecommunications services.

F. **NEW SERVICES** means functions, features or capabilities that are not currently offered by BellSouth. This includes packaging of existing services or combining a new function, feature or capability with an existing service.

G. **OTHER LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANY ("OLEC")** means a telephone company other than the Company certificated by the public service commissions of the Company's franchised area to provide local exchange service within the Company's franchised area.

H. **RESALE** means an activity wherein a certificated OLEC, such as Reseller subscribes to the telecommunications services of the Company and then reoffers those telecommunications services to the public (with or without "adding value").

I. **RESALE SERVICE AREA** means the area, as defined in a public service commission approved certificate of operation, within which an OLEC, such as Reseller, may offer resold local exchange telecommunications service.

### III. General Provisions

A. Reseller may resell the tariffed local exchange and toll telecommunications services of BellSouth subject to the terms, and conditions specifically set forth herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following are not available for purchase: Grandfathered services; short term (i.e., 90 days or less) promotional and trial retail service offerings; lifeline and linkup services; contract service arrangements; installments; billing options; 911 and E911 services; interconnection services for mobile service providers; legislatively or administratively mandated specialized discounts (e.g., education institution discount) and discounted services to meet competitive situation.

B. The provision of services by the Company to Reseller does not constitute a joint undertaking for the furnishing of any service.

C. Reseller will be the customer of record for all services purchased from BellSouth. Except as specified herein, the Company will take orders from, bill and expect payment from Reseller for all services.

D. Reseller will be the Company's single point of contact for all services purchased pursuant to this Agreement. The Company shall have no contact with the end user except to the extent provided for herein.

E. The Company will continue to bill the end user for any services that the end user specifies it wishes to receive directly from the Company. The Reseller will continue to bill the end user for any services that the end user specifies it wishes to receive directly from the Reseller.

F. The Company maintains the right to serve directly any end user within the service area of Reseller. The Company will continue to directly market its own telecommunications products and services and in doing so may establish independent relationships with end users of Reseller. The Reseller maintains the right to serve directly any end user within BellSouth's service area. The Reseller will continue to directly market its own telecommunications products and services and in doing so may establish independent relationships with end users of BellSouth.

G. Reseller shall not interfere with the right of any person or entity to obtain service directly from the Company. BellSouth shall not interfere with the right of any person or entity to obtain service directly from Reseller.

H. The current telephone number of an end user may be retained by the end user unless the end user has past due charges associated with the BellSouth account for which payment arrangements have not been made. The Company will not, however, make the end user's previous telephone number available to Reseller until the

end user's outstanding balance has been paid. If Reseller requests service for an end user that has been denied service or disconnected for non-payment by BellSouth, and the end user still has an outstanding balance with the Company, the Company will establish service for that end user through Reseller. Denied service means that the service of an end user provided by a local exchange telecommunications company, including BellSouth, has been temporarily suspended for nonpayment and subject to complete disconnection.

I. Telephone numbers are the property of the Company and are assigned to the service furnished. Reseller has no property right to the telephone number or any other call number designation associated with services furnished by the Company, and no right to the continuance of service through any particular central office. The Company reserves the right to change such numbers, or the central office designation associated with such numbers, or both, on a nondiscriminatory basis, whenever the Company deems it necessary to do so in the conduct of its business.

J. The Company may provide any service or facility for which a charge is not established herein, as long as it is offered on the same terms to Reseller.

K. Service is furnished to Reseller subject to the condition that it will not be used for any unlawful purpose.

L. Upon written notice to Reseller, service will be discontinued to any end user if any law enforcement agency advises that the service being used is in violation of the law.

M. The Company can refuse a request for service when it has reasonable grounds to believe that the service requested will be used in violation of the law.

N. The Company accepts no responsibility to any person for any unlawful act committed by Reseller or its end users as part of providing service to Reseller for purposes of resale or otherwise.

O. The Company will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies with subpoenas and court orders for assistance with the Company's customers. Law enforcement agency subpoenas and court orders regarding end users of Reseller will be directed to Reseller. The Company will bill Reseller for implementing any requests by law enforcement agencies regarding Reseller end users.

P. The characteristics and methods of operation of any circuits, facilities or equipment provided pursuant to this agreement by Reseller and its agents shall not:

1. Interfere with or impair service over any facilities of the Company, its affiliates, or its connecting and concurring carriers involved in its service;
2. Cause damage to their plant;
3. Impair the privacy of any communications; or
4. Create hazards to any employees or the public.

Q. Reseller assumes the responsibility of notifying the Company regarding less than standard operations with respect to services provided by it.

R. Facilities and/or equipment utilized by BellSouth to provide service to Reseller remain the property of BellSouth.

S. White page directory listings will be provided in accordance with regulations set forth in Section A6 of the General Subscriber Service Tariff and will be available for resale. Yellow page directory listings will be provided to Reseller's business customers in the same manner as BellSouth provides such listings to its own customers in accordance

with the service furnished by BellSouth. Reseller will be billed for all other yellow page listings not provided with the service furnished by BellSouth.

#### **IV. BellSouth's Provision of Services to Reseller**

**A.** Reseller agrees that its resale of BellSouth services shall be as follows:

1. The resale of telecommunications services shall be limited to users and uses conforming to the class of service restrictions.
2. Hotel and Hospital PBX service are the only telecommunications services available for resale to Hotel/Motel and Hospital end users, respectively. Similarly, Access Line Service for Customer Provided Coin Telephones is the only local service available for resale to COCOTS customers. Shared Tenant Service customers can only be sold those telecommunications services available in the Company's A23 Shared Tenant Service Tariff.
3. Reseller is prohibited from furnishing both flat and measured rate service on the same business premises to the same subscribers (end users) as stated in A2 of the Company's Tariff except for backup service as indicated in the applicable state tariff Section A3.
4. If telephone service is established and it is subsequently determined that the class of service restriction has been violated, Reseller will be notified and billing for that service will be immediately changed to the appropriate class of service. Service charges for changes between class of service, back billing, and interest as described in this subsection shall apply at the Company's sole discretion. Interest at the rate of 0.000590 per day, compounded daily for the number of days from the back billing date to and including the date that Reseller actually makes the payment to the Company may be assessed.

**B.** Resold services can only be used in the same manner as specified in the Company's Tariff. Resold services are subject to the same terms and conditions as are specified for such services when furnished to an individual end user of the Company in the appropriate section of the Company's Tariffs. Specific tariff features, e.g. a usage allowance per month, shall not be aggregated across multiple resold services. Resold services cannot be used to aggregate traffic from more than one end user customer except as specified in Section A23 of the Company's Tariff referring to Shared Tenant Service.

**C.** Reseller may resell services only within the specific resale service area as defined in its certificate.

**D.** Telephone numbers transmitted via any resold service feature are intended solely for the use of the end user of the feature. Resale of this information is prohibited.

**E.** No patent, copyright, trademark or other proprietary right is licensed, granted or otherwise transferred by this Agreement. Reseller is strictly prohibited from any use, including but not limited to sales, marketing or advertising, of any BellSouth name or trademark.

#### **V. Maintenance of Services**

**A.** Services, facilities and equipment provided by the Company shall be maintained by the Company.

**B.** Reseller or its end users may not rearrange, move, disconnect, remove or attempt to repair any facilities owned by the Company, other than by connection or disconnection to any interface means used, except with the written consent of the Company.

**C.** Reseller will be the Company's single point of contact for all repair calls on behalf of Reseller's end users.

D. Reseller will contact the appropriate repair centers in accordance with procedures established by the Company.

E. For all repair requests, Reseller accepts responsibility for adhering to the Company's prescreening guidelines prior to referring the trouble to the Company.

F. The Company will bill Reseller for handling troubles that are found not to be in the Company's network pursuant to its standard time and material charges. The standard time and material charges will be no more than what BellSouth charges to its retail customers for the same services.

G. The Company reserves the right to contact Reseller's customers, if deemed necessary, for maintenance purposes.

## VI. Establishment of Service

A. The ordering and provisioning of services purchased by Reseller from BellSouth for resale purposes shall be as set forth in the BellSouth local exchange ordering guidelines as those guidelines are amended by BellSouth from time to time during the term of the Agreement.

B. The Company will not require end user confirmation prior to establishing service for Reseller's end user customer. Reseller must, however, be able to demonstrate end user authorization upon request.

C. Reseller will be the single point of contact with the Company for all subsequent ordering activity resulting in additions or changes to resold services except that the Company will accept a request directly from the end user for conversion of the end user's service from Reseller to the Company or will accept a request from another OLEC for conversion of the end user's service from the Reseller to the other LEC. The Company will notify Reseller that such a request has been processed.

D. If the Company determines that an unauthorized change in local service to Reseller has occurred, the Company will reestablish service with the appropriate local service provider and will assess Reseller as the OLEC initiating the unauthorized change, an unauthorized change charge similar to that described in F.C.C. Tariff No. 1, Section 13.3.3. Appropriate nonrecurring charges, as set forth in Section A4. of the General Subscriber Service Tariff, will also be assessed to Reseller.

These charges can be adjusted if Reseller provides satisfactory proof of authorization.

	Nonrecurring Charge
(a) each Residence or Business line	\$19.41
(b) each Public or Semi-Public line	\$34.19

E. The Company may require Reseller to make a deposit, if evidence of good credit cannot be provided, when purchasing services for resale purposes, to be held by the Company as a guarantee of the payment of rates and charges. Any such deposit may be held during the continuance of the service and may not exceed two months' estimated billing.

F. The fact that a deposit has been made in no way relieves Reseller from prompt payment of bills on presentation nor does it constitute a waiver or modification of the regular practices of the Company providing for the discontinuance of service for non-payment of any sums due the Company to the extent permitted by law.

G. In the event that Reseller defaults on its account, service to Reseller will be terminated and any deposits held will be applied to its account.

H. In the case of a cash deposit, interest at the rate of six percent per annum shall be paid to Reseller during the continuance of the deposit. Interest on a deposit shall accrue annually and, if requested, shall be annually credited to Reseller by the accrual date.

## VII. Payment And Billing Arrangements

- A. When the initial service is ordered by Reseller, the Company will establish an accounts receivable master account for Reseller.
- B. The Company shall bill Reseller on a current basis all applicable charges and credits for services ordered by Reseller.
- C. Payment of all charges will be the responsibility of Reseller. Reseller shall make payment to the Company for all undisputed charges for services. The Company is not responsible for payments not received by Reseller from Reseller's customer. The Company will not become involved in billing disputes that may arise between Reseller and its customer. Payments made to the Company as payment on account will be credited to an accounts receivable master account and not to an end user's account. The Company and Reseller will work together to resolve any disputes. If a dispute is not resolved within thirty (30) days, Reseller or the Company will have the right to obtain Commission investigation and resolution of any disputed invoice.
- D. The Company will render bills each month on established bill days for each of Reseller's accounts.
- E. The Company will bill Reseller, in advance, charges for all services to be provided during the ensuing billing period except charges associated with service usage, which charges will be billed in arrears. Charges will be calculated on an individual end user account level, including, if applicable, any charges for usage or usage allowances. BellSouth will also bill all charges, including but not limited to 911 and E911 charges, telecommunications relay charges, and franchise fees, on an individual end user account level.
- F. The payment will be due by the next bill date (i.e., same date in the following month as the bill date). Payment is considered to have been received by BellSouth when funds are available for payment.

If the payment due date falls on a Sunday or on a Holiday which is observed on a Monday, the payment due date shall be the first non-Holiday day following such Sunday or Holiday. If the payment due date falls on a Saturday or on a Holiday which is observed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, the payment due date shall be the last non-Holiday day preceding such Saturday or Holiday. If payment is not received by the payment due date, a late payment penalty, as set forth in H. following, shall apply.

- G. Upon proof of tax exempt certification from Reseller, the total amount billed to Reseller will not include any taxes due from the end user. Reseller will be solely responsible for the computation, tracking, reporting and payment of all federal, state and/or local jurisdiction taxes associated with the services resold to the end user.
- H. If any portion of the payment is received by the Company after the payment due date as set forth in F. preceding, then a late payment penalty shall be due to the Company. The late payment penalty shall be the portion of the payment not received by the payment due date times a late factor. The late factor shall be the lesser of:
1. The highest interest rate (in decimal value) which may be levied by law for commercial transaction, compounded daily for the number of days from the payment due date to and including the date that Reseller actually makes the payment to the Company, or
  2. 0.000590 per day, compounded daily for the number of days from the payment due date to and including the date that Reseller actually makes the payment to the Company.
- I. Any switched access charges associated with interexchange carrier access to the resold local exchange lines will be billed by, and due to, the Company. No additional charges are to be assessed to Reseller.
- J. The Company will not perform billing and collection services for Reseller as a result of the execution of this Agreement. All requests for billing services should be referred to the appropriate entity or operational group within the Company.



K. Until such time as the Company receives permission from the FCC to bill the End User Common Line (EUCL) charge to Reseller, the Company will, on an interim basis, bill the charges shown below which are identical to the EUCL rates billed by BST to its end users.

	Monthly Rate
1. Residential (a) Each Individual Line or Trunk	\$3.50
2. Single Line Business (b) Each Individual Line or Trunk	\$3.50
3. Multi-line Business (c) Each Individual Line or Trunk	\$6.00

L. In general, the Company will not become involved in disputes between Reseller and Reseller's end user customers over resold services. If a dispute does arise that cannot be settled without the involvement of the Company, Reseller shall contact the designated Service Center for resolution. The Company will make every effort to assist in the resolution of the dispute and will work with Reseller to resolve the matter in as timely a manner as possible. Reseller may be required to submit documentation to substantiate the claim.

M. Reseller is responsible for payment of all appropriate charges for completed calls, services, and equipment. If objection in writing is not received by the Company within twenty-nine days after the bill is rendered, the account shall be deemed correct and binding upon Reseller.

#### VIII. Discontinuance of Service

A. The procedures for discontinuing service to an end user are as follows:

1. The Company will deny service to Reseller's end user on behalf of, and at the request of, Reseller. Upon restoration of the end user's service, restoral charges will apply and will be the responsibility of Reseller.
2. At the request of Reseller, the Company will disconnect a Reseller end user customer within a reasonable and non-discriminatory amount of time.
3. All requests by Reseller for denial or disconnection of an end user for nonpayment must be in writing.
4. Reseller will be made solely responsible for notifying the end user of the proposed disconnection of the service.
5. The Company will continue to process calls made to the Annoyance Call Center and will advise Reseller when it is determined that annoyance calls are originated from one of their end user's locations. The Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by Reseller and/or the end user against any claim, loss or damage arising from providing this information to Reseller. It is the responsibility of Reseller to take the corrective action necessary with its customers who make annoying calls. Failure to do so will result in the Company disconnecting the end user's service.

B. The procedures for discontinuing service to Reseller are as follows:

1. The Company reserves the right to suspend or terminate service for nonpayment or in the event of prohibited, unlawful or improper use of the facilities or service.

abuse of the facilities, or any other violation or noncompliance by Reseller of the rules and regulations of the Company's tariffs.

2. If payment of account is not received by the bill day in the month after the original bill day, the Company may provide written notice to Reseller, that additional applications for service will be refused and that any pending orders for service will not be completed if payment is not received by the fifteenth day following the date of the notice. If the Company does not refuse additional applications for service on the date specified in the notice, and Reseller's noncompliance continues, nothing contained herein shall preclude the Company's right to refuse additional applications for service without further notice.
3. If payment of account is not received, or arrangements made, by the bill day in the second consecutive month, the account will be considered in default and will be subject to denial or disconnection, or both.
4. If Reseller fails to comply with the provisions of this Agreement, including any payments to be made by it on the dates and times herein specified, the Company may, on thirty days written notice to the person designated by Reseller to receive notices of noncompliance, discontinue the provision of existing services to Reseller at any time thereafter. In the case of such discontinuance, all billed charges, as well as applicable termination charges, shall become due. If the Company does not discontinue the provision of the services involved on the date specified in the thirty days notice, and Reseller's noncompliance continues, nothing contained herein shall preclude the Company's right to discontinue the provision of the services to Reseller without further notice.
5. If payment is not received or arrangements made for payment by the date given in the written notification, Reseller's services will be discontinued. Upon discontinuance of service on a Reseller's account, service to Reseller's end users will be denied. The Company will also reestablish service at the request of the end user or Reseller upon payment of the appropriate connection fee and subject to the Company's normal application procedures.
6. If within fifteen days after an end user's service has been denied no contact has been made in reference to restoring service, the end user's service will be disconnected.

#### IX. Liability

A. The liability of the Company for damages arising out of mistakes, omissions, interruptions, preemptions, delays errors or defects in transmission, or failures or defects in facilities furnished by the Company, occurring in the course of furnishing service or other facilities and not caused by the negligence of Reseller, or of the Company in failing to maintain proper standards of maintenance and operation and to exercise reasonable supervision shall in no event exceed an amount equivalent to the proportionate charge to Reseller for the period of service during which such mistake, omission, interruption, preemption, delay, error or defect in transmission or defect or failure in facilities occur. The Company shall not be liable for damage arising out of mistakes, omission, interruptions, preemptions, delays, errors or defects in transmission or other injury, including but not limited to injuries to persons or property from voltages or currents transmitted over the service of the Company, (1) caused by customer-provided equipment (except where a contributing cause is the malfunctioning of a Company-provided connecting arrangement, in which event the liability of the Company shall not exceed an amount equal to a proportional amount of the Company billing for the period of service during which such mistake, omission, interruption, preemption, delay, error, defect in transmission or injury occurs), or (2) not prevented by customer-provided equipment but which would have been prevented had Company-provided equipment been used.

B. Each party hereto shall indemnify and save the other harmless from any liabilities, claims or demands (including the costs, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees on account thereof) that results from the negligence or willful misconduct of that party, its employees or agents, in the performance of this Agreement. Each party

shall defend the other at the other's request against any such liability, claim or demand. Each party shall notify the other promptly of written claims or demands against such party of which the other party is responsible hereunder. Each party shall cooperate fully with the other, and the indemnifying party shall control such defense and the right to litigate, settle, appeal (provided it pays the cost of any required appeal bond), compromise or otherwise deal with any such claim or resulting judgment; provided that such settlement, compromise or other resolution of such claim does not result in any liability to the indemnified party.

C. The Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by Reseller against any claim, loss or damage arising from the use of services offered for resale involving:

1. Claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy or infringement of copyright arising from Reseller's own communications.
2. Claims for patent infringement arising from acts combining or using Company services in connection with facilities or equipment furnished by the Reseller.
3. All other claims arising out of a negligent or willful act or omission of Reseller in the course of using services.

D. Reseller accepts responsibility for providing access for maintenance purposes of any service resold under the provisions of this Tariff. The Company shall not be responsible for any failure on the part of Reseller with respect to any end user of Reseller.

#### X. More Favorable Provisions

A. If and to the extent that Company makes available, to another reseller, telecommunications services for resale in a particular state, regardless of whether on the basis of voluntary agreement, tariff, or pursuant to a legally effective directive, Company will provide Reseller, in that state, access to those same telecommunications services for resale pursuant to identical rates, terms and/or conditions.

B. In the event that Company is directed, in a legally effective order, by the Federal Communications Commission, a state Commission, or appropriate regulatory agency or judicial body, to provide telecommunications services for resale at rates, terms and/or conditions which are different than those provided for herein, Company will provide Reseller with access to those same telecommunications services for resale pursuant to those identical rates, terms, and/or conditions contained in the directive or order. The parties agree that such action shall take place only after all administrative and judicial remedies have been exhausted.

C. In the event Company files and receives approval for a tariff offering to provide any substantive service of this Agreement in a way different than that provided for herein, the parties agree that Reseller shall be eligible for subscription to said service at the rates, terms and conditions contained in tariffs as of the effective date of the tariff.

#### XI. Treatment of Proprietary and Confidential Information

A. Both parties agree that it may be necessary to provide each other during the term of this Agreement with certain confidential information, including trade secret information, including but not limited to, technical and business plans, technical information, proposals, specifications, drawings, procedures, customer account data and like information (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Information"). Both parties agree that all Information shall either be in writing or other tangible form and clearly marked with a confidential, private or proprietary legend, or, when the Information is communicated orally, it shall also be communicated that the Information is confidential, private or proprietary. The Information will be returned to the owner within a reasonable time. Both parties agree that the Information shall not be copied or reproduced in any form. Both parties agree to receive such Information and not disclose such Information. Both parties agree to protect the information received from distribution, disclosure or dissemination to anyone except employees of the parties with a need to know such Information and which employees agree to be bound by the terms of this Section. Both parties will use the same standard of care to protect Information received as they would use to protect their own confidential and proprietary Information.

B. Notwithstanding the foregoing, both parties agree that there will be no obligation to protect any portion of the Information that is either: 1) made publicly available by the owner of the Information or lawfully disclosed by a nonparty to this Agreement; 2) lawfully obtained from any source other than the owner of the Information; or 3) previously known to the receiving party without an obligation to keep it confidential.

## XII. Resolution of Disputes

Except as otherwise stated in this Agreement, the parties agree that if any dispute arises as to the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement or as to the proper implementation of this Agreement, the parties will petition the applicable state Public Service Commission for a resolution of the dispute. However, each party reserves any rights it may have to seek judicial review of any ruling made by the that Public Service Commission concerning this Agreement.

## XIII. Limitation of Use

The parties agree that this Agreement shall not be proffered by either party in another jurisdiction as evidence of any concession or as a waiver of any position taken by the other party in that jurisdiction or for any other purpose.

## XIV. Waivers

Any failure by either party to insist upon the strict performance by the other party of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement, and each party, notwithstanding such failure, shall have the right thereafter to insist upon the specific performance of any and all of the provisions of this Agreement.

## XV. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the State of Georgia, without regard to its conflict of laws principles.

## XVI. Arm's Length Negotiations

This Agreement was executed after arm's length negotiations between the undersigned parties and reflects the conclusion of the undersigned that this Agreement is in the best interests of all parties.

## XVII. Notices

A. Every notice, consent, approval, or other communications required or contemplated by this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered in person or given by postage prepaid mail, address to:

• BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Attn: OLEC Account Team  
3335 Colonnade Parkway  
Birmingham, AL 35243

Interlink Telecommunications, Inc. or  
Interlink Telecommunications of Florida, Inc.  
Mr. Reginald P. McFarland, President  
1112 Elm Street  
Covington, Georgia 30209

or at such other address as the intended recipient previously shall have designated by written notice to the other party.

B. Where specifically required, notices shall be by certified or registered mail. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, notice by mail shall be effective on the date it is officially recorded as delivered by return receipt or equivalent, and in the absence of such record of delivery, it shall be presumed to have been delivered the fifth day, or next business day after the fifth day, after it was deposited in the mails.

**XVIII. Amendments**

This Agreement may be amended at any time upon written agreement of both parties.

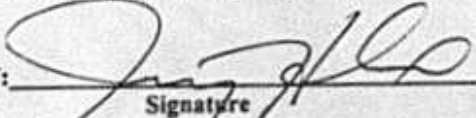
**XIX. Severability**

Should any provision or portion of this Agreement be held by a court of competent jurisdiction, or a regulatory authority, to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

**XX. Entire Agreement**

This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding and supersedes prior agreements between the parties relating to the subject matter contained herein and merges all prior discussions between them, and neither party shall be bound by any definition, condition, provision, representation, warranty, covenant or promise other than as expressly stated in this Agreement or as is contemporaneously or subsequently set forth in writing and executed by a duly authorized officer or representative of the party to be bound thereby.

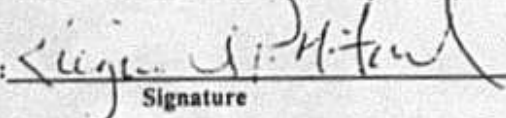
**BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**

BY:   
Signature

NAME: Jerry D. Hendrix  
Printed Name

TITLE: Director

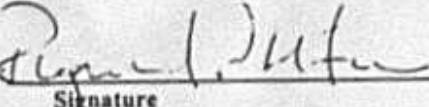
**Interlink Telecommunications, Inc.**

BY:   
Signature

NAME: Reginald P. McFarland  
Printed Name

TITLE: President

**Interlink Telecommunications of Florida, Inc.**

BY:   
Signature

NAME: Reginald P. McFarland  
Printed Name

TITLE: President

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**APPLICABLE DISCOUNTS**

The telecommunications services available for purchase by Reseller for the purposes of resale to Reseller end users shall be available at the following discount off of the retail rate.

<u>STATE</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>	<u>DISCOUNT</u>	<u>BUSINESS</u>
ALABAMA	10%		10%
FLORIDA	18%		12%
GEORGIA	20.3%		17.3%
KENTUCKY	10%		8%
LOUISIANA	11%		10%
MISSISSIPPI	9%		8%
NORTH CAROLINA	12%		9%
SOUTH CAROLINA	10%		9%
TENNESSEE	11%		9%

The Georgia discount is subject to any change as a result of final resolution of the Order of the Georgia Public Service Commission issued June 12, 1996.