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Regulatory Vice President

September 6, 1996

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

961053-TP

Re: Approval of the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and MFS Communications Company, Inc. (MFS) pursuant to Sections 251, 252 and 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, BellSouth and MFS are submitting to the Florida Public Service Commission their negotiated agreement for the interconnection of their networks, the unbundling of specific network elements offered by BellSouth and the resale of BellSouth telecommunications services to MFS. The agreement was negotiated pursuant to sections 251, 252 and 271 of the Act.

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Act, the Commission is charged with approving or rejecting the negotiated agreement between BellSouth and MFS within 90 days of its submission. 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. Both parties represent that neither of these reasons exist as to the agreement they have negotiated and that the Commission should approve their agreement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

*A.M. Lombardo*  
A.M. Lombardo

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**Florida Partial Interconnection Agreement**  
**Under Sections 251 and 252 of the**  
**Telecommunications Act of 1996**

**DATED AUGUST 26, 1996**

**BY AND BETWEEN**

**BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**and**

**MFS COMMUNICATIONS CO., INC.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1.0 DEFINITIONS .....	1
2.0 INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION. ....	12
3.0 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND INTERCONNECTION ACTIVATION DATES. ....	12
4.0 NETWORK INTERCONNECTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(c)(2). ..	13
5.0 TRANSMISSION AND ROUTING OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE TRAFFIC PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(c)(2) .....	18
6.0 TRANSMISSION AND ROUTING OF EXCHANGE ACCESS TRAFFIC PURSUANT TO 251(c)(2) .....	22
7.0 TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION OF OTHER TYPES OF TRAFFIC ....	26
8.0 JOINT GROOMING PLAN AND INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, TESTING AND REPAIR .....	28
9.0 UNBUNDLED ACCESS -- SECTION 251(c)(3) .....	29
10.0 RESALE OF BST LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICES--SECTIONS 251(c)(4) and 251(b)(1) .....	34
11.0 NOTICE OF CHANGES -- SECTION 251(c)(5) .....	35
12.0 COLLOCATION -- SECTION 251(c)(6) .....	35
13.0 NUMBER PORTABILITY -- SECTION 251(b)(2) .....	37
14.0 DIALING and NUMBERING RESOURCES, RATE CENTERS and RATING POINTS .....	40
15.0 ACCESS TO RIGHTS-OF-WAY -- SECTION 251(b)(4) .....	41

16.0	DATABASE ACCESS--SECTION 271	41
17.0	COORDINATED SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS	41
18.0	911/E911 ARRANGEMENTS--SECTION 271	43
19.0	DIRECTORY SERVICES ARRANGEMENTS--SECTION 271	44
20.0	GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES	46
21.0	TERM AND TERMINATION	51
22.0	INSTALLATION	53
23.0	PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES	53
24.0	SECTION 252(I) OBLIGATIONS	56
25.0	CANCELLATION CHARGES	57
26.0	SEVERABILITY	57
27.0	FORCE MAJEURE.	57
28.0	LIMITATION OF LIABILITY	57
29.0	ASSIGNMENT	58
30.0	DISPUTED AMOUNTS	59
31.0	NON-DISCLOSURE	60
32.0	CANCELLATION	63
33.0	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	63
34.0	NOTICES	63
35.0	LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY	64
36.0	MISCELLANEOUS	65



## LIST OF EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit Name</u>	<u>Exhibit Number</u>
Additional Definitions Defined by "Act"	1.0
Interconnection Activation Dates	2.0
Meet-point Billing Provisions	3.0
Meet-point Billing Rate Elements	4.0
Initial Network Architecture & Trunking	5.0a & 5.0b
SONET Network Architecture	6.0
Reciprocal Compensation	7.0
BLV and BLVI Rates	8.0
Transit Function Rate	9.0
Interim Cross-connect Rate	10.0
Unbundled Element Bonafide Requests	11.0
Interim INP Cost-recovery Rate	12.0
Directory Assistance Rates	13.0
BAPCO Directory Agreement	14.0

**MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**  
**Partial Florida Interconnection Agreement**  
**Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996**

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This Interconnection Agreement under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Agreement"), is effective as of the 26th day of August 1996 (the "Effective Date"), by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., ("BST") a Georgia Corporation, 675 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30375, and MFS Communications Company, Inc., ("MFS") a Delaware corporation, with offices located at Six Concourse Parkway, Suite 2100, Atlanta, Georgia 30328, on behalf of itself and its subsidiaries, including, Metropolitan Fiber Systems of Florida, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Parties want to interconnect their networks at mutually agreed upon points of interconnection to provide Telephone Exchange Services and Exchange Access to their respective Customers.

WHEREAS, the Parties are entering into this Agreement to set forth the respective obligations of the Parties and the terms and conditions under which the Parties will interconnect their networks and provide other services as required by the Act and additional services as set forth herein.

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement is a partial agreement under sections 251 and 252 of the Communications Act of 1996. The Parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement does not address all of BST's obligations under sections 251, 252, and 271 as contained in the Communications Act of 1996.

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge and agree that at the time of execution of this Agreement the following items have not been agreed to and will be decided by the appropriate Government body through arbitration and/or Commission and/or FCC orders and/or rulemakings: 1) The Price of Unbundled Loops, 2) The Rates, Terms, and Conditions for Information Services, and 3) Collocation Rates, Terms, and Conditions. Moreover, unless otherwise enumerated, it is acknowledged and agreed that all other terms, conditions, rates, and clauses contained in this Agreement are agreed.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual provisions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, MFS and BST hereby agree as follows:

**1.0 DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below in this Section 1.0. For convenience of reference only, the definitions of certain terms that are set forth on Exhibit 1.0.

- 1.1 "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153(R)), as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996,

MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
Central Florida Interconnection Agreement  
Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

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and as from time to time interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the FCC or the Commission.

- 1.2 "Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line" or "ADSL" is a transmission technology which transmits an asymmetrical digital signal using one of a variety of line codes.
- 1.3 "Affiliate" is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.4 "As Defined in the Act" means as specifically defined by the Act and as from time to time interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the FCC or the Commission.
- 1.5 "As Described in the Act" means as described in or required by the Act and as from time to time interpreted in the duly authorized rules and regulations of the FCC or the Commission.
- 1.6 "Automatic Number Identification" or "ANI" is a Feature Group D signaling parameter which refers to the number transmitted through the network identifying the billing number of the calling party.
- 1.7 "BLV/BLVI Traffic" or "BLV/BLVI Call" refers to an operator call in which the end user inquires as to the busy status of, or requests an interruption of a call on an Telephone Exchange Service.
- 1.8 "Calling Party Number" or "CPN" is a Common Channel Interoffice Signaling parameter which refers to the number transmitted through the network identifying the calling party.
- 1.9 "Central Office Switch", "Central Office" or "CO" means a switching entity within the public-switched telecommunications network, including but not limited to:
- a) "End Office Switches" which are Class 5 switches from which end user Telephone Exchange Services are directly connected and offered.
  - b) "Tandem Office Switches" which are Class 4 switches which are used to connect and switch trunk circuits between and among Central Office Switches.

Central Office Switches may be employed as combination End Office/Tandem Office switches (combination Class 5/Class 4).

- 1.10 "CLASS Features" mean certain CCS-based features available to end users. Class features include, but are not necessarily limited to: Automatic Call Back; Call Trace; Caller Identification and related blocking features; Distinctive Ringing/Call Waiting; Selective Call Forward; Selective Call Rejection.
- 1.11 "Collocation" or "Collocation Arrangement" means an arrangement whereby one Party's (the "Collocating Party") facilities are terminated in its equipment necessary for interconnection or for access to Network Elements on an unbundled basis which has been installed and maintained at the premises of a second Party (the "Housing Party"). For purposes of Collocation, the "premises" of a Housing Party is any BST central office, serving wire center and tandem office, as well as all buildings or similar structures owned or leased by BST that house BST network facilities, including any BST structures that house BST network facilities on public rights-of-way, such as vaults containing loop concentrators or similar structures, to the extent such collocation is technically feasible and space is available. Collocation may be "physical" or "virtual". In "Physical Collocation," the Collocating Party installs and maintains its own equipment in the Housing Party's premises. In "Virtual Collocation," the Housing Party installs and maintains the Collocating Party's equipment in the Housing Party's premises.
- 1.12 "Commission" means the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC).
- 1.13 "Common Channel Signaling" or "CCS" means the signaling system, developed for use between switching systems with stored-program control, in which all of the signaling information for one or more groups of trunks is transmitted over a dedicated high-speed data link rather than on a per-trunk basis and, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the CCS used by the Parties shall be SS7.
- 1.14 "Cross Connection" is an intra-wire center channel connecting separate pieces of telecommunications equipment including a channel between separate Collocation facilities.
- 1.15 "Customer" means a third-party residence or business that subscribes to Telecommunications Services provided by either of the Parties.
- 1.16 "DID" means direct inward dialing.

MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
Partial Florida Interconnection Agreement  
Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

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- 1.17 "Dialing Parity" is As Defined in the Act. As used in this Agreement, Dialing Parity refers to both Local Dialing Parity and Toll Dialing Parity.
- 1.18 "Digital Loop Carrier" is a subscriber loop carrier system which integrates within the switch at a DS1 level that is twenty-four (24) local Loop transmission paths combined into a 1.544 Mbps digital signal.
- 1.19 "Digital Signal Level" means one of several transmission rates in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.
- 1.20 "Digital Signal Level 0" or "DS0" is the 64 Kbps zero-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.
- 1.21 "Digital Signal Level 1" or "DS1" is the 1.544 Mbps first-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy. In the time-division multiplexing hierarchy of the telephone network, DS1 is the initial level of multiplexing.
- 1.22 "Digital Signal Level 3" or "DS3" is the 44.736 Mbps third-level in the time-division multiplex hierarchy. In the time-division multiplexing hierarchy of the telephone network, DS3 is defined as the third level of multiplexing.
- 1.23 "DSX panel" is a cross-connect bay/panel used for the termination of equipment and facilities operating at digital rates.
- 1.24 "Exchange Access" is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.25 "Electronic File Transfer" is any system/process which utilizes an electronic format and protocol to send/receive data files.
- 1.26 "Exchange Message Record" or "EMR" is the standard used for exchange of telecommunications message information among Local Exchange Carriers for billable, non-billable, sample, settlement and study data. EMR format is contained in BR-010-200-010 *CRIS Exchange Message Record*, a Bellcore document which defines industry standards for exchange message records.
- 1.27 "FCC" is the Federal Communications Commission.
- 1.28 "Fiber-Meet" means an Interconnection architecture method whereby the Parties physically Interconnect their networks via an

**MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**  
**Partial Florida Interconnection Agreement**  
**Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996**

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optical fiber interface (as opposed to an electrical interface) at a mutually agreed upon location.

- 1.29 **"HDSL" or "High-Bit Rate Digital Subscriber Line"** is a transmission technology which transmits up to a DS1-level signal, using any one of the following line codes: 2 Binary / 1 Quaternary ("2B1Q"), Carrierless AM/PM, Discrete Multitone ("DMT"), or 3 Binary / 1 Octet ("3B1O").
- 1.30 **"Information Service Traffic" or "Information Service Call"** is a call which originates on a Telephone Exchange Service and which is addressed to an information service provided over a LEC information services platform (e.g., 976), where the telephone number of the Telephone Exchange Service and the telephone number of the information service are associated with the same LATA.
- 1.31 **"Interconnection"** means the connection of separate pieces of equipment, transmission facilities, etc., within, between or among networks. The architecture of interconnection may include several methods including, but not limited to Collocation arrangements and mid-fiber meet arrangements.
- 1.32 **"Interexchange Carrier" or "IXC"** is a provider of stand-alone interexchange telecommunications services.
- 1.33 **"Interim Telecommunications Number Portability" or "INP"** is the transparent delivery of Local Telephone Number Portability ("LTNP") capabilities, from a customer standpoint in terms of call completion, and from a carrier standpoint in terms of compensation, through the use of existing and available call routing, forwarding, and addressing capabilities.
- 1.34 **"InterLATA"** is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.35 **"Integrated Services Digital Network" or "ISDN"** is a switched network service that provides end-to-end digital connectivity for the simultaneous transmission of voice and data. Basic Rate Interface-ISDN (BRI-ISDN) provides for digital transmission of two 64 Kbps bearer channels and one 16 Kbps data channel (2B + D). Primary Rate Interface-ISDN (PRI-ISDN) provides for digital transmission of twenty-three (23) 64 Kbps bearer channels and one 64 Kbps data channel (23 B + D).



MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
Partial Florida Interconnection Agreement  
Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

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- 1.36 "Line Side" refers to an end office switch connection that has been programmed to treat the circuit as a local line connected to an ordinary telephone station set. Line side connections offer only those transmission and signaling features appropriate for a connection between an end office and an ordinary telephone station set.
- 1.37 "Local Access and Transport Area" or "LATA" is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.38 "Local Dialing Parity" means the ability of Telephone Exchange Service Customers of one LEC to place local calls to Telephone Exchange Service Customers of another LEC, without the use of any access code and with no unreasonable dialing delay. "Toll Dialing Parity" means the ability of Telephone Exchange Service Customers of a LEC to have their toll calls (inter or intraLATA) routed to a toll carrier (intraLATA or interLATA) of their selection without dialing access codes or additional digits and with no unreasonable dialing delay.
- 1.39 "Local Exchange Carrier" or "LEC" means any carrier that provides facility-based Telephone Exchange Services utilizing a switch it owns or substantially controls in conjunction with unique central office codes assigned directly to that carrier; this includes the Parties to this Agreement.
- 1.40 "Local Traffic" refers to calls between two or more Telephone Exchange service users where both Telephone Exchange Services bear NPA-NXX designations associated with the same local calling area of the incumbent LEC or other authorized area (e.g., Extended Area Service Zones in adjacent local calling areas). Local traffic includes the traffic types that have been traditionally referred to as "local calling" and as "extended area service (EAS)." All other traffic that originates and terminates between end users within the LATA is toll traffic. In no event shall the Local Traffic area for purposes of local call termination billing between the parties be decreased.
- 1.41 "Local Loop Transmission" or "Loop" is a network element of a Telephone Exchange Service; for purposes of general illustration, the "Loop" is the transmission facility (or channel or group of channels on such facility) which extends from a Main Distribution Frame, DSX-panel, or functionally comparable piece of equipment in a BST end office wire center, to a demarcation or connector

block in/at a customer's premises. Loops fall into the following categories:

- a) "2-wire Analog Voice Grade Loops" will support analog transmission of 300-3000 Hz, repeat loop start, loop reverse battery, or ground start seizure and disconnect in one direction (toward the end office switch), and repeat ringing in the other direction (toward the end user). This Loop is commonly used for local dial tone service.
- b) "4-wire Analog Voice Grade Loops" which support the transmission of voice grade signals using separate transmit and receive paths and terminates in a 4-wire electrical interface.
- c) "2-wire ISDN Digital Grade Loops" will support digital transmission of two 64 Kbps bearer channels and one 16 Kbps data channel. This is a 2B+D basic rate interface Integrated Services Digital Network (BRI-ISDN) type of loop which will meet national ISDN standards.
- d) "2-Wire ADSL-Compatible Loop" is a transmission path which facilitates the transmission of up to a 6 Mbps digital signal downstream (toward the Customer) and up to a 640 Kbps digital signal upstream (away from the Customer) while simultaneously carrying an analog voice signal. An ADSL-Compatible Loop is provided over a 2-Wire non-loaded twisted copper pair provisioned using revised resistance design guidelines and meeting ANSI Standard T1.413-1995-007R2. An ADSL Loop terminates in a 2-wire electrical interface at the customer premises and at the BST frame.
- e) "2-Wire HDSL-Compatible Loop" is a transmission path which facilitates the transmission of a 768 Kbps digital signal over a 2-Wire non-loaded twisted copper pair meeting the specifications in ANSI T1E1 Committee Technical Report Number 28.
- f) "4-Wire HDSL-Compatible Loop" is a transmission path which facilitates the transmission of a 1.544 Mbps digital signal over two 2-Wire non-loaded twisted copper pairs meeting the specifications in ANSI T1E1 Committee Technical Report Number 28.



MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
Partial Florida Interconnection Agreement  
Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

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- 1.42 "Losses" means any and all losses, costs (including court costs), claims, damages (including fines, penalties, and criminal or civil judgments and settlements), injuries, liabilities and expenses (including attorney fees).
- 1.43 "Main Distribution Frame" or "MDF" is the primary point at which outside plant facilities terminate within a wire center, for interconnection to other telecommunications facilities within the wire center.
- 1.44 "MECAB" refers to the *Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing (MECAB)* document prepared by the Billing Committee of the Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF), which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS). The MECAB document, published by Bellcore as Special Report SR-BDS-000983, contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of an access service provided by two or more LECs, or by one LEC in two or more states within a single LATA.
- 1.45 "MECOD" refers to the *Multiple Exchange Carriers Ordering and Design (MECOD) Guidelines for Access Services - Industry Support Interface*, a document developed by the Ordering/Provisioning Committee under the auspices of the Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF), which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS). The MECOD document, published by Bellcore as Special Report SR STS-002643, establishes methods for processing orders for access service which is to be provided by two or more LECs.
- 1.46 "Meet-Point Billing" or "MPB" refers to the billing arrangement for the interconnection of facilities between two or more LECs for the provision of Exchange Access to an interexchange carrier or other third party.
- 1.47 "Multiple Bill/Single Tariff" as defined by the industry's MECAB document, means the meet-point billing method where each LEC prepares and renders its own meet point bill in accordance with its own tariff for the portion of the jointly-provided Switched Access Service which the LEC provides. Sometimes erroneously referred to as "Multiple Bill/Multiple Tariff" method.
- 1.48 "Network Element" is As Defined in the Act.

**MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**  
**Partial Florida Interconnection Agreement**  
**Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996**

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- 1.49 "North American Numbering Plan" or "NANP" means the numbering plan used in the United States that also serves Canada, Bermuda, Puerto Rico and certain Caribbean Islands. The NANP format is a 10-digit number that consists of a 3-digit NPA code (commonly referred to as the area code), followed by a 3-digit NXX code and 4-digit line number.
- 1.50 "Numbering Plan Area" or "NPA" is also sometimes referred to as an area code. This is the three digit indicator which is defined by the "A", "B", and "C" digits of each 10-digit telephone number within the North American Numbering Plan ("NANP"). Each NPA contains 800 possible NXX Codes. There are two general categories of NPA, "Geographic NPAs" and "Non-Geographic NPAs". A "Geographic NPA" is associated with a defined geographic area, and all telephone numbers bearing such NPA are associated with services provided within that geographic area. A "Non-Geographic NPA", also known as a "Service Access Code" or "SAC Code" is typically associated with a specialized telecommunications service which may be provided across multiple geographic NPA areas; 800, 900, 700, and 888 are examples of Non-Geographic NPAs.
- 1.51 "Number Portability" is as defined in the Act or "LTNP" provides the technical ability to enable an end user customer to utilize its telephone number in conjunction with any Telephone Exchange Service provided by any Local Exchange Carrier operating within the geographic number plan area with which the customer's telephone number(s) is associated, regardless of whether the customer's chosen Local Exchange Carrier is the carrier which originally assigned the number to the customer, without penalty to either the customer or its chosen Local Exchange Carrier.
- 1.52 "NXX", "NXX Code", "Central Office Code" or "CO Code" is the three-digit switch entity indicator which is defined by the "D", "E", and "F" digits of a 10-digit telephone number within the North American Numbering Plan ("NANP"). Each NXX Code contains 10,000 station numbers. Historically, entire NXX code blocks have been assigned to specific individual local exchange end office switches.
- 1.53 "Party" means either BST or MFS, and "Parties" means BST and MFS.

MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
Partial Florida Interconnection Agreement  
Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

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- 1.54 "Permanent Number Portability" or "PNP" means the use of a database solution to provide fully transparent LTNP for all customers and all providers.
- 1.55 "Port Element" or "Port" is a component of a Telephone Exchange Service; for purposes of general illustration, the "Port" serves as the hardware termination for the customer's telephone exchange service on that switch and generates dial tone and provides the customer a pathway into the public switched telecommunications network and provides access to 911, directory assistance and other operator services. Each Port is typically associated with one (or more) telephone number(s) which serves as the customer's network address.
- 1.56 "Rate Center" means the specific geographic point and corresponding geographic area which have been identified by a given LEC as being associated with a particular NPA-NXX code which has been assigned to the LEC for its provision of Telephone Exchange Services. The "rate center point" is the finite geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate, which is used to measure, for the purpose of billing to end users, distance-sensitive traffic to/from Telephone Exchange Services bearing the particular NPA-NXX designation associated with the specific Rate Center. The "rate center area" is the exclusive geographic area which the LEC has identified as the area within which it will provide Telephone Exchange Services bearing the particular NPA-NXX designation associated with the specific Rate Center. The Rate Center point must be located within the Rate Center area.
- 1.57 "Rating Point" or "Routing Point" means a location which a LEC has designated on its own network as the homing (routing) point for traffic inbound to Telephone Exchange Services provided by the LEC which bear a certain NPA-NXX designation. The Rating Point is also used to calculate mileage measurements for the distance-sensitive transport element charges of Switched Exchange Access Services. Pursuant to Bellcore Practice BR 795-100-100, the Rating Point may be an "End Office" location, or a "LEC Consortium Point of Interconnection". Pursuant to that same Bellcore Practice, examples of the latter shall be designated by a common language location identifier (CLLI) code with (x)KD in positions 9, 10, 11, where (x) may be any A-Z or 0-9. The Rating Point/Routing Point must be located within the LATA in which the corresponding NPA-NXX is located. However Rating Point/Routing Point associated with each NPA-NXX need not be

- the same as the corresponding Rate Center Point, nor must it be located within the corresponding Rate Center Area, nor must there be a unique and separate Rating Point corresponding to each unique and separate Rate Center.
- 1.58 "Reciprocal Compensation" is As Described in the Act, and refers to the payment arrangements that recover costs incurred for the transport and termination of Telecommunications originating on one Party's network and terminating on the other Party's network.
- 1.59 "Signal Transfer Point" or "STP" performs a packet switching function that routes signaling messages among network signalling points (including other STPs) in order to set up calls and to query databases for advanced services.
- 1.60 "Switched Access Detail Usage Data" means a category 1101XX record as defined in the EMR Bellcore Practice BR 010-200-010.
- 1.61 "Switched Access Summary Usage Data" means a category 1150XX record as defined in the EMR Bellcore Practice BR 010-200-010.
- 1.62 "Switched Exchange Access Service" means the following types of Exchange Access Services: Feature Group A, Feature Group B, Feature Group D, 800/888 access, and 900 access and their successors or similar Switched Exchange Access services.
- 1.63 "Synchronous Optical Network" or "SONET" is an optical interface standard that allows interworking of transmission products from multiple vendors (i.e. mid-span meets). The base rate is 51.84 Mbps (OC-1/STS-1) and higher rates are direct multiples of the base rate, up to 13.22 Gpbs.
- 1.64 "Technically Feasible Point" is As Described in the Act.
- 1.65 "Telecommunications" is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.66 "Telecommunications Act" refers to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.
- 1.67 "Telecommunications Carrier" is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.68 "Telecommunications Service" is As Defined in the Act.

- 1.69 "Telephone Exchange Service" is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.70 "Telephone Toll Service" is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.71 "Trunk Side" refers to a central office switch connection that is capable of, and has been programmed to treat the circuit as, connecting to another switching entity, for example a private branch exchange ("PBX") or another central office switch. Trunk side connections offer those transmission and signaling features appropriate for the connection of switching entities, and can not be used for the direct connection of ordinary telephone station sets.
- 1.72 "Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request" means the process described on Exhibit 11.0 that prescribes the terms and conditions relating to a Party's request that the other Party provide an unbundled Element or other service, function or product not otherwise provided by the terms of this Agreement.
- 1.73 "Wire Center" means a building or space within a building which serves as an aggregation point on a given carrier's network, where transmission facilities and circuits are connected or switched.

## 2.0 INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION

All references to Sections and Exhibits shall be deemed to be references to Sections of, and Exhibits to, this Agreement unless the context shall otherwise require. The headings of the Sections and the terms defined in Exhibit 1.0 are inserted for convenience of reference only and are not intended to be a part of or to affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement. Unless the context shall otherwise require, any reference to any agreement, other instrument (including BST or other third party offerings, guides or practices), statute, regulation, rule or tariff is to such agreement, instrument, statute, regulation, rule or tariff as amended and supplemented from time to time (and, in the case of a statute, regulation, rule or tariff, to any successor provision).

## 3.0 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND INTERCONNECTION ACTIVATION DATES

Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Interconnection of the Parties' facilities and equipment pursuant to Sections 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 18.0, shall be established on or before the corresponding "Interconnection Activation Date" shown for each LATA on Exhibit 2.0.



Exhibit 2.0 may be revised and supplemented from time to time upon the mutual agreement of the Parties to reflect the Interconnection of additional LATAs pursuant to Section 4.5 by attaching one or more supplementary schedules to such schedule.

**4.0 NETWORK INTERCONNECTION ARCHITECTURE PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(c)(2)**

**4.1 Scope**

Section 4.0 describes the physical architecture for interconnection of the Parties' facilities and equipment for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic pursuant to Section 251(c)(2) of the Act. Sections 5.0 and 6.0 prescribe the specific trunk groups (and traffic routing parameters) which will be configured over the physical connections described in this Section 4.0 related to the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic, respectively. Other trunk groups, as described in this Agreement, may be configured using this architecture. Initially, in the Miami and Orlando LATAs, MFS and BST will use a Physical Architecture as described in Section 4.2 and Exhibits 5.0a and 5.0b, and upon mutual agreement will transition to a SONET Physical Architecture as described in Section 4.3.

**4.1.1** In each LATA identified in Exhibit 2.0 to this Agreement, the correspondingly identified BST and MFS Interconnection Wire Centers (IWC) shall serve as the MFS Interconnection Wire Center ("MIWC") and BST Interconnection Wire Center ("BIWC"), respectively, at which points BST and MFS will initially interconnect their respective networks for inter-operability within that LATA.

**4.1.2** MFS and BST shall provision trunk circuits to one another for interconnection at the MIWC and BIWC pursuant to Sections 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 18.0 of this Agreement. MFS shall interconnect to the BST 911 tandem either via its own facilities or any certificated carriers' facilities. BST shall initially interconnect to logically and diversely routed MIWC trunk circuits from BST's BIWCs to MFS' MIWC, pursuant to Sections 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, and 7.0 of this Agreement. The interconnection of these trunks shall

be at the BST BIWC in each LATA as identified on Exhibit 2.0. The agreed Physical Architecture that will be used is described within this section and depicted in Exhibit 5.0.

#### **4.2 Initial Physical Architecture**

- 4.2.1** MFS shall be responsible for maintaining sufficient transmission facilities to interconnect to trunk circuits provided by BST at each BIWC. BST shall be responsible for maintaining sufficient transmission facilities to interconnect to trunk circuits provided by MFS at each MIWC. The initial physical architecture will be electrical DS3 or DS1 (or multiples hereof). The architecture is depicted and described in Exhibits 5.0a and 5.0b.
- 4.2.2** The physical architecture shall occur over Collocation and/or leased facilities, including but not limited to a BST SONET Smartring Node at either Party's premises in accordance with Section 12.0, or any other arrangement to which the Parties may mutually agree.
- 4.2.3** Specific trunk groups (and traffic routing parameters) will be configured over the physical architecture for transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and for transmission and routing of Exchange Access traffic pursuant to Sections 5.0 and 6.0, respectively.
- 4.2.4** Upon mutual agreement, at anytime during the term of this Agreement, the Parties may transition to a SONET transmission system, or any other mutually agreed network interconnection architecture, for the applicable LATA.

#### **4.3 SONET Physical Architecture**

Upon mutual agreement, MFS and BST shall jointly engineer and operate a single Synchronous Optical Network ("SONET") transmission system, or any other comparable arrangement by which they shall interconnect their networks for the transmission and routing of Telephone Exchange Service traffic and Exchange Access traffic pursuant to Section 251(c)(2) of the Act. The Parties shall each designate a single BIWC/MIWC location where

each party has fiber optic cable connectivity. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, this SONET transmission system shall be configured as illustrated in Exhibit 6.0 and engineered, installed, and maintained as described in this Section 4.0 and in the Joint Grooming Plan (as defined in Section 8.0).

- 4.3.1** The Parties shall jointly determine and agree upon the specific Optical Line Terminating Multiplexor ("OLTM") equipment to be utilized at each end of the SONET transmission system. If the Parties cannot agree on the OLTM, the following decision criteria shall apply to the selection of the OLTM:
- a) First, the type of OLTM equipment utilized by both Parties within the LATA. Where more than one type of OLTM equipment is used in common by the Parties within the LATA, the Parties shall choose from among the common types of OLTM equipment according to the method described in subsection c) below;
  - b) Second, the type of OLTM equipment utilized by both Parties anywhere outside the LATA. Where more than one type of OLTM equipment is used in common by the Parties outside the LATA, the Parties shall choose from among the common types of OLTM equipment according to the method described in subsection c) below; and
  - c) Third, the Party first selecting the OLTM equipment shall be determined by lot and the choice to select such OLTM equipment shall thereafter alternate between the Parties.
- 4.3.2** BST shall, wholly at its own expense, procure, install and maintain the agreed upon OLTM equipment in the BST Interconnection Wire Center ("BIWC") identified for each LATA set forth in "Exhibit 2.0" in capacity sufficient to provision and maintain all logical trunk groups prescribed by Sections 5.0 and 6.0.
- 4.3.3** MFS shall, wholly at its own expense, procure, install and maintain the agreed upon OLTM equipment in the MFS Interconnection Wire Center ("MIWC") identified for that LATA in "Exhibit 2.0" in capacity sufficient to



provision and maintain all logical trunk groups prescribed by Sections 5.0 and 6.0.

- 4.3.4 BST shall designate a manhole or other suitable entry-way immediately outside the BIWC as a Fiber-Meet entry point, and shall make all necessary preparations to receive, and to allow and enable MFS to deliver, fiber optic facilities into that manhole with sufficient spare length to reach the OLTM equipment in the BIWC. MFS shall deliver and maintain such strands wholly at its own expense.
- 4.3.5 MFS shall designate a manhole or other suitable entry-way immediately outside the MIWC as a Fiber-Meet entry point, and shall make all necessary preparations to receive, and to allow and enable BST to deliver, fiber optic facilities into that manhole with sufficient spare length to reach the OLTM equipment in the MIWC. BST shall deliver and maintain such strands wholly at its own expense.
- 4.3.6 MFS shall pull the fiber optic strands from the MFS-designated manhole/entry-way into the MIWC and through appropriate internal conduits MFS utilizes for fiber optic facilities and shall connect the BST strands to the OLTM equipment MFS has installed in the MIWC.
- 4.3.7 BST shall pull the fiber optic strands from the BST-designated manhole/entry-way into the BIWC and through appropriate internal conduits BST utilizes for fiber optic facilities and shall connect the MFS strands to the OLTM equipment BST has installed in the BIWC.
- 4.3.8 Each Party shall use its best efforts to ensure that fiber received from the other Party will enter the Party's Wire Center through a point separate from that which the Party's own fiber exited.
- 4.3.9 The Parties shall jointly coordinate and undertake maintenance of the SONET transmission system. Each Party shall be responsible for maintaining the components of the SONET transmission system as illustrated on Exhibit 6.0.

#### 4.4 Technical Specifications

4.4.1 MFS and BST shall work cooperatively to install and maintain a reliable network. MFS and BST shall exchange appropriate information (e.g., maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the Government and such other information as the Parties shall mutually agree) to achieve this desired reliability.

4.4.2 MFS and BST shall work cooperatively to apply sound network management principles by invoking network management controls to alleviate or to prevent congestion.

#### 4.5 Interconnection In Additional LATAs

4.5.1 If MFS determines to offer Telephone Exchange Services in any other LATA in which BST also offers Telephone Exchange Services, MFS shall provide written notice to BST of the need to establish Interconnection in such LATA pursuant to this Agreement.

4.5.2 The notice provided in Section 4.5.1 shall include (i) the initial Routing Point MFS has designated in the new LATA; (ii) MFS' requested Interconnection Activation Date; and (iii) a non-binding forecast of MFS' trunking requirements.

4.5.3 The Parties shall mutually agree to designate single MFS and BST Wire Centers to facilitate efficient and robust network

4.5.4 Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the Interconnection Activation Date in each new LATA shall be the earlier of (i) the date mutually agreed by the Parties and (ii) the date that is one-hundred twenty(120) days after the date on which MFS delivered notice to BST pursuant to Section 4.5.1. Within ten (10) business days of BST's receipt of MFS' notice, BST and MFS shall confirm the BIWC, the MIWC and the Interconnection Activation Date for the new LATA by attaching a supplementary schedule to Exhibit 2.0.

**5.0 TRANSMISSION AND ROUTING OF TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICE TRAFFIC PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(c)(2)**

**5.1 Scope**

Section 5.0 prescribes parameters for trunk groups (the "Local/IntraLATA Trunks") to be effected over the interconnections specified in Section 4.0 for the transmission and routing of Local Traffic and IntraLATA Toll Traffic between the Parties' respective Telephone Exchange Service Customers and where such traffic is not presubscribed for carriage by a third-party carrier.

**5.2 Trunk Connectivity**

The Parties shall reciprocally terminate Local/intraLATA Traffic and Information Services Traffic, originating on each other's networks. The Parties shall jointly engineer and configure Local/IntraLATA Trunks over the physical interconnection arrangements as follows:

**5.2.1** BST shall make available to MFS at the BIWC, local/intraLATA trunk connections over which MFS may terminate traffic as described herein. These trunk connections shall be subsequently referred to as "BIWC trunks."

**5.2.2** MFS shall make available to BST at the MIWC, local/intraLATA trunk connections over which BST may terminate traffic as described herein. These trunk connections shall be subsequently referred to as "MIWC trunks".

**5.2.3** BIWC and MIWC trunk connections shall be made at a DS-1 or multiple DS-1 level, including SONET. The ordering of the trunks associated with these trunking arrangements will be via industry accepted format/specifications.

**5.2.4** Initial BIWC trunks will be configured in a manner as depicted in Exhibit 5.0. MFS shall deliver all end user to end user local and intraLATA traffic within the LATA to each BST BIWC identified in Exhibit 2.0. (MFS understands and agrees that BST cannot guarantee a P.01 level grade of service for local and

intraLATA traffic that is routed through two access tandems.) MFS agrees to terminate local end user to end user traffic directly to additional BST Access Tandems in the LATA once MFS' terminating end user to end user local traffic volumes exceed 150,000 monthly minutes of use consistently to those access tandems. The 150,000 monthly minutes of use provision does not apply for Miami.

**5.2.5** Initial MIWC trunks will be configured in a manner as depicted in Exhibit 5.0. BST shall deliver all end user to end user local and intraLATA traffic within the LATA to each MFS MIWC identified in Exhibit 2.0.

**5.2.6** The Parties shall establish special BIWC and MIWC trunk groups as needed to allow for ISDN interoperability utilizing the B8ZS ESF protocol for 64 Kbps clear channel transmission.

**5.3 Use of 1-Way and 2-Way Trunks**

Initially, the Parties will configure all trunk groups as one-way trunks. The Parties will work cooperatively to evaluate the appropriateness of two-way trunk groups, and upon mutual agreement may transition trunk groups to two-way trunk groups.

**5.4 Signaling**

**5.4.1** The Parties will provide Common Channel Signaling (CCS) to one another, where and as available, in conjunction with all BIWC and MIWC trunk groups. The Parties will cooperate on the exchange of Transactional Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) messages to facilitate full inter-operability of CCS-based features between their respective networks, including all CLASS features and functions, to the extent each carrier offers such features and functions to its own end users. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided, including calling party number (CPN), originating line information (OLI) calling party category, charge number, etc. The Parties will work cooperatively to provide calling party name delivery service to each other. All privacy indicators will be honored. Network signaling information such as Carrier Identification Parameter (CCS platform) and

CIC/OZZ information (non-CCS environment) will be provided wherever such information is needed for call routing or billing. For traffic for which CCS is not available, in-band multi-frequency (MF), wink start, E&M channel-associated signaling with ANI will be forwarded.

**5.4.2** The Parties shall establish company-wide CCS interconnections STP-to-STP. Such interconnections shall be made at the MIWC and BIWC, and other points, as necessary and as jointly agreed to by the parties. During the term of this Agreement neither party shall charge the other Party additional usage-sensitive rates for SS7 queries made for Local Traffic.

**5.5** Reserved

**5.6** Grades of Service

The Parties shall initially engineer and shall jointly monitor and enhance all trunk groups consistent with the Joint Grooming Plan.

**5.7** Measurement and Billing

**5.7.1** At such time as that both parties' systems are capable of utilizing Calling Party Number (CPN) for billing purposes, they will work cooperatively to transition to a billing arrangement which is based upon CPN.

**5.7.2** Measurement of billing minutes of use for traffic exchanged pursuant to this Section 5.0 shall be in actual conversation seconds. The total conversation seconds per chargeable traffic type over each individual trunk group will be totaled for the entire monthly bill-round and then rounded to the next whole minute.

**5.7.3** FGD charges for intraLATA traffic carried together with Local Traffic over a combined trunk group shall be calculated as follows:

- a) FGD charges for intraLATA traffic shall be applied as if the BIWC is the serving wire center for the FGD service.

- b) IntraLATA traffic which would otherwise be subject to originating FGD charges will be rated and billed according to procedures which otherwise apply for the rating and billing of originating FGD traffic.
- c) The percentage of local usage (PLU) factor should be calculated by dividing the Local Traffic by the total Local Traffic and intraLATA intrastate traffic (the sum of the Local Traffic percentage and the intraLATA intrastate percentage should equal 100%). The reporting of the PLU factor should follow the same guidelines as defined for PIUs.

The Local Traffic percentage will be applied to the terminating intrastate traffic to determine the terminating Local Traffic usage.

#### **5.8 Reciprocal Compensation Arrangements**

The Parties shall compensate one another for the provision of traffic exchange arrangements pursuant to this Section 5.0, only as set forth herein.

- 5.8.1 Reciprocal Compensation applies for transport and termination of Local Traffic (including EAS and EAS-like traffic) billable by BST or MFS which a Telephone Exchange Service Customer originates on BST's or MFS' network for termination on the other Party's network.
- 5.8.2 The Parties shall compensate each other for transport and termination of Local Traffic (local call termination) at a single identical, reciprocal, and equal rate provided in Exhibit 7.0.
- 5.8.3 The Reciprocal Compensation arrangements set forth in this Agreement are not applicable to Switched Exchange Access Service. All Switched Exchange Access Service and all IntraLATA Toll Traffic shall continue to be governed by the terms and conditions of the applicable federal and state tariffs.



- 5.8.4 Each Party shall charge the other Party its effective tariffed intraLATA FGD switched access rates for the transport and termination of all IntraLATA Toll Traffic which includes intraLATA 800 service.
- 5.8.5 Compensation for transport and termination of all traffic which has been subject to performance of INP by one Party for the other Party pursuant to Section 13.2 shall be compensated per the following:
- a) Compensation for INP calls between MFS and BST for all traffic, including forwarded interexchange carrier calls, will be compensated at reciprocal compensation charges (Section 5.8.2) and Switched Access charges (pursuant to each carrier's respective access tariffs, Sections 5.8.3 and 5.8.4), for local, including EAS traffic, intraLATA switched access, interLATA interstate and intrastate traffic, respectively, as if the caller had directly dialed the new telephone number.
  - b) In INP arrangements, in order to effect this pass-through of reciprocal compensation and Switched Access charges to which each carrier would otherwise have been entitled if the ported traffic had been directly dialed to the new number, each carrier will be required to classify and include ported traffic in its quarterly percentage of use reports as Local, intrastate intraLATA, intrastate interLATA, or interstate interLATA. The quarterly filed percentage of use reports will be applied on a monthly basis against the total minutes billed for the month to approximate INP billed revenues.

6.0 TRANSMISSION AND ROUTING OF EXCHANGE ACCESS TRAFFIC  
PURSUANT TO 251(c)(2).

6.1 Scope

Section 6.0 prescribes parameters for certain trunk groups ("IXC Exchange/3rd Party Trunks") to be established over the Interconnections specified in Section 4.0 for the transmission and

routing of Exchange Access traffic between MFS Telephone Exchange Service Customers and Interexchange Carriers.

**6.2 Trunk Group Architecture and Traffic Routing**

- 6.2.1** The Parties shall jointly establish IXC Exchange/3rd Party Trunks by which they will jointly provide tandem-transported Switched Exchange Access services to Interexchange Carriers to enable such Interexchange Carriers to originate and terminate traffic from/to MFS' Customers. The interconnection of these trunks shall be at the BST BIWC in each LATA as identified on Exhibit 2.0.
- 6.2.2** IXC Exchange/3rd Party Trunks shall be used for the transmission and routing of Exchange Access to allow MFS' Customers to connect to or be connected to the interexchange trunks of any Interexchange Carrier which is connected to an BST Access Tandem, and in accordance with Exhibits 5.0a and 5.0b.
- 6.2.3** The IXC Exchange/3rd Party Trunks shall be two-way trunks connecting an End Office Switch MFS utilizes to provide Telephone Exchange Service and Switched Exchange Access in a given LATA to an Access Tandem Switch BST utilizes to provide Exchange Access in such LATA.
- 6.2.4** The Parties shall jointly determine which BST access Tandem(s) will be sub-tended by each MFS End Office Switch. Except as otherwise agreed by the Parties, BST shall allow each MFS End Office Switch to sub-tend the access Tandem nearest to the Routing Point associated with the NXX codes assigned to that End Office Switch and shall not require that a single MFS End Office Switch sub-tend multiple access Tandems, even in those cases where such End Office Switch serves multiple Rate Centers.
- 6.2.5** BST shall, except in instances of capacity limitations, permit and enable MFS to sub-tend the BST access tandem switch(es) nearest to the MFS Rating Point(s) associated with the NPA-NXX(s) to/from which the Switched Access Services are homed. In instances of capacity limitation at a given access tandem switch,



MFS shall be allowed to sub-tend the next-nearest BST access tandem switch in which sufficient capacity is available. The MPB percentages for each new Rating Point/access tandem pair shall be calculated according to one of the three methods identified in the MECAB document.

MFS shall inform BST of the tandem(s) it wishes to sub-tend in the new LATA and the parties shall jointly determine the calculation of the billing percentages which should apply for such arrangement. MFS will deliver notice to BST of all new routes. BST and MFS shall confirm each new route and associated billing percentages in a Letter of Understanding, and shall file these percentages in NECA Tariff No. 4, within a reasonable time following receipt of MFS' notice by BST.

### **6.3 Meet-Point Billing Arrangements**

Meet-Point Billing arrangements between the Parties for jointly provided Switched Exchange Access Services on IXC Exchange/3rd Party Trunks will be governed by the terms and conditions of this Section 6.0 and Exhibits 3.0 and 4.0 for Switched Access Meet Point Billing and shall be billed at each Party's applicable switched access rates.

**6.3.1** MFS and BST will establish meet-point billing ("MPB") arrangements in order to provide a common transport option to Switched Access Services customers<sup>1</sup> via an BST access tandem switch, in accordance with the Meet-Point Billing guidelines adopted by and contained in the Ordering and Billing Forum's MECAB and MECOD documents, except as modified herein, and in Exhibits 3.0 and 4.0. The arrangements described in this Section 6.0 and in Exhibits 3.0 and 4.0 are intended to be used to provide Switched Access Service that originates and/or terminates on an MFS-provided Telephone Exchange Service where the transport component of the Switched Access Service is routed through a BST-provided tandem switch.

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<sup>1</sup> Including any future BST separate interexchange subsidiaries.

**MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**  
**Partial Florida Interconnection Agreement**  
**Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996**

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- 6.3.2** Common channel signaling ("CCS") shall be utilized in conjunction with meet-point billing arrangements to the extent such signaling is resident in the BST access tandem switch.
- 6.3.3** MFS and BST will use their best reasonable efforts, individually and collectively, to maintain provisions within the National Exchange Carrier Association ("NECA") Tariff No. 4, or any successor tariff, sufficient to reflect the MPB arrangements between the parties, including Exhibit 4.0.
- 6.3.4** Each party shall implement the "Multiple Bill/SingleTariff" option in order to bill an IXC for the portion of the jointly provided telecommunications service provided by that Party. For all traffic carried over the MPB arrangement, each party shall only bill the rate elements identified for it in Exhibit 4.0. For transport elements subject to billing percentages, each Party shall utilize the billing percentages as filed in NECA Tariff No. 4, or any successor tariff. The MPB percentages for each route shall be calculated according to one of the three methods identified in the MECAB document, and the parties agree to work cooperatively to establish percentages as necessary. The actual rate values for each element shall be the rates contained in that Party's own effective Federal and State access tariffs. The Parties shall utilize a monthly billing period for meet-point billing.
- 6.3.5** BST shall provide to MFS the billing name, billing address, and CIC of the IXCs in order to comply with the MPB Notification process as outlined in the MECAB document and pursuant to OBF guidelines.
- 6.3.6** Access usage data will be exchanged between the parties in a manner acceptable to both parties. If access usage data is not processed and delivered by either Party as agreed and in turn such other Party is unable to bill the IXC, the delivering Party will be held liable for the amount of lost billing.
- 6.3.7** The parties agree that further discussion is required regarding a "Single Bill" option for the delivery of a single consolidated billing statement each month.

- 6.3.8** In the event errors are discovered by MFS, the IXC or BST, both BST and MFS agree to provide the other Party with notification of any discovered errors within two (2) business days of the discovery. In the event of a loss of data, both Parties shall cooperate to reconstruct the lost data and if such reconstruction is not possible, shall accept a reasonable estimate of the lost data based upon three (3) to twelve (12) months of prior usage data. Errors that are discovered by the IXC or billing disputes that originate from the IXC will be handled by the parties in accordance with the MECAB document.
- 6.3.9** Either Party may request a review or audit of the various components of access recording. Such review or audit shall be conducted subject to confidentiality protection.
- 6.3.10** The Parties shall not charge one another for the services rendered or information provided pursuant to this Section 6.0 of this Agreement.
- 6.3.11** MPB will apply for all traffic bearing the 800, 888, or any other non-geographic NPA which may be likewise designated for such traffic in the future, where the responsible party is an IXC. In those situations where the responsible party for such traffic is a LEC, full switched access rates will apply.

**7.0 TRANSPORT AND TERMINATION OF OTHER TYPES OF TRAFFIC**

**7.1 Information Services**

**MFS and BST do not agree on the rates, terms, and conditions for Information Services, therefore this issue will be subject to further negotiations, FCC and/or Commission Proceedings/Orders and/or Arbitration.**

**7.2 BLV/BLVI Traffic**

For BLV/BLVI Traffic, each Party's operator bureau shall accept BLV/BLVI inquiries from the operator bureau of the other Party, in order to allow transparent provision of Busy Line Verification ("BLV") and Busy Line Verification and Interrupt ("BLVI") services between their networks. MFS, at its option, shall route BLV and

BLVI inquiries to BST's operator bureau over the appropriate BIWC trunks within the LATA. BST, at its option, shall route BLV and BLVI inquiries to MFS' operator bureau over the appropriate MIWC trunks within the LATA. Each Party shall compensate the other Party for BLV and BLVI inquiries according to the effective BST rates identified and attached in Exhibit 8.0, and will be reflect future tariff changes.

**7.3 Transit Function**

**7.3.1** BST agrees that it shall provide a Transit Function to MFS on the terms and conditions set forth in this Section 7.3 and at a rate set forth in Exhibit 9.0.

**7.3.2** "Transit Function" means the delivery of certain traffic between MFS and a third party LEC by BST over the IXC Exchange/3rd Party Trunks. The following traffic types will be delivered: (i) Local Traffic originated from MFS to such third party LEC, (ii) Local Traffic originated from such third party LEC and terminated to MFS, and (iii) may include Wireless traffic, if any, that is carried over the IXC Exchange/3rd Party Trunks.

**7.3.3** While the Parties agree that it is the responsibility of each third party LEC to enter into arrangements to deliver Local Traffic to MFS, they acknowledge that such arrangements are not currently in place. BST will, unless notified to the contrary, pass 3rd party LEC traffic to/from MFS. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit either Party from establishing other financial arrangements for this transit traffic with the other LECs from/to whose network such traffic ultimately originates or terminates. It is acknowledged by both parties that the terminating carrier should receive compensation with either the intermediary carrier providing a billing clearinghouse function for these calls or the originating and terminating carrier compensating each other directly.

**7.3.4** BST expects that all networks involved in transit traffic will deliver each call to each involved network with CCS and the appropriate Transactional Capabilities Application Part ("TCAP") message to facilitate full interoperability and billing functions. In all cases, MFS is responsible to follow the Exchange Message Record

("EMR") standard and exchange records with both BST and the terminating LEC to facilitate the billing process to the originating network.

7.3.5 For purposes of this Section 7.3, BST agrees that it shall make available to MFS, at MFS' sole option, any transiting arrangement BST offers to another LEC at the same rates, terms and conditions provided to such other LEC.

7.3.6 Where MFS routes Local Traffic, BLV/BLVI Traffic, or Information Services Traffic to other LECs via the BiWC trunks (or a subsequently consolidated two-way trunk group pursuant to the Joint Grooming Plan prescribed in Section 8.0), MFS shall pay BST only a single per minute of use transit charge as identified in Exhibit 10.0. Where BST routes Local Traffic, BLV/BLVI Traffic, or Information Services Traffic originated from another LEC to MFS via the MIWC trunks (or a subsequently consolidated two-way trunk group pursuant to the Joint Grooming Plan prescribed in Section 8.0), neither party shall apply a transiting charge to the other.

## 8.0 JOINT GROOMING PLAN AND INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, TESTING AND REPAIR

### 8.1 Joint Grooming Plan

MFS and BST will jointly develop and agree on a Joint Interconnection Grooming Plan which shall define and detail, inter alia, prescribing standards to ensure that BIWC and MIWC trunk groups experience a consistent P.01 or better grade of service, and other appropriate, relevant industry-accepted quality, reliability and availability standards. Such plan shall also include mutually-agreed upon default standards for the configuration of segregated BIWC trunk groups and segregated MIWC trunk groups. In addition, the plan shall also include standards and procedures for notification of trunk disconnections and discoveries of trunk disconnections. The plan shall include definitive parameters which define under what circumstances the parties may transition trunk groups to two-way trunk groups. The Parties will use their best collective good faith efforts to complete and agree on such plan within 90 days following execution of this Agreement. Furthermore, the plan should include



maintenance of the SONET transmission system, disaster recovery provision escalations, and such other matters as the Parties may agree.

**8.2 Installation, Maintenance, Testing, and Repair**

Unless otherwise identified within the Agreement or mutually agreed, BST's standard intervals for Feature Group D Exchange Access Services will be used for interconnection. MFS shall meet the same intervals for comparable installations, maintenance, joint testing, and repair of its facilities and services associated with or used in conjunction with Interconnection or shall notify BST of its inability to do so and will negotiate such intervals in good faith.

**9.0 UNBUNDLED ACCESS -- SECTIONS 251(c)(3) and 271**

**9.1 Local Loop Transmission Types**

Subject to Section 9.4, BST shall allow MFS to access the following Loop types (in addition to those Loops available under applicable tariffs) unbundled from local switching and local transport in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this Section 9.0:

- 2-Wire Analog Loops,
- 4-Wire Analog Loops,
- 2-Wire ISDN Digital Grade Links or BRI ISDN,
- 2-Wire ADSL-Compatible Loops,
- 2-Wire HDSL-Compatible Loops, and
- 4-Wire HDSL-Compatible Loops.

Loops will be offered hereunder on the terms and conditions specified herein and on such other terms in applicable tariffs that are not inconsistent with the terms and conditions set forth herein and the principles enumerated in Commission and/or FCC rules or orders.

**9.2 Port Types**

BST shall make available to MFS unbundled Ports in accordance with the terms and conditions of and at the rates specified in applicable tariffs consistent with Commission and/or FCC pricing principles. The Parties agree to attempt to negotiate rates for unbundled switching that will enable MFS to provide a loop to be cross-connected to a BST switch.

**9.3 Private Lines, Interim Unbundled Loops, and Special Access**

BST shall make available to MFS private lines, interim unbundled loops, and special access services in accordance with the terms and conditions of and at the rates specified in applicable tariffs and/or orders consistent with Commission and/or FCC pricing principles.

**9.4 Limitations on Unbundled Access**

**9.4.1** MFS shall access BST's unbundled Network Elements via Collocation in accordance with Section 12 at a BST premises where those elements exist and each Loop or Port shall be delivered to MFS' Collocation by means of a Cross Connection, which in the case of two or four-wire Loops, will be set, in the interim, via a special assembly. The yet to be determined interim cross connection rate will be set forth in Exhibit 10.0. Within sixty (60) days after execution of this Agreement, BST agrees to file a cost study at the Commission consistent with Commission and/or FCC rules. The final price for Cross connection will be determined either through negotiations or by the Commission in a contested proceeding. Moreover, once a final price is ordered by the Commission, the Parties agree to retroactively apply the final rate for Cross connection back to the beginning of the installation/billing period and debit and/or credit each other accordingly. The Parties reserve all rights to argue for different pricing arrangements regarding the appropriate price for Cross connection.

**9.4.2** If MFS orders a Loop type and the distance requested on such Loop exceeds the transmission characteristics as referenced in the corresponding Technical Reference specified below, distance extensions may be required and additional rates and charges may apply and will be developed and reviewed based upon costs

consistent with, and subjected to Commission and/or FCC rules for the pricing of unbundled network elements.

Loop Type	Technical Reference/Limitation
Electronic Key Line	2.5 miles
ISDN	Bellcore TA-NWT-000393
HDSL 2W	T1E1 Technical Report Number 28
HDSL 4W	T1E1 Technical Report Number 28
ADSL 2W	ANSI T1.413-1995 Specification

#### 9.5 Provisioning of Unbundled Loops

The following coordination procedures shall apply for conversions of "live" Telephone Exchange Services to unbundled elements:

- 9.5.1 On each unbundled element order in a wire center, MFS and BST will agree on a cut-over time at least 48 hours before that cutover time. The cutover time will be defined as a 30 minute window within which both the MFS and BST personnel will make telephone contact to complete the cutover.
- 9.5.2 Within the appointed 30 minute cutover time, the MFS person will call the BST person designated to perform cross-connection work and when the BST person is reached in that interval such work will be promptly performed.
- 9.5.3 If the MFS person fails to call or is not ready within the appointed interval and if MFS had not called to reschedule the work at least 2 hours prior to the start of the interval, BST and MFS will reschedule the work order and MFS will pay the non-recurring charge for the unbundled elements scheduled for the missed appointment. In addition, non-recurring charges for the rescheduled appointment will apply.
- 9.5.4 If the BST person is not available or not ready at any time during the 30 minute interval, MFS and BST will



reschedule and BST will waive the non-recurring charge for the unbundled elements scheduled for that interval.

**9.5.5** The standard time expected from disconnection of a live Telephone Exchange Service to the connection of the unbundled element to the MFS Collocation arrangement is 5 to 15 minutes.

**9.5.6** If MFS has ordered INP as part of an unbundled Loop installation, BST will coordinate implementation of INP with the Loop installation in a time period acceptable to the customer.

**9.5.7** The parties will work cooperatively to define additional, more detailed parameters and processes as required to facilitate the coordination procedures defined in this Section 9.0, including out-of-service intervals.

**9.6 Pricing Provisions**

**9.6.1** MFS and BST do not agree on the rates for unbundled loops, therefore this issue will be subject to further negotiations, FCC and/or Commission Proceedings/Orders and/or Arbitration.

**9.7 Request for Further Unbundled Access Elements**

**9.7.1** BST shall, upon request of MFS, and to the extent technically feasible, provide to MFS access to its unbundled elements for the provision of MFS' communications service. Any request by MFS for access to an BST unbundled element that is not already available shall be treated as a unbundled element Bona Fide Request. MFS shall provide BST access to its unbundled elements as mutually agreed by the Parties or as required by the Commission or FCC. The parties shall adhere to the process as agreed and described in Exhibit 11.0.

**9.7.2** An Unbundled Element obtained by one Party from the other Party under this Section 9.0 may be used in combination with the facilities of the requesting Party only to provide a Telecommunications Service, including obtaining billing and collection, transmission, and routing of the Telecommunications Service.

9.73 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section 9.0, a Party shall not be required to provide a proprietary Unbundled Element to the other Party under this Section 9.0 except as required by the Commission or FCC.

**9.8 Unbundled Element Interconnection and Maintenance**

9.8.1 Interconnection shall be achieved via Collocation arrangements MFS shall maintain at the BST premises at which the unbundled elements are resident.

9.8.2 MFS and BST shall work cooperatively so each Loop may be delivered to the MFS Collocation arrangement over an individual 2/4-wire hand-off, in multiples of 24 over a digital DS-1 hand-off in any combination or order MFS may specify, or through other technically feasible and economically comparable hand-off arrangements requested by MFS (e.g., SONET STS-1 hand-off).

9.8.3 All switched and transport-based features, functions, service attributes, grades-of-service, install, maintenance and repair intervals which apply to services provided to BST end users will apply to like services ordered by MFS.

9.8.4 BST will use its best efforts to bill all unbundled loop facilities purchased by MFS (either directly or by previous assignment by a customer) on a single consolidated statement per LATA.

9.8.5 Where BST utilizes digital loop carrier ("DLC")<sup>2</sup> technology to provision the Loop of bundled Telephone Exchange Service to an end user customer who subsequently determines to assign the Loop to MFS and receive Telephone Exchange Service from MFS via such Loop, BST shall, where technically feasible deliver such Loop to MFS on an unintegrated basis, pursuant to MFS' chosen hand-off architecture, without a degradation of end-user service or feature availability.

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<sup>2</sup> See, Bellcore TR-TSY-000008, *Digital Interface Between the SLC-96 Digital Loop Carrier System and Local Digital Switch* and TR-TSY-000303, *Integrated Digital Loop Carrier (IDLC) Requirements, Objectives, and Interface*.

**9.8.6** BST will permit MFS to physically collocate and, on an interim basis, virtually collocate, digital loop carriers (DLC) and associated equipment at BST premises, including but not limited to, BST Smartring services (nodes) MFS may be leasing from BST, for the purpose of interconnecting to unbundled Loops. This provision is immediately enforceable for virtual collocation upon execution of the Agreement, notwithstanding the lack of an agreement on final rates, terms, and conditions for physical collocation which is subject to the outcome of further negotiations, Commission and/or FCC proceedings and/or arbitration.

**9.8.7** BST and MFS will work cooperatively toward interim and long term arrangements by which MFS may place, verify and receive confirmation on orders for unbundled elements via an industry accepted (e.g. OBF developed) format/specification. In addition, BST shall provide MFS with an appropriate on-line electronic file transfer arrangement by which MFS may issue and track trouble-ticket and repair requests associated with interconnection trunking, unbundled loops, and service provider number portability arrangements.

**9.9 Unbundled Local Transport--Section 271**

BST shall provide MFS with access to unbundled local transport from the trunk side of a wireline local exchange carrier switch unbundled from switching or other services and priced consistent with Section 252 of the "Act" and/or Commission and/or FCC order.

**9.10 Unbundled Switching--Section 271**

BST shall provide MFS with access to local switching unbundled from local transport, local loop transmission, or other services and priced consistent with Section 252 of the "Act" and/or Commission and/or FCC order.

**10.0 RESALE OF BST LOCAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE SERVICES--SECTIONS 251(c)(4) and 251(b)(1)**

**10.1 Availability of Services**

Unless mutually agreed otherwise in a subsequent agreement, BST shall make available to MFS all retail services for resale subject to applicable Federal and/or State Proceedings and/or arbitrations and/or other BST Resale agreements negotiated with other parties and/or Resale tariffs.

**10.2 Resale Agreement Amendment**

MFS and BST agree to execute an amendment to this Agreement consistent with Resale provisions contained in any Commission and/or FCC orders and/or rules. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, the terms, conditions, rates, and clauses contained within the Agreement will also apply to the Resale Amendment to this Agreement.

**10.3 Availability of Wholesale Prices**

All of the BST-provided services available for resale shall be priced at BST retail price levels, less avoided costs. Unless otherwise mutually agreed, the prices charged to MFS for resale will be consistent with Resale provisions contained in any Commission and/or FCC orders and/or rules or tariffs.

**11.0 NOTICE OF CHANGES -- SECTION 251(c)(5).**

If a Party makes a change in its network which it believes will materially affect the inter-operability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide at least ninety (90) days advance written notice of such change to the other Party.

**12.0 COLLOCATION -- SECTION 251(c)(6).**

While the Parties have agreed to the following broad terms of collocation, as defined in sections 12.1 through 12.6, it is acknowledged and agreed that specific tariff or contract rates, terms, and conditions of collocation are not agreed, therefore these more detailed items will be subject to the outcome of applicable Federal and/or State Proceedings and/or Orders and/or arbitration.

**12.1 Physical Collocation**

BST shall provide to MFS Physical Collocation of equipment necessary for Interconnection (pursuant to Section 4.0) or for access to Unbundled Elements (pursuant to Section 9.0), at premises including, but not limited to SONET Smartring locations.

Such physical collocation shall be consistent with Section 251(c)(6) of the Act, and/or Commission and/or FCC rules or orders.

BST shall provide such Collocation for the purpose of Interconnection or access to unbundled Network Elements, except as otherwise mutually agreed to in writing by the Parties or as required by the FCC or the Commission and subject to applicable federal and state tariffs.

**12.2 Physical or Virtual Collocation Option**

Although not required to do so by Section 251(c)(6) of the Act or Commission and FCC rules, by this Agreement, MFS agrees to provide to BST upon BST's Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request, Collocation (at MFS' option either Physical or Virtual) of equipment for purposes of Interconnection (pursuant to Section 4.0) on a non-discriminatory basis and at comparable rates, terms and conditions as MFS may provide to other third parties. MFS shall provide such Collocation subject to applicable tariffs or contracts.

**12.3 Virtual Initially Configured for Physical**

Where MFS is Virtually Collocated on the Effective Date in a premises that was initially prepared for Physical Collocation, MFS may elect to (i) retain its Virtual Collocation in that premises and expand that Virtual Collocation according to current procedures and applicable tariffs, or (ii) revert to Physical Collocation, in which case MFS shall coordinate with BST for rearrangement of its equipment (transmission and DLC) and circuits, for which BST shall impose no conversion charge where the initial physical collocation arrangement was left in place. All applicable Physical Collocation charges shall apply.

**12.4 Virtual Initially Configured for Virtual**

Where MFS is Virtually Collocated in a premises which was initially prepared for Virtual Collocation, MFS may elect to (i) retain its Virtual Collocation in that premises and expand that Virtual Collocation according to current procedures and applicable tariffs, or (ii) unless it is not practical for technical reasons or because of space limitations, convert its Virtual Collocation at such premises in which case MFS shall coordinate the construction and rearrangement with BST of its equipment (DLC



and transmission) and circuits for which MFS shall pay BST at applicable tariff rates. In addition, all applicable Physical Collocation charges shall apply.

#### **12.5 Transport for Collocation**

For both Physical Collocation and Virtual Collocation, the Collocating Party shall provide its own or third-party leased transport facilities and may obtain unbundled network transmission elements and terminate those transport facilities in equipment located in its Collocation space at the Housing Party's premises as described in applicable tariffs or contracts and purchase Cross Connection to services or facilities as described in applicable tariffs or contracts consistent with the Commission and/or FCC orders.

#### **12.6 Cross Connection**

Where one Party collocates at a premises of the other Party, whether an MIWC, BIWC, or other premises, for whatever purpose, the Party operating the premises shall allow the Party co-located at the premises to directly interconnect to any other entity which maintains a Collocation facility at that same premises. The Party operating the premises shall enable such interconnection by effecting a cross connection between those Collocation facilities, as jointly directed by the Party collocated at the wire center and the other collocated entity. For each such cross connection, the Party operating the wire center shall charge the otherwise applicable standard tariff or contract special access cross-connect rate to the collocated Parties.

### **13.0 NUMBER PORTABILITY--SECTION 251(b)(2)**

#### **13.1 Scope**

BST and MFS will provide Local Telephone Number Portability ("LTNP") on a reciprocal basis between their networks to enable each of their end user customers to utilize telephone numbers associated with an Telephone Exchange Service provided by one Party, in conjunction an Telephone Exchange Service provided by the other Party, upon the coordinated or simultaneous termination of the first Telephone Exchange Service and activation of the second Telephone Exchange Service.

#### **13.2 Procedures for Providing Interim Number Portability**



MFS and BST will provide reciprocal LTNP immediately upon execution of this Agreement via Interim Number Portability ("INP") measures. INP shall operate as follows:

- 13.2.1** An end user customer of Party A elects to become an end user customer of Party B. The end user customer elects to utilize the original telephone number(s) corresponding to the Telephone Exchange Service(s) it previously received from Party A, in conjunction with the Telephone Exchange Service(s) it will now receive from Party B. Upon receipt of a service order assigning the number to Party B (assuming party B has on file a letter of authorization from the end user customer), Party A will implement an arrangement whereby all calls to the original telephone number(s) will be forwarded to a new telephone number(s) designated by Party B. Party A will route the forwarded traffic to Party B over the appropriate traffic exchange trunk groups, as if the call had originated on Party A network.
- 13.2.2** Party B will become the customer of record for the original Party A telephone numbers subject to the INP arrangements. Party A will provide Party B a single consolidated master billing statement for the INP capability with the statement being consistent with industry accepted guidelines. The billing of all collect, calling card, and 3rd-number billed calls associated with those numbers, can be processed in one of two ways: 1) on the single consolidated master billing statement by sub account detail, by retained number and delivered via electronic data transfer, or monthly magnetic tape or 2) via an optional daily usage file. The Parties agree to work cooperatively to develop a process for transmitting usage through CMDS.
- 13.2.3** Party A will update its Line Information Database ("LIDB") listings for retained numbers, and cancel calling cards associated with those forwarded numbers, as directed by Party B. In addition, Party A will update the retained numbers in the LIDB with the screening options provided by Party B. The Parties agree that BST requires a signed LIDB storage agreement to store ported numbers in its LIDB; the

Parties agree to work cooperatively to negotiate such an agreement in good faith.

**13.2.4** Within two (2) business days of receiving notification from the end user customer, Party B shall notify Party A of the customer's termination of service with Party B, and shall further notify Party A as to that customer's instructions regarding its telephone number(s). Party A will reinstate service to that customer, cancel the INP arrangements for that customer's telephone number(s), or redirect the INP arrangement to another INP-participating-LEC, pursuant to the customer's instructions at that time.

**13.3 Migration to Permanent Number Portability**

BST and MFS will migrate from INP to a database-driven Permanent Number Portability ("PNP") arrangement as soon as practically possible, without interruption of service to their respective customers.

**13.4 Coordination of Number Portability with Unbundled Elements**

Under either an INP or PNP arrangement, MFS and BST will implement a process to coordinate LTNP cut-overs with unbundled Loop conversions (as described in Section 9.0 of this Agreement).

**13.5 Cost Recovery of Number Portability**

MFS and BST shall provide INP arrangements to one another at cost-recovery levels as identified in the attached Exhibit 12.0. No usage fees will be charged for this capability. It is acknowledged and agreed, that the cost-recovery mechanism contained in this Section 13.0 and Exhibit 12.0, will be modified to be consistent with the FCC's Report and Order in Common Carrier Docket No. 95-116 - Rulemaking 8535, regarding number portability, once the Commission has implemented the order.

**13.6 Letters of Authority**

MFS and BST will be required to file blanket letters of authority with each other certifying that each party has appropriate authorizations on file for each customer on whose behalf they acted as an agent for purposes of INP. In cases of agency

authorization disputes, upon request, either party shall provide the other party proof of authorization.

**13.7 Ordering Formats/Specifications**

The ordering of INP arrangements and the exchange of screening information will utilize industry accepted format/specifications, or as otherwise mutually agreed by the Parties.

**13.8 Procedures for Providing INP Through NXX Migration**

Where either Party has activated an entire NXX for a single Customer, or activated a substantial portion of an NXX for a single Customer with the remaining numbers in that NXX either reserved for future use or otherwise unused, if such Customer chooses to receive service from the other Party, the first Party shall cooperate with the second Party to have the entire NXX reassigned in the LERG (and associated industry databases, routing tables, etc.) to an End Office operated by the second Party. Such transfer will be accomplished with appropriate coordination between the Parties and subject to appropriate industry lead-times for movements of NXXs from one switch to another.

**14.0 DIALING AND NUMBERING RESOURCES, RATE CENTERS AND RATING POINTS**

**14.1 Dialing Parity--Section 251(b)(3)**

The Parties shall provide Local Dialing Parity to each other as required under Section 251(b)(3) of the Act.

**14.2 Numbering, Rate Centers, and Rating Points**

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit or otherwise adversely impact in any manner either Party's right to employ or to request and be assigned any NANP number resources including, but not limited to, central office (NXX) codes pursuant to the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines<sup>3</sup>, Commission Rules, FCC Rules, or to establish, by tariff or otherwise, Rate Centers and Rating Points corresponding to such NXX codes.

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<sup>3</sup> Last published by the Industry Numbering Committee ("INC") as INC 95-0407-008, Revision 4/7/95, formerly ICCF 93-0729-010.

- 14.2.1 Each Party agrees to update the LERG with up-to-date listings of its own assigned NPA-NXX codes, along with associated Rating Points and Rate Centers.
- 14.3.1 It shall be the responsibility of each Party to program and update its own switches and network systems to recognize and route traffic to the other Party's assigned NXX codes at all times. Neither Party shall impose any fees or charges whatsoever on the other Party for such activities, except as expressly defined in this Agreement.
- 14.3.2 Until such time as MFS is authorized by the FCC or the Commission to vary its rate centers from BST's rate centers, MFS will deploy a minimum of one NXX per established BST rate center area. If MFS receives permission from the FCC or the Commission to vary its rate centers from BST, MFS and BST will develop a toll default compensation mechanism that appropriately compensates each party for terminating the other party's calls when the jurisdictional call type can not be properly estimated.

**15.0 ACCESS TO RIGHTS-OF-WAY-- SECTION 251(b)(4)**

Each Party shall provide the other Party in accordance with Section 251 of the Act and Commission and/or FCC rules, access to its poles, ducts, rights-of-way and conduits it controls on terms, conditions, and prices comparable to those offered to any other entity pursuant to each Party's applicable tariffs and/or agreements.

**16.0 DATABASE ACCESS--SECTION 271**

In accordance with Section 271 of the Act and Commission and/or FCC rules, BST shall provide MFS with interfaces to access BST's databases and associated signaling necessary for the routing and completion of MFS' traffic. Access to such additional databases and the appropriate interfaces shall be made available to MFS via an Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request.

**17.0 COORDINATED SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS**

**17.1 Intercept and Referral Announcements**

When an end user customer changes from BST to MFS, or from MFS to BST, and does not retain its original telephone number, the Party formerly providing service to the end user will provide a referral announcement on the abandoned telephone number, when requested by either the carrier or customer. This announcement will provide details on the new number to be dialed to reach this customer. BST will provide intercept announcement periods in the same manner as provided for its end users today: three (3) months for residence and one (1) year for business, or until the next directory delivery. In time of severe number shortages, numbers can be removed from intercept and be reused. This will be done in reverse order of aging, that is the number on intercept longest will be the first reused, regardless of whether the end user is a customer of BST or MFS. MFS will provide this arrangement on a reciprocal basis.

#### **17.2 Coordinated Repair Calls**

MFS and BST will employ the following procedures for handling misdirected repair calls:

- 17.2.1** MFS and BST will educate their respective customers as to the correct telephone numbers to call in order to access their respective repair bureaus.
- 17.2.2** To the extent the correct provider can be determined, and upon request by the end user, misdirected repair calls will be immediately referred to the proper provider of local Telephone Exchange Service in a courteous manner, at no charge, and the end user will be provided the correct contact telephone number. In responding to repair calls, neither Party shall make disparaging remarks about the other Party, nor shall they use these repair calls as the basis for internal referrals or to solicit customers to market services, nor shall they initiate any extraneous communications beyond the direct referral to the correct repair telephone number. Either Party may respond with correct information in answering customer questions.
- 17.2.3** MFS and BST will provide their respective repair contact numbers to one another on a reciprocal basis. For purposes of this section each party agrees to limit its number of repair numbers to a single telephone number within the region.



**18.0 911/E911 ARRANGEMENTS--SECTION 271**

**18.1 Scope**

MFS will interconnect to the BST 911/E911 selective routers/911 tandems which serve the areas in which MFS provides Telephone Exchange Services, for the provision of 911/E911 services and for access to all sub-tending Public Safety Answering Points. BST will provide MFS with the appropriate CLLI codes and specifications of the tandem serving area.

**18.2 Path and Route Diverse Interconnection**

Path and route diverse interconnections for 911/E911 shall be made as necessary and mutually agreed.

**18.3 911 and MSAG Updates**

BST will provide MFS with a mutually agreed upon format to enable MFS to provide BST with a daily file transmission to update 911/E911 database information related to MFS Telephone Exchange Service customers. BST will provide MFS with quarterly Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) updates, upon MFS' request, so that MFS can ensure the accuracy of the addresses provided.

**18.4 Interconnection Integrity**

BST will use all reasonable efforts to facilitate the prompt, robust, reliable and efficient interconnection of MFS systems to the 911/E911 platforms.

**18.5 Coordination with PSAPs**

BST and MFS will work cooperatively to arrange meetings with PSAPs to answer any technical questions the PSAPs, or county or municipal coordinators may have regarding the 911/E911 arrangements.

**18.6 Cost Recovery**

MFS will compensate BST for 911/E911 interconnection as follows:



To be defined based on local 911 funding methodology and arrangements with independent LECs. For the provision of 911/E911 services between MFS and BST, the parties will work cooperatively to address, any and/or all cost recovery issues within 60 days upon execution of this agreement. If the parties are unable to agree on compensation, either party may seek Commission assistance in resolving this matter, unilaterally or jointly. If applicable, cost recovery will be identified in a future exhibit.

**19.0 DIRECTORY SERVICES ARRANGEMENTS--SECTION 271**

**19.1 Scope**

BST will provide certain directory services to MFS as defined herein. In this Section 19.0, references to "MFS customer telephone numbers" mean numbers falling within NXX codes directly assigned to MFS and to numbers which are retained by MFS on the customer's behalf pursuant to LTNP arrangements described in Section 13.0.

**19.2 Directory Listings and Directory Distribution**

MFS and BST's affiliate, BellSouth Advertising and Publishing Company (BAPCO) have executed an agreement to address Directory Listing and Directory Distribution issues. The agreement is attached as Exhibit 14.0.

**19.3 Directory Assistance (DA)**

**19.3.1** At MFS' request, BST will provide to MFS operators, or to an MFS-designated operator bureau, on-line access to BST's Directory Assistance Service, where such access is identical to the type of access BST's own directory assistance operators utilize in order to provide directory assistance services to BST end users. BST will provide this capability under non-discriminatory tariff or contract rates and terms as identified in the attached Exhibit 13.0.

**19.3.2** At MFS' request, BST will provide to MFS unbranded directory assistance service MFS which is comparable in every way to the directory assistance service BST makes available to its own end users. BST will charge MFS for such unbranded directory assistance

capability under non-discriminatory tariff or contract rates and terms as identified in the attached Exhibit 13.0.

- 19.3.3** At MFS' request, BST will provide to MFS directory assistance service under MFS' brand which is comparable in every way to the directory assistance service BST makes available to its own end users. MFS recognizes that BST's providing to MFS directory assistance service under MFS' brand may require additional costs to be incurred by BST and that tariff or contract rates will reflect the effects of these additional costs. BST will charge MFS for such branded directory assistance capability under the most favored non-discriminatory tariff or contract rates and terms as identified in the attached Exhibit 13.0.
- 19.3.4** At MFS' request, BST will license to MFS or an MFS-designated operator bureau BST's directory assistance database for use in providing competitive directory assistance services. BST will provide this capability under the most favored non-discriminatory tariff or contract rates and terms as identified in the attached Exhibit 13.0.
- 19.3.5** At MFS' request, BST will in conjunction with 19.2.2 or 19.2.3, above, provide caller-optional directory assistance call completion service, where technically feasible, which is comparable in every way to the directory assistance call completion service BST makes available to its own end users. BST will charge MFS for this capability under the most favored non-discriminatory tariff or contract rates and terms as identified in the attached Exhibit 13.0 per use of caller-optional directory assistance call completion. BST will provide MFS, in an electronic format, in an accurate and timely manner, the detailed billing records associated with the call that will enable MFS to rebill the end user for this function.

**19.4 Directory Listing and Directory Assistance Updates**

MFS shall furnish to BST, on a daily basis in a mutually-acceptable format, a single service request per subscriber for Directory Assistance and Directory Listings information for MFS'

end users. The Parties agree to utilize an industry accepted format when available. BST will send confirmation of receipt of MFS' end user orders to MFS on a daily basis. From the single service request, BST shall forward MFS' end user listing information to BAPCO for the publishing of end user listings and the delivery of directories in accordance with the agreement between MFS and BAPCO attached hereto as Exhibit 14.0.

**19.5 Information (Call Guide) Pages**

MFS and BAPCO have executed an agreement which enables MFS to display its customer contact information in the part of the Call Guide Pages of the White Pages directory dedicated to new entrant LECs at no charge. The agreement is attached as Exhibit 14.0.

**19.6 Emergency Contact List**

BST will provide MFS with a list of emergency agencies (i.e. fire, police, emergency medical technicians, etc) comparable to the current format, to enable MFS to promptly respond to emergency agencies in a timely manner when emergencies occur. BST will provide a copy of its most current list, if available, upon MFS' occasional request. It is acknowledged by MFS that BST assumes no liability to the accuracy of the list.

**20.0 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

**20.1 Compliance with Implementation Schedule**

BST and MFS shall use all reasonable efforts to comply with the Implementation Schedule set forth in Exhibit 2.0. In advance of the aforementioned implementation schedule, the Parties agree to immediately expedite the implementation of the network interconnection trunks for testing purposes, in accordance with a separate agreement the Parties have previously executed. One week after completion of testing the network interconnection trunks, the Parties agree to augment the network interconnection trunks, based upon previously exchanged traffic forecasts, to support the exchange of "live" commercial customer traffic.

It is further agreed that the Parties agree to implement the installation of MFS Digital Loop Carrier (DLC) systems at BST collocation premises, including BST provided SONET Smartring

nodes, to support a joint unbundled loop pilot program to implement detailed procedures for the provision, maintenance and testing of unbundled loops.

The Parties agree to develop a schedule for the network interconnection testing, DLC installations, and pilot loop program within thirty (30) days after execution of the Agreement. The pilot loop program shall apply to mutually agreed upon MFS collocation site(s) which may include a SONET SmartRing Node location MFS leases from BST, and shall be equipped to process live customer installations on a standard basis in accordance with the schedule developed in this section. Installation of DLCs shall occur within 90 days after execution of this Agreement. This schedule may be revised on the mutual agreement of the Parties.

**20.2 Exchange of Information for Network Integrity**

The Parties shall exchange technical descriptions and forecasts of their Interconnection and traffic requirements in sufficient detail necessary to establish the Interconnections required to assure traffic completion to and from all Customers in their respective designated service areas.

**20.3 Exchange of Traffic Forecasts**

Thirty (30) days after the Effective Date and each month during the term of this Agreement, each Party shall provide the other Party with a rolling, six (6) calendar month, non-binding forecast of its traffic and volume requirements for the services and Network Elements provided under this Agreement in the form and in such detail as agreed by the Parties. Notwithstanding Section 32.0, the Parties agree that each forecast provided under this Section 20.3 shall be deemed "Proprietary Information" under Section 32.0.

**20.4 Binding Traffic Forecasts**

Any Party that is required pursuant to this Agreement to provide a forecast (the "Forecast Provider") or the Party that is entitled pursuant to this Agreement to receive a forecast (the "Forecast Recipient") with respect to traffic and volume requirements for the services and Network Elements provided under this Agreement may request in addition to non-binding forecasts required by Section 20.3 that the other enter into negotiations to establish a forecast (a "Binding Forecast") that commits such

Forecast Provider to purchase, and such Forecast Recipient to provide, a specified volume to be utilized as set forth in such Binding Forecast. The Forecast Provider and Forecast Recipient shall negotiate the terms of such Binding Forecast in good faith and shall include in such Binding Forecast provisions regarding price, quantity, liability for failure to perform under a Binding Forecast and any other terms desired by such Forecast Provider and Forecast Recipient. Notwithstanding Section 32.0, the Parties agree that each forecast provided under this Section 20.4 shall be deemed "Proprietary Information" under Section 32.0.

**20.5 Responsibilities to Provide Network Facilities**

Each Party is individually responsible to provide facilities within its network which are necessary for routing, transporting, measuring, and billing traffic from the other Party's network and for delivering such traffic to the other Party's network in the standard format compatible with BST's network and to terminate the traffic it receives in that standard format to the proper address on its network. Such facility shall be designed based upon the description and forecasts provided under Sections 20.2 and 20.3 above. The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including The National Network Security Plan and The Emergency Preparedness Plan.

**20.6 Use of Service**

Neither Party shall use any service related to or using any of the Services provided in this Agreement in any manner that interferes with other persons in the use of their service, prevents other persons from using their service, or otherwise impairs the quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's Customers, and either Party may discontinue or refuse service if the other Party violates this provision. Upon such violation, either Party shall provide the other Party notice, if practicable, at the earliest practicable time.

**20.7 Responsibility for Customer Services**

Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its Customers and to other Telecommunications Carriers.

**20.8 Cooperate to Minimize Fraud**



The Parties shall work cooperatively to minimize fraud associated with third-number billed calls, calling card calls, and any other services related to this Agreement.

**20.9 Responsibility to Administer NXX Codes**

Each Party is responsible for administering NXX codes assigned to it.

**20.10 Responsibility to Obtain LERG Listings**

Each Party is responsible for obtaining Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") listings of CLLI codes assigned to its switches.

**20.11 Updates to LERG**

Each Party shall use the LERG published by Bellcore or its successor for obtaining routing information and shall provide all required information to Bellcore for maintaining the LERG in a timely manner.

**20.12 Programming and Updating of Switches**

Each Party shall program and update its own Central Office Switches and End Office switches and network systems to recognize and route traffic to and from the other Party's assigned NXX codes. Except as mutually agreed or as otherwise expressly defined in this Agreement, neither Party shall impose any fees or charges on the other Party for such activities.

**20.13 Insurance Coverage**

At all times during the term of this Agreement, each Party shall keep and maintain in force at each Party's expense all insurance required by law (e.g. workers' compensation insurance) as well as general liability insurance for personal injury or death to any one person, property damage resulting from any one incident, automobile liability with coverage for bodily injury for property damage. Upon request from the other Party, each Party shall provide to the other Party evidence of such insurance (which may be provided through a program of self insurance).

**20.14 Tariff and Contract Liability Protection**



In addition to its indemnity obligations under Section 35.0, each Party shall provide, in its tariffs and contracts with its Customers that relate to any Telecommunications Service or Network Element provided or contemplated under this Agreement, that in no case shall such Party or any of its agents, contractors or others retained by such parties be liable to any Customer or third party for (i) any Loss relating to or arising out of this Agreement, whether in contract or tort, that exceeds the amount such Party would have charged the applicable Customer for the service(s) or function(s) that gave rise to such Loss, and (ii) any Consequential Damages.

**20.15 Non-discriminatory Treatment**

BST and MFS agree to treat each other fairly on a non-discriminatory basis, and equally for all items included in this Agreement, or related to the support of items included in this Agreement.

**20.16 Prompt Exchange of Billing Records**

MFS and BST agree to promptly exchange all necessary records for the proper billing of all traffic.

**20.17 Review of Engineering Information**

For network expansion, MFS and BST will review engineering requirements on a quarterly basis and establish forecasts for trunk utilization. New trunk groups will be implemented as dictated by engineering requirements for both BST and MFS. BST and MFS are required to provide each other the proper call information (e.g., originated call party number and destination call party number, CIC, OZZ, etc.) to enable each company to bill in a complete and timely fashion.

**20.18 Re-arrangement of Initial Interconnection Network Configuration**

To the extent that the Parties incur essentially the same expenses, there will be no re-arrangement, reconfiguration, disconnect, or other non-recurring fees associated with the reconfiguration of each carrier's traffic exchange arrangements from the initial interconnection network, other than the cost of establishing a new Collocation arrangement where one does not already exist. To the extent that one Party would incur significantly greater expenses for such reconfiguration, the

lowest of the Party's tariffed non-recurring rates applicable to such changes shall apply for such reconfiguration. The Parties agree to work cooperatively to minimize any cost differential.

**20.19 Use of Industry Accepted Ordering Formats/Specifications**

BST and MFS will utilize industry accepted (e.g. OBF developed) electronic ordering and information data exchange formats/specifications. Where such guidelines are not readily available, parties will utilize industry accepted (e.g. OBF developed) manual formats/exchange mechanisms. If the parties agree not to follow the industry accepted guidelines, they will mutually develop the formats/specifications that will be used.

**20.20 Use of Industry Accepted Billing Formats/Specifications**

For services covered by this agreement, both Parties agree to follow and use OBF billing output guidelines. If deviations from these guidelines are necessary, a time line should be established as to when the OBF guidelines will be implemented. If the Parties agree not to follow the industry accepted guidelines, they will mutually develop the formats/specifications that will be used. Billing disputes will utilize the dispute processes outlined in each companies tariffs.

**20.21 Network Maintenance and Management**

Network Maintenance and Management. MFS and BST will work cooperatively to install and maintain a reliable network. MFS and BST will exchange appropriate information (e.g., maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the Government, etc.) to achieve this desired reliability.

MFS and BST will work cooperatively to apply sound network management principles by invoking network management controls to alleviate or to prevent congestion.

**21.0 TERM AND TERMINATION**

**21.1 Initial Two Year Term**

The initial term of this Agreement shall be two (2) years (the "Term") which shall commence on the Effective Date. Absent the receipt by one Party of written notice from the other Party at

least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the Term to the effect that such Party does not intend to extend the Term of this Agreement, this Agreement shall automatically renew and remain in full force and effect on and after the expiration of the Term until terminated by either Party pursuant to Section 21.3.

**21.2 Termination**

Either Party may terminate this Agreement in the event that the other Party (i) fails to pay any amount when due hereunder (excluding Disputed Amounts, Section 31.0) and fails to cure such nonpayment within sixty (60) days after receipt of written notice thereof; or (ii) fails to perform any other material obligation required to be performed by it pursuant to this Agreement and fails to cure such material on performance within forty-five (45) days after written notice thereof.

**21.3 Termination of Agreement After Automatic Renewal**

If pursuant to Section 21.1 this Agreement continues in full force and effect after the expiration of the Term, either Party may terminate this Agreement (90) days after delivering written notice to the other Party of its intention to terminate this Agreement. Neither Party shall have any liability to the other Party for termination of this Agreement pursuant to this Section 21.3 other than to pay to the other Party any amounts owed under this Agreement.

**21.4 Obligations Upon Termination or Expiration**

Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement in accordance with this Section 21.0:

- a) Each Party shall comply immediately with its obligations set forth in Section 31.4.9;
- b) Each Party shall continue to perform its obligations and provide the services as described herein until such time as a successor agreement between the Parties is entered into; provided, however, that the Parties shall renegotiate the rates, fees and charges contained herein; and
- c) Each Party shall promptly pay all amounts (including any late payment charges) owed under this Agreement.

**21.5 Remedy**

No remedy set forth in this Agreement is intended to be exclusive and each and every remedy shall be cumulative and in addition to any other rights or remedies now or hereafter existing under applicable law or otherwise.

**22.0 INSTALLATION**

BST and MFS shall effectuate all the terms of this Agreement within 90 days upon execution of this Agreement. Moreover, MFS and BST agree to begin implementing the terms of the Agreement immediately upon execution of this Agreement, and specifically will begin to implement and install network interconnection and other network infrastructure orders, e.g. DLC collocation capabilities, beginning within thirty (30) days after execution of the Agreement unless otherwise indicated in this Agreement.

**23.0 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES**

**23.1 Certain Definitions**

When used in this Section 23.0, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**23.1.1** "Specified Performance Breach" means the failure by BST to meet the Performance Criteria for any Specified Activity for a period of three (3) consecutive calendar months.

**23.1.2** "Specified Activity" means any of the following activities:

- a) the installation by BST of unbundled Loops for MFS ("Unbundled Loop Installation");
- b) BST's provision of Interim Telecommunications Number Portability; or
- c) the repair of out of service problems for MFS ("Out of Service Repairs").

**23.1.3** "Performance Criteria" means, with respect to each calendar month during the term of this Agreement, the performance by BST during such month of each Specified Activity shown below within the time

**MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**  
**Partial Florida Interconnection Agreement**  
**Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996**

interval shown in at least eighty percent (80%) of the covered instances:

SPECIFIED ACTIVITY	PERFORMANCE INTERVAL DATE
(i) <u>Unbundled Loop Installation*</u>	
1-10 Loops per Service Order	5 days from BST's Receipt of valid Service Order
11-20 Loops per Service Order	10 days from BST's Receipt of valid Service Order
21 + Loops per Service Order	to be Negotiated
(ii) <u>Interim Number Portability (Remote Call Forwarding)</u>	
1-10 Numbers per Service Order	5 days from BST's Receipt of valid Service Order
11-20 Numbers per Service Order	10 days from BST's Receipt of valid Service Order
21 + Numbers per Service Order	to be Negotiated
(iii) <u>Out-of-Service Repairs</u>	Provisions from Sec. 9.8.3 Apply.

\*The performance criteria for unbundled loops apply to two and four-wire analog loops where the facilities are available. In all other cases, the Parties agree to negotiate reasonable intervals.

**23.2 Performance Standards**

BST shall exercise all reasonable efforts to meet the Performance Criteria for the three Specified Activities. In the event BST fails to meet the Performance Criteria at any time during the term of this Agreement, MFS shall be entitled to pursue all remedies available in law or equity.

At its option, MFS may also request binding arbitration with regard to (1) whether BST has committed a Specified Performance Breach of the Performance Criteria set forth in section 23.1.3 of this Agreement, and (2) if such a breach is determined to have occurred, the direct damages resulting from



the breach. The direct damages recoverable under this provision shall not be limited by the provisions of section 28.1, but shall be subject to the provisions of sections 23.3 and 28.3. Such arbitration shall be conducted by a panel of three (3) arbitrators, one to be appointed by each Party pursuant to CPR's Non-administered Arbitration Rules and subject to the United States Arbitration Act (9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16), to be conducted in Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition, if BST commits a Specified Performance Breach during the term of this Agreement, the Parties agree to meet immediately to determine whether any stipulated damages provisions are appropriate as an amendment hereof in light of such a Breach, and, if so, the terms therein; provided, however, that if BST commits a Specified Performance Breach during the initial three (3) months of this Agreement, the Parties agree to meet at the end of the three-month period.

### **23.3 Limitations**

In no event shall BST be deemed to have failed to meet any of the Performance Criteria if: BST's failure to meet or exceed any of the Performance Criteria is caused, directly or indirectly, by a Delaying Event. A "Delaying Event" means (a) a failure by MFS to perform any of its obligations set forth in this Agreement (including, without limitation, the Implementation Schedule and the Joint Grooming Plan), (b) any delay, act or failure to act by a Customer, agent or subcontractor of MFS or any Force Majeure Event. If a Delaying Event (i) prevents BST from performing a Specified Activity, then such Specified Activity shall be excluded from the calculation of BST's compliance with the Performance Criteria, or (ii) only suspends BST's ability to timely perform the Specified Activity, the applicable time frame in which BST's compliance with the Performance Criteria provided BST performs the Specified Activity in the course of its normal service cycle once the Delaying Event no longer exists; or the Parties agree to a time interval with respect to a particular order that exceeds the interval set forth in Section 23.1.3. In such event, the time interval for BST's performance of the Specified Activities set forth in the order shall be extended to such later date agreed by the Parties.

### **23.4 Records**



BST shall maintain complete and accurate records, on a monthly basis, of its performance under this Agreement of each Specified Activity and its compliance with the Performance Criteria. BST shall provide to MFS such records in a self-reporting format on a monthly basis. Notwithstanding Section 31.0, the Parties agree that such records shall be deemed "Proprietary Information" under Section 31.0.

**24.0 SECTION 252(I) OBLIGATIONS**

If BST enters into an agreement subject to approval by the Commission under the Act which provides for the provision of arrangements covered in this Agreement to another requesting Telecommunications Carrier, including itself or its affiliate, or if the Commission and/or FCC orders BST to provide arrangements covered in this Agreement, or if BST tariffs arrangements covered in this Agreement, BST shall make available to MFS such arrangements upon the same rates, terms and conditions as those provided in the other agreements, Commission and/or FCC orders, and/or Commission and/or FCC/BST tariffs, consistent with Commission and/or FCC rules. At its sole option, MFS may avail itself of either (i) the other Agreements, orders, or tariffs in their entirety or (ii) the prices, terms and conditions of the other agreements, orders, or tariffs that directly relate to any of the following duties as a whole:

- 1) Interconnection - Section 251(c)(2) of the Act (Sections 4.0 and 5.0 of this Agreement); or
- 2) Unbundled Loops - Section 251(c)(3) of the Act (Section 9.0 of this Agreement); or
- 3) Other Unbundled Access - Section 251(c)(3) of the Act (Unbundled Access other than Unbundled Loops contained in Section 9.0 of this Agreement); or
- 4) Resale - Section 251(c)(4) of the Act (Section 10.0 of this Agreement); or
- 5) Collocation - Section 251(c)(6) of the Act (Section 12.0 of this Agreement); or
- 6) Number Portability - Section 251(b)(2) of the Act (Section 13.0 of this Agreement); or
- 7) Access to Rights of Way - Section 251(b)(4) of the Act (Section 15.0 of this Agreement).

The terms of this Agreement, other than those affected by the option, shall remain in full force and effect. The Parties reserve all rights to argue which Agreements are subject to approval under the Act.

**25.0 CANCELLATION**

Neither MFS nor BST shall impose cancellation charges upon each other associated with the physical network interconnection.

**26.0 SEVERABILITY**

In the event the Commission, the FCC, or a court determines that any provision of this Agreement or any order of the Commission or the FCC is contrary to law, or is invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the Parties shall continue to be bound by the terms of this Agreement, insofar as possible, except for the portion determined to be unlawful, invalid, or unenforceable. In such an event, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith to replace the unlawful, invalid or unenforceable provision and shall not discontinue service to the other Party during such period. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring or permitting either Party to contravene any mandatory requirement or Federal or State law, or any regulators or orders adopted pursuant to such law.

**27.0 FORCE MAJEURE**

Neither Party shall be responsible for delays or failures in performance resulting from acts or occurrences beyond the reasonable control of such Party, regardless of whether such delays or failures in performance were foreseen or foreseeable as of the date of this Agreement, including, without limitation: fire, explosion, power failure, acts of God, war, revolution, civil commotion, or acts of public enemies; any law, order, regulation, ordinance or requirement of any government or legal body; or labor unrest, including, without limitation, strikes, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts; or delays caused by the other Party or by other service or equipment vendors; or any other circumstances beyond the Party's reasonable control. In such event, the Party affected shall, upon giving prompt notice to the other Party, be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such interference (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-for-day basis to the extent such Party's obligations related to the performance so interfered with). The affected party shall use its best efforts to avoid or remove the cause of non-performance and both parties shall proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

**28.0 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

**28.1 Liability for Direct Damages**

Except as otherwise provided, the Parties' liability to each other, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, shall be limited to direct damages, which shall not exceed the pro rata portion of the monthly charges for the services for the time period during which the services provided pursuant to this Agreement are inoperative, not to exceed in total BST's or MFS' monthly charge to the other.

**28.2 Losses Alleged or Made by Customer**

In the case of any Loss arising from a claim made by a customer of either Party, resulting from the the negligence or willful misconduct of both Parties, each Party shall bear, and its obligations under this Section 28.0 shall be limited to, that portion (as mutually agreed to by the Parties) of the resulting expense caused by its (including that of its agents, servants, contractors or others acting in aid or concert with it) negligence or willful misconduct, and which is properly recoverable under the applicable Party's tariffs.

**28.3 No Liability for Indirect Damages**

Under no circumstance shall BST or MFS be responsible or liable to each other for indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including, but not limited to, damages arising from the use or performance of equipment or software, or the loss of use of software or equipment, or accessories attached thereto, delay, error, or loss of data. In connection with this limitation of liability, the Parties recognize that BST or MFS may, from time to time, provide advice, make recommendations, or supply other analysis related to the equipment or services described in this Agreement, and, while BST and MFS shall use diligent efforts in this regard, the parties acknowledge and agree that this limitation of liability shall apply to provisions of such advice, recommendations, and analysis.

**29.0 ASSIGNMENT**

This Agreement shall be binding upon every subsidiary and affiliate of either Party that is engaged in providing telephone exchange and exchange access services in any territory within which BST is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier as of the date of this Agreement (the "BST Territory"), and shall continue to be binding upon all such entities regardless of any subsequent change in their ownership. Each Party covenants that, if it sells or otherwise transfers to a third party its telephone exchange and exchange access network facilities within the BST Territory, or any portion thereof,

to a third party, it will require as a condition of such transfer that the transferee agree to be bound by this Agreement with respect to services provided over the transferred facilities. Except as provided in this paragraph, neither Party may assign or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a third party without the prior written consent of the other Party; provided that each Party may assign this Agreement to a corporate Affiliate or an entity under its common control or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void ab initio. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.

### **30.0 DISPUTED AMOUNTS**

#### **30.1 Notice**

If any portion of an amount due to a Party (the "Billing Party") under this Agreement is subject to a bona fide dispute between the Parties, the Party billed (the "Non-Paying Party") shall within sixty (60) days of its receipt of the invoice containing such disputed amount give notice to the Billing Party of the amounts it disputes ("Disputed Amounts") and include in such notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item. The Non-Paying Party shall pay when due (i) all undisputed amounts to the Billing Party and (ii) all Disputed Amounts into an interest bearing escrow account with a third party escrow agent mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

#### **30.2 Settlement Negotiations**

If the Parties are unable to resolve the issues related to the Disputed Amounts in the normal course of business within sixty (60) days after delivery to the Billing Party of notice of the Disputed Amounts, each of the Parties shall appoint a designated representative who has authority to settle the dispute and who is at a higher level of management than the persons with direct responsibility for administration of this Agreement. The designated representatives shall meet as often as they reasonably deem necessary in order to discuss the dispute and negotiate in good faith in an effort to resolve such dispute. The specific format for such discussions will be left to the discretion of the designated representatives, however all reasonable requests for

relevant information made by one Party to the other Party shall be honored.

**30.3 Legal/Regulatory Remedies**

If the Parties are unable to resolve issues related to the Disputed Amounts within forty-five (45) days after the Parties' appointment of designated representatives pursuant to Section 30.2, then either Party may file a complaint with the Commission to resolve such issues or proceed with any other remedy pursuant to law or equity. The Commission may direct release of any or all funds (including any accrued interest) in the escrow account, plus applicable late fees, to be paid to either Party.

**30.4 Confidential Treatment of Settlement Negotiations**

The Parties agree that all negotiations pursuant to this Section 30.0 shall remain confidential and shall be treated as compromise and settlement negotiations for purposes of the Federal Rules of Evidence and state rules of evidence.

**30.5 Interest Accrued on Undisputed Amounts**

Any undisputed amounts not paid when due shall accrue interest from the date such amounts were due at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under applicable law.

**31.0 NON-DISCLOSURE**

**31.1 Identification of Information**

All information, including but not limited to specifications, microfilm, photocopies, magnetic disks, magnetic tapes, drawings, sketches, models, samples, tools, technical information, data, employee records, maps, financial reports, and market data, (i) furnished by one Party to the other Party, other than customer information communicated for the purpose of publication or directory database inclusion, or (ii) in written, graphic, electromagnetic, or other tangible form and marked at the time of delivery as "Confidential" or "Proprietary," or (iii) communicated orally and declared to the receiving Party at the time of delivery, or by written notice given to the receiving Party within ten (10) days after delivery, to be "Confidential" or



"Proprietary" (collectively referred to as "Proprietary Information"), shall remain the property of the disclosing Party.

**31.2 Return of Information**

Upon request by the disclosing Party, the receiving Party shall return all tangible copies of Proprietary Information, whether written, graphic or otherwise, except that the receiving Party may retain one copy for archival purposes.

**31.3 Protection of Information**

Each Party shall keep all of the other Party's Proprietary Information confidential and shall disclose the Proprietary Information to only those employees, contractors, agents or Affiliates who have a need for it in connection with the provision of services under this Agreement, and shall use the other Party's Proprietary Information only for performing the covenants contained in the Agreement. Neither Party shall use the other Party's Proprietary Information for any other purpose except upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the parties in writing.

**31.4 Excluded Information**

Unless otherwise agreed, the obligations of confidentiality and non-use set forth in this Agreement do not apply to such Proprietary Information as:

**31.4.1** "was at the time of receipt already known to the receiving Party free of any obligation to keep it confidential evidenced by written records prepared prior to delivery by the disclosing Party"; or

**31.4.2** "is or becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of the receiving Party"; or

**31.4.3** "is rightfully received from a third person having no direct or indirect secrecy or confidentiality obligation to the disclosing Party with respect to such information"; or

**31.4.4** "is independently developed by an employee, agent, or contractor of the receiving Party which individual is not involved in any manner with the provision of

- services pursuant to the Agreement and does not have any direct or indirect access to the Proprietary Information"; or
- 31.4.5 "is disclosed to a third person by the disclosing Party without similar restrictions on such third person's rights"; or
- 31.4.6 "is approved for release by written authorization of the disclosing Party"; or
- 31.4.7 "is required to be made public by the receiving Party pursuant to applicable law or regulation provided that the receiving Party shall give sufficient notice of the requirement to the disclosing Party to enable the disclosing Party to seek protective orders."
- 31.4.8 If any Receiving Party is required by any governmental authority or by applicable law to disclose any Proprietary Information, then such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible and prior to such disclosure. The Disclosing Party may then either seek appropriate protective relief from all or part of such requirement or, if it fails to successfully do so, it shall be deemed to have waived the Receiving Party's compliance with this Section 31.0 with respect to all or part of such requirement. The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief which such Disclosing Party chooses to obtain.
- 31.4.9 In the event of the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, each Party shall return to the other Party or destroy all Proprietary Information and other documents, work papers and other material (including all copies thereof) obtained from the other Party in connection with this Agreement and shall use all reasonable efforts, including instructing its employees and others who have had access to such information, to keep confidential and not to use any such information, unless such information is now, or is hereafter disclosed, through no act, omission or fault of such

Party, in any manner making it available to the general public.

**31.5 Effective Date**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Proprietary Information provisions of this Agreement shall apply to all information furnished by either Party to the other in furtherance of the purpose of this Agreement, even if furnished before the date of this Agreement.

**32.0 CANCELLATION**

The parties, at any time, by mutual written agreement, may cancel or amend any rate, term, condition or clause contained in this agreement.

**33.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

The Parties agree that in the event of a default or violation hereunder, or for any dispute arising under this Agreement or related agreements the Parties may have in connection with this Agreement, prior to taking any action before any court or regulator, or before making any public statement or disclosing the nature of the dispute to any third Party, the Parties shall first confer to discuss the dispute and seek resolution. Such conference shall occur at least at the Vice President level for each Party. In the case of BST, its Vice President for Regulatory Affairs, or equivalent officer, shall participate in the meet and confer meeting, and MFS Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, or equivalent officer, shall participate.

**34.0 NOTICES**

Any notice to a Party required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been received on the date of service if served personally, three days after mailing in the case of first class mail, or on the date stated on the receipt if delivered by certified or registered mail or by a courier service that obtains a written receipt. Notice may also be provided by facsimile, which shall be effective on the next Business Day following the date of transmission. "Business Day" shall mean Monday through Friday, BST/MFS holidays excepted. Any notice shall be delivered using one of the alternatives mentioned in this section and shall be directed to the applicable address indicated below or such other address as the Party to be notified has designated by giving notice in compliance with this section: Any notice to a Party required or permitted under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been received on the date of service if served personally on the date receipt is acknowledges in writing

by the recipient if delivered by regular mail, or on the date stated on the receipt if delivered by certified or registered mail or by a courier service that obtains a written receipt. Notice may also be provided by facsimile, which shall be effective on the next Business Day following the date of transmission. "Business Day" shall mean Monday through Friday, BST/MFS holidays excepted. Any notice shall be delivered using one of the alternatives mentioned in this section and shall be directed to the applicable addresses indicated below or such address as the Party to be notified has designated by giving notice in compliance with this section:

If to BST: Attention: General Attorney - Customer Operations Units  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
675 W. Peachtree Street, Suite 4300  
Atlanta, Georgia 30375

If to MFS: Attention: Senior Director, External and Regulatory Affairs  
MFS Communications Company, Inc.  
Suite 2100  
Six Concourse Parkway  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328

And,

Executive General Counsel  
MFS Communications Company, Inc.  
11808 Miracle Hills Drive  
Omaha, Nebraska 68154

## **35.0 LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY**

### **35.1 Indemnification**

Except as otherwise provided, each Party agrees to release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the other Party from all losses, claims, demands, damages, expenses, suits, or other actions, or any liability whatsoever, including, but not limited to, costs and attorney's fees, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by any other party or persons, for invasion of privacy, personal injury to or death of any person or persons, or for losses, damages, or destruction of property, whether or not owned by others, to the extent proximately caused by the indemnifying Party's negligence, or willful misconduct, regardless of form of action.

**35.2 Disclaimer**

Except as specifically provided to the contrary in this agreement and in BST's and MFS' tariffs, BST and MFS make no representations or warranties to each other concerning the specific quality of any services provided under this agreement. Except as otherwise provided, the Parties disclaim, without limitation, any warranty or guarantee of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, arising from course of performance, course of dealing, or from usages of trade.

**36.0 MISCELLANEOUS**

**36.1 Amendments**

Any amendment, modification, or supplement to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by an authorized representative of each Party. The term "this Agreement" shall include future amendments, modifications, and supplements.

**36.2 Authority**

Each person whose signature appears below represents and warrants that he or she has authority to bind the Party on whose behalf he or she has executed this Agreement and that the Party has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform the obligation hereunder.

**36.3 Binding Effect**

This Agreement shall be binding on and inure to the benefits of the respective successors and permitted assigns of the Parties.

**36.4 Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

Each Party shall comply with all federal, state, and local statutes, regulations, rules, ordinances, judicial decisions, and administrative rulings applicable to its performance as described in this Agreement.

**36.5 Consent**

Where consent, approval, or mutual agreement is required of Party, it shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.



**36.6 Entire Agreement**

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties pertaining to the subject matter of this Agreement and supersedes all prior agreements, negotiations, proposals, and representations, whether written or oral, and all contemporaneous oral arguments, negotiations, proposals, and representations concerning such subject matter. No representations, understandings, agreements, or warranties, expressed or implied, have been made or relied upon in the making of this Agreement other than those specifically set forth herein.

**36.7 Expenses**

Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, each Party shall be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the subject of this Agreement.

**36.8 Governing Law**

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the domestic laws of the state of Florida and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the court therein.

**36.9 Headings**

The headings in this Agreement are inserted for convenience and identification only and shall not be considered in the interpretation of this Agreement.

**36.10 Independent Contractor Relationship**

The persons provided by each Party shall be solely that Party's employees and shall be under the sole and exclusive direction and control of that Party. They shall not be considered employees of the other Party for any purpose. Each Party shall remain an independent contractor with respect to the other and shall be responsible for compliance with all laws, rules and regulations involving, but not limited to, employment of labor, hours of labor, health and safety, working conditions and payment of wages. Each Party shall also be responsible for payment of taxes, including federal, state and municipal taxes, chargeable or assessed with respect to its employees, such as Social Security, unemployment, workers' compensation, disability insurance, and

federal and state withholding. Each Party shall indemnify the other for any loss, damage, liability, claim, demand, or penalty that may be sustained by reason of its failure to comply with this provision.

**36.11 Multiple Counterparts**

This Agreement may be executed multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall together constitute but one and the same document.

**36.12 No Offer**

Submission of this Agreement for examination or signature does not constitute an offer by BST for the provision of the products or services described herein. This Agreement will be effective only upon execution and delivery by both BST and MFS.

**36.13 Publicity**

Any news release, public announcement, advertising, or any form of publicity pertaining to this Agreement, provision of services pursuant to it, or association of the Parties with respect to provision of the services described in this Agreement shall be subject to prior coordination and review of both BST and MFS.

**36.14 Subcontractors**

BST may enter into subcontracts with third parties or affiliates for the performance of any of BST's duties or obligations under this Agreement.

**36.15 Regulatory Approval**

Each Party agrees to cooperate with each other and with any regulatory agency to obtain regulatory approval. During the term of this Agreement, each Party agrees to continue to cooperate with each other and with any regulatory agency so that the benefits of this Agreement may be achieved. The Parties, however, reserve the right to seek regulatory relief and otherwise seek redress from each other regarding performance and implementation of this Agreement. In the event the Commission rejects any portion of this Agreement, the Parties agree to meet and negotiate in good faith to arrive at a mutually acceptable modification of the rejected portion.

**36.16 Trademarks and Trade Names**

Except as specifically set out in this Agreement, nothing in this Agreement shall grant, suggest, or imply any authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, or trade names of the other for any purpose whatsoever.

**36.17 Taxes and Fees**

**36.17.1 Definition** For purposes of this section, the terms "taxes" and "fees" shall include but not be limited to federal, state or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts or other taxes or tax-like fees of whatever nature and however designated (including tariff surcharges and any fees, charges or other payments, contractual or otherwise, for the use of public streets or rights of way, whether designated as franchise fees or otherwise) imposed or sought to be imposed, on or with respect to the services furnished hereunder or measured by the charges or payments therefor.

**36.17.2 Taxes and Fees Imposed Directly on Either Providing Party or Purchasing Party**

(a) Taxes and fees imposed on the providing party, which are not permitted to be passed on by the providing party to its customer, shall be borne and paid by the providing party.

(b) Taxes and fees imposed on the purchasing party, which are not required to be collected and/or remitted by the providing party, shall be borne and paid by the purchasing party.

**36.17.3 Taxes and Fees imposed On Purchasing Party But Collected and Remitted By Providing Party**

(a) Taxes and fees imposed on the purchasing party shall be borne by the purchasing party, even if the obligation to collect and/or remit such taxes or fees is placed on the providing party.

(b) To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and/or fees shall be shown as separate items on applicable billing documents between the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the purchasing party shall remain liable for any such taxes and fees regardless of whether they are actually billed by the providing party at the time that the respective service is billed and the purchasing party shall remit such taxes when later notified.

(c) If the purchasing party determines that in its opinion any such taxes or fees are not payable, the providing party shall not bill such taxes or fees to the purchasing party if and when the purchasing party provides written certification stating that it is exempt or otherwise not subject to the tax or fee, setting forth the basis therefor, and satisfying any other requirements under applicable law. If any authority seeks to collect any such tax or fee that the purchasing party has determined and certified not to be payable, or any such tax or fee that was not billed by the providing party, the purchasing party may contest the same in good faith, at its own expense. In any such contest, the purchasing party shall promptly furnish the providing party with copies of all filings or rulings in any proceeding, protest, or legal challenge, all filings issued in connection therewith, and all correspondence between the purchasing party and the taxing authority.

(d) In the event that all or any portion of an amount sought to be collected must be paid in order to contest the imposition of any such tax or fee, or to avoid the existence of a lien on the assets of the providing party during the pendency of such contest, the purchasing party shall be responsible for the timely payment and shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery.

(e) If it is ultimately determined the any additional amount of such a tax or fee is due to the imposing authority, the purchasing party shall pay such additional amount, including any interest and penalties thereon. However, if interest and penalties are due because of lack of timely remittance by the providing party or because of untimely billing by the providing party, the providing party will be responsible for such penalties and interest.

(f) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the purchasing party shall protect, indemnify and hold harmless (and defend at the purchasing party's expense) the providing party from and against any such tax or fee, interest or penalties thereon, or other charges or payable expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) with respect thereto, which are incurred by the providing party



in connection with any claim for or contest of any such tax or fee.

(g) Each party shall notify the other party in writing of any assessment, proposed assessment or other claim for any additional amount of such tax or fee by a taxing authority; such notice to be provided at least ten (10) days prior to the date by which a response, protest or other appeal must be filed, but in no event later than thirty (30) days after receipt of such assessment, proposed assessment or claim.

**36.17.4 Taxes and Fees Imposed on Providing Party But Passed on To Purchasing Party**

(a) Taxes and fees imposed on the providing party, which are permitted or required to be passed on by the providing party to the purchasing party shall be borne by the purchasing party.

(b) To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such tax and/or fees shall be shown as separate items on applicable billing documents between the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the purchasing party shall remain liable for any such taxes and fees regardless of whether they are actually billed by the providing party at the time that the respective service is billed and the purchasing party shall remit such taxes when later notified.

(c) If the purchasing party disagrees with the providing party's determination as to the application or basis for any such tax or fee, the Parties shall consult with respect to the imposition and billing of such tax or fee and with respect to whether to contest the imposition of such tax or fee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the providing party shall retain ultimate responsibility for determining whether and to what extent any such taxes or fees are applicable, and the purchasing party shall abide by such determination and pay such taxes or fees to the providing party. The providing party shall further retain ultimate responsibility for determining whether and how to contest the imposition of such taxes or fees; provided, however, that any such contest undertaken at the request of the

purchasing party shall be at the purchasing party's expense.

(d) In the event that all or any portion of an amount sought to be collected must be paid in order to contest the imposition of any such tax or fee, or to avoid the existence of a lien on the assets of the providing party during the pendency of such contest, the purchasing party shall be responsible for such payment and shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery.

(e) If it is ultimately determined that any additional amount of such a tax or fee is due to the imposing authority, the purchasing party shall pay such additional amount, including any interest and penalties thereon. However, if interest and penalties are due because of lack of timely remittance by the providing party or because of untimely billing by the providing party, the providing party will be responsible for such penalties and interest.

(f) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the purchasing party shall protect, indemnify and hold harmless (and defend at the purchasing party's expense) the providing party from and against any such tax or fee, interest or penalties thereon, or other charges or payable expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) with respect thereto, which are incurred by the providing party in connection with any claim for or contest of any such tax or fee.

(g) Each party shall notify the other party in writing of any assessment, proposed assessment or other claim for any additional amount of such a tax or fee by a taxing authority; such notice to be provided at least ten (10) days prior to the date by which a response, protest or other appeal must be filed, but no event later than thirty (30) days after receipt of such assessment, proposed assessment or claim.

**36.17.5 Taxes and Fees Imposed on the Providing Party.** With respect to any purchase of services, facilities or arrangements, if any tax or fee is imposed by applicable law on the receipts of the providing party (Receipts Tax (or fee)), which law permits the providing party to exclude

certain receipts received from sales for resale to a public utility, distributor, telephone company, local exchange carrier, telecommunications company or other communications company (Telecommunications company), such exclusion being based solely on the fact that the purchasing party is also subject to a tax or fee based upon receipts, then the purchasing party shall (i) provide the providing party with notice in writing in accordance with Section 34.0 of its intent to pay the Receipts Tax (or fee) and (ii) shall timely pay the receipts tax or fee to the applicable tax authority. If the purchasing party fails to pay the Receipts Tax as required by this subsection 36.17.5 then, as between the providing party and the purchasing party, (i) the purchasing party shall be liable for any tax or fee imposed on its receipts and (ii) the purchasing party shall be liable for any interest assessed thereon and any penalty assessed upon the providing party with respect to such tax or fee by such authority.

**36.17.6 Mutual Cooperation.** In any contest of a tax or fee by one Party, the other Party shall cooperate fully by timely providing records, testimony and such additional information or assistance as may be reasonably necessary to pursue the contest.

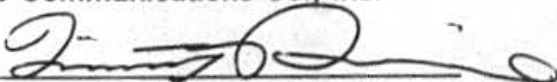
**36.17.7 Miscellaneous.** This Agreement does not cover any tax or fee which may be imposed on either party's corporate existence, status or income.

.....

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed as of this 26 day of August, 1996.

MFS Communications Co., Inc.

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

By: 

By: 

Print Name Timothy T. Devine

Print Name ROBERT C SCHHEYB

Title: Senior Director

Title: SR DIR

Exhibit 1.0

**Certain Terms as Defined in the Act**  
as of May 16, 1996 (These terms shall be amended to be consistent with Commission and/or FCC Orders as they may ultimately be adjudicated upon any petition for reconsideration or final appeal.)(Page 1 of 2)

"Affiliate" means a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "own" means to own an equity interest (or the equivalent thereof) of more than ten percent (10%).

"Dialing Parity" means that a person that is not an Affiliate of LEC is able to provide Telecommunications Services in such a manner that Customers have the ability to route automatically, without the use of any access code, their Telecommunications to the Telecommunications Services provider of the Customer's designation from among two (2) or more Telecommunications Services providers (including such LEC).

"Exchange Access" means the offering of access to Telephone Exchange Services or facilities for the purpose of the origination or termination of Telephone Toll Services.

"InterLATA" means Telecommunications between a point located in a local access and transport area and a point located outside such area.

"Local Access and Transport Area" or "LATA" means a contiguous geographic area: (a) established before the date of enactment of the Act by a Bell operating company such that no Exchange Area includes points within more than one (1) metropolitan statistical area, consolidated metropolitan statistical area, or State, except as expressly permitted under the AT&T Consent Decree; or (b) established or modified by a Bell operating company after such date of enactment and approved by the FCC.

"Local Exchange Carrier" means any person that is engaged in the provision of Telephone Exchange Service or Exchange Access. Such term does not include a person insofar as such person is engaged in the provision of a commercial mobile service under Section 332(c) of the Act, except to the extent that the FCC finds that such service should be included in the definition of such term.

"Network Element" (or "Unbundled Element") means a facility or equipment used in the provision of a Telecommunications Service. Such term also includes features, functions, and capabilities that are provided by means of such facility or equipment, including subscriber numbers, databases, signaling systems, and information sufficient for billing and collection or used in the transmission, routing, or other provision of a Telecommunications Service.



**MFS Communications Co., Inc., & BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**  
**Partial Florida Interconnection Agreement**  
**Under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996**

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**Exhibit 1.0 (Page 2 of 2)**

"Number Portability" means the ability of end users of telecommunications services to retain, at the same location, existing telecommunications numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switching from one telecommunications carrier to another.

"Telecommunications" means the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received.

"Telecommunications Carrier" means any provider of Telecommunications Services, except that such term does not include aggregators of Telecommunications Services (as defined in Section 226 of the Communications Act).

"Telecommunications Service" means the offering of Telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used.

"Telephone Exchange Service" means (a) service within a telephone exchange or within a connected system of telephone exchanges within the same exchange area operated to furnish subscribers intercommunicating service of the character ordinarily furnished by a single exchange, and which is covered by the Telephone Exchange Service charge, or (b) comparable service provided through a system of switches, transmission equipment, or other facilities (or combination thereof) by which a subscriber can originate and terminate a telecommunications service.

"Telephone Toll Service" means telephone service between stations in different exchange areas for which there is made a separate charge not included in contracts with subscribers for Telephone Exchange Service.



Exhibit 2.0

Implementation Schedule

LATA	BellSouth Interconnection Wire Centers (BIWC)	MFS Interconnection Wire Centers (MIWC)	Interconnection Activation Date
Miami	18400 N.E. 5th Ave--Miami*	8830 NW 18th Terrace -- Miami	November 25, 1996
Orlando	45 N. Magnolia-- Orlando*	225 East Robinson St-- Orlando	November 25, 1996
Orlando	Central Avenue Orlando	Future Option	November 25, 1996

\*Exchange Access  
Traffic--Meet-point  
Billing  
Interconnection  
Point

**Exhibit 3.0**  
**Meet-point Billing Provisions (Page 1 of 2)**

- A. BST shall provide MFS with the Switched Access Detail Usage Data (category 1101XX records) on an on-going basis on magnetic tape or via electronic file transfer using EMR format, no later than 10 days after the end of the calendar month billing period.
- B. MFS shall provide BST with the Switched Access Summary Usage Data (category 1150XX records) on magnetic tape or via electronic file transfer using the EMR format, no later than 10 days after the MFS bill is rendered.
- C. In accordance with MECAB guidelines, each Party shall coordinate and exchange the billing account reference ("BAR") and billing account cross reference ("BACR") numbers for the MPB Service. Each Party shall notify the other if the level of billing or other BAR/BACR elements change, resulting in a new BAR/BACR number.
- D. If Switched Access Detail Usage Data is not submitted to MFS by BST in a timely fashion or if it is not in proper format as previously defined, and if as a result MFS is delayed in billing the IXC's, late payment charges will be payable by BST to MFS as prescribed in MFS' access tariff.
- E. If Switched Access Summary Usage Data is not submitted to BST by MFS in a timely fashion or if it is not in proper format as previously defined, and if as a result BST is delayed in billing the IXC's, late payment charges will be payable to BST as prescribed in BST's access tariff. Excluded from this provision will be any Switched Access Detail Usage Data records not provided by BST in a timely fashion.

Exhibit 4.0\*\*

Meet-point Billing Rate Elements

Interstate Access - Terminating to, or Originating from MFS End user Customers

<u>Rate Element</u>	<u>Billing Company</u>
Carrier Common Line	MFS
Local Switching	MFS
Interconnection Charge	MFS
Local Transport Termination	50 % of BST rate & 50 % of MFS rate
Local Transport Facility	*
Tandem Switching	BST
Entrance Facility	BST

Intrastate Access - Terminating to, or Originating from MFS End User Customers

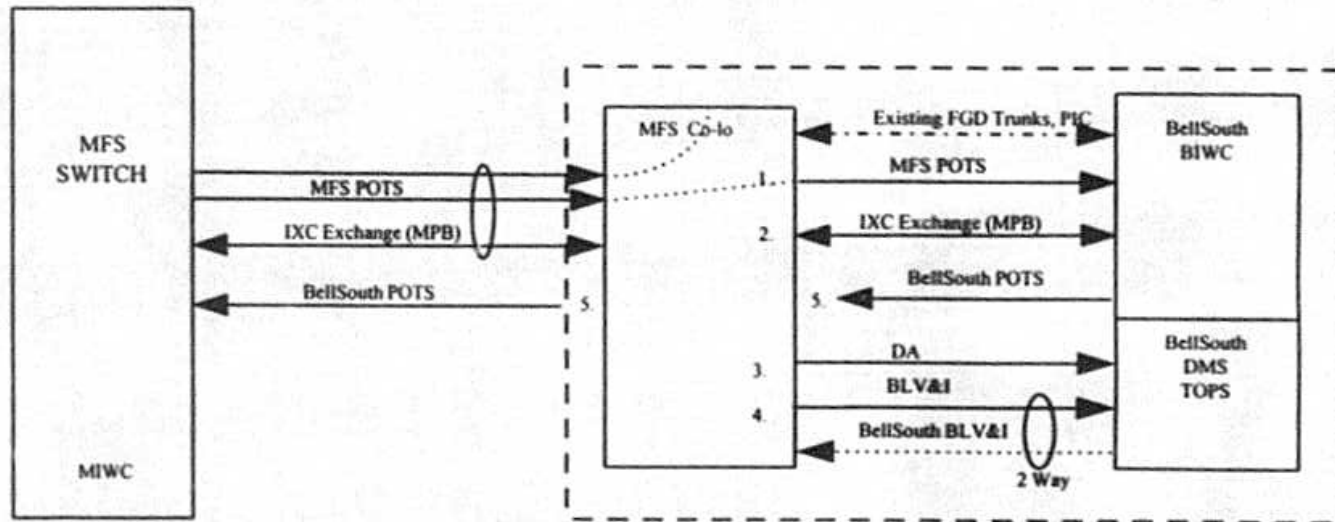
<u>Rate Element</u>	<u>Billing Company</u>
Carrier Common Line	MFS
Local Switching	MFS
Interconnection Charge	MFS
Local Transport Termination	50 % of BST rate & 50 % of MFS rate
Local Transport Facility	*
Tandem Switching	BST
Entrance Facility	BST

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\* Parties bill the IXCs its own tariff rate multiplied by the billing percentage identified for it in a given MPB pair, in Exhibit 3.0, multiplied by the total facility miles.

\*\* This Exhibit 4.0 does not apply to end users of resold services.

# MFS/BellSouth Initial Arch.--Exhibit 5.0.a (Page 79)



# MFS/BellSouth Initial Arch.--Exhibit 5.0.b (Page 80)

## Trunk Type Definitions

### TG 1. MFS POTS:

Definition - This is a 1 way SS7 trunk group defined to handle all MFS originating POT traffic which is sent to BellSouth line customers.

- POTS refers to calls traditionally known as "local calling," "extended area service (EAS)," and "IntraLATA toll."
- Growth of this trunk group to additional Access Tandem offices will be accomplished according to agreements made between BellSouth and MFS.

### TG 2. IXC Exchange (MPB)

Definition: This 2 way SS7 trunk group will be the primary route for all local and IntraLATA Toll calls to/from non-BellSouth subscribers e.g., CLECs and ICO/ITC), non-MFS 800/888 calls originating from a MFS NXX and incoming calls from other Interexchange Carriers to MFS line customers. In the future, it will be used to route all 1+ calls (including 800/888) and 10XXX/101XXXX calls which originate from a MFS NXX in the Miami & Orlando LATA s and are destined to an Interexchange Carrier other than MFS.

### TG 3. DA - Directory Assistance

Definition: This 1 way MF trunk group handles calls made by MFS line customers to the directory assistance operator.

### TG 4. BLV&I

Definition: This 2 way MF trunk group (optionally, two 1 way trunks) carries Busy Line Verification and Interrupt traffic.

### TG 5. BellSouth POTS

Definition: This 1 way SS7 trunk group will be used to terminate BellSouth local and IntraLATA traffic calling MFS line customers.

- POTS refers to calls traditionally known as "local calling," "extended area service (EAS)," and "IntraLATA toll."
- Growth of this trunk group to additional Access Tandem offices will be accomplished according to agreements made between BellSouth and MFS.

### Enhanced 911 (E-911)

#### Choke

Definition: This is an optional 1 way MF trunk group used to handle mass calling; for example radio station call-in promotions.

#### FGD, PIC

Definition: Existing FGD and traffic PICed to MFS.



# Exhibit 6.0: MFS/BST Fiber Meet (Page 81)

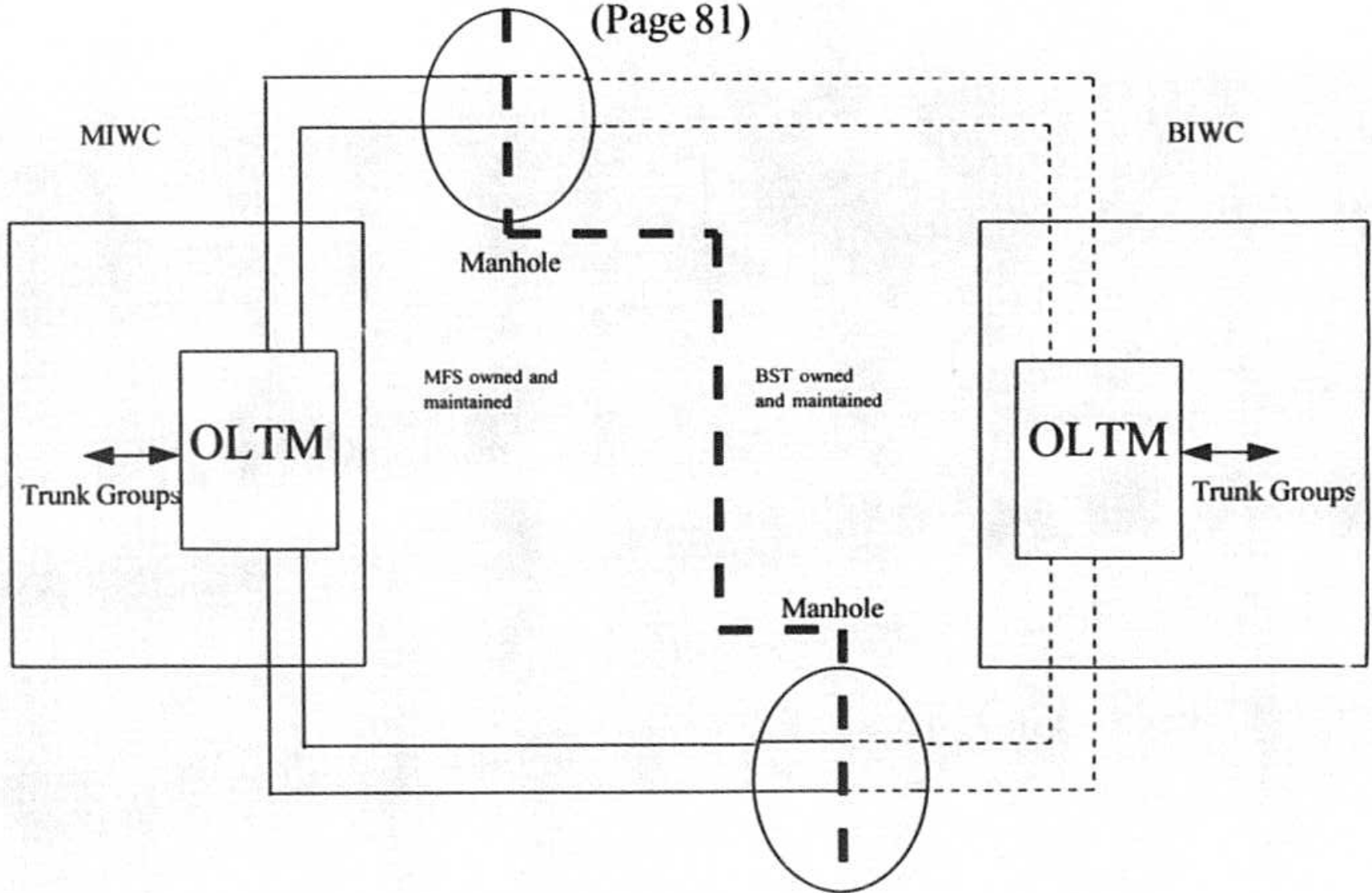


Exhibit 7.0

Reciprocal Local Traffic-Local Call Termination Rate

Local Call Termination Rate

\$0.009 Per Minute of Use

Exhibit 8.0

**BLV/BLVI Rates**

BLV Rates\*

\$0.90\*

BLVI Rates\*

\$1.95\*

\*Rates will always reflect current BST wholesale tariff for this function.

**Exhibit 9.0**

**Local (including Exchange Access Service-EAS) Transit Rate**

Local (including EAS and EAS-type calls) Call Transit Rate

0.0015 Per Minute of Use

**Exhibit 10.0**

**Interim Unbundled Element Cross connect Rate**

**TO BE DETERMINED**



**Exhibit 11.0**

**Unbundled Element Bonafide Request  
Process--Section 251(c)(3) (Page 1 of 2)**

1. Each Party will promptly consider and analyze access to a new Unbundled Element with the submission of an Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request hereunder. This Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request Process does not apply to those services requested pursuant to Report & Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 91-141 (rel. Oct. 19, 1992) ¶ 259 and n.603.
2. A Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request shall be submitted in writing and shall include a technical description of each requested Unbundled Element.
3. The requesting Party may cancel a Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request at any time but will pay the other Parties reasonable and demonstrable costs of processing and/or implementing the unbundled element bonafide request up to the date of cancellation.
4. Within ten (10) business days of its receipt, the receiving Party shall acknowledge receipt of the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request.
5. Except under extraordinary circumstances, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request, the receiving Party shall provide to the requesting Party a preliminary analysis of the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request. The preliminary analysis shall confirm that the receiving Party will offer access to the Unbundled Element or will provide a detailed explanation that access to the Unbundled Element is not technically feasible and/or that the request does not qualify as a Unbundled Element that is required to be provided under the state or federal rules. If the receiving Party determines that extraordinary circumstances exist and is therefore unable to provide such a preliminary analysis within the 30 day time-frame, the receiving Party shall advise the requesting Party of the date upon which the preliminary analysis will be available and the circumstances that caused the receiving Party to be unable to meet the 30 day dead-line.
6. If the receiving Party determines that the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request is technically feasible, it shall promptly proceed with developing the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request as soon as it receives written authorization, including a non-binding estimate of demand for the unbundled element, from the requesting Party. When it receives such authorization, the receiving Party shall promptly develop the requested services, determine their availability, calculate the applicable prices and establish installation intervals.

**Exhibit 11.0 (2 of 2)**

7. Unless the Parties expressly agree otherwise, the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request must be priced in accordance with FCC rules based upon the "Act".
8. As soon as feasible, but not more than ninety (90) days after its receipt of authorization to proceed with developing the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request, the receiving Party shall provide to the requesting Party a Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request quote which will include, at a minimum, a description of each Unbundled Element, the availability, the applicable rates and the installation intervals.
9. Within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request quote, the requesting Party must either confirm its order for the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request pursuant to the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request quote or petition seek relief from the appropriate regulatory body.
10. If a Party to a Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request believes that the other Party is not requesting, negotiating or processing the Unbundled Element Bona Fide Request in good faith, or disputes a determination, or price or cost quote, it may seek relief from the appropriate regulatory body.

**Exhibit 12.0**

**Interim Cost Recovery for Interim Number Portability (INP) Using Remote Call Forwarding**

1. Business INP monthly recurring cost-recovery will be \$2.25 per line, including 10 call paths, and \$0.50 per additional path beginning at the 11th path.
2. Residence INP monthly recurring cost-recovery will be \$1.15 for the first line, including 6 call paths, and \$0.50 per path thereafter.
3. No non-recurring cost-recovery fees will apply.
4. No usage fees will be applied for this capability.

The cost-recovery in this Exhibit is subject to Commission proceeding pursuant to Section 13.5 of this agreement.

**Exhibit 13.0**

**Directory Assistance Rates**

1. At MFS' request, on-line access to BST's Directory Assistance Service for an MFS-designated Operator Bureau. BST will provide this capability under non-discriminatory tariff or contract rates and terms.
2. At MFS' request, unbranded Directory Assistance capability under non-discriminatory tariff or contract rates and terms for MFS currently at \$0.25 per call.
3. At MFS' request, MFS Branded Directory Assistance capability under non-discriminatory tariff or contract rates and terms for MFS currently at \$0.25 per call, plus any additional costs, if any, as specified in Section 19.3.3.
4. At, MFS' request, BST will license to MFS or an MFS-designated Operator Bureau BST's directory database for use in providing competitive directory assistance service. BST will provide this capability under non-discriminatory tariff or contract rates and terms.
5. At MFS' request, Caller-optional call completion capability under non-discriminatory tariff or contract rates and terms currently at \$0.30 per completed call.

EXHIBIT 14.0  
AGREEMENT

In consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, BellSouth Advertising & Publishing Corporation, a Georgia corporation ("BAPCO") and Metropolitan Fiber Systems of Florida, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("MFS") agree as follows:

1. **RECITALS.** BAPCO is the publisher of alphabetical (or White Pages) and classified (or Yellow Pages) directories for certain communities in the southeastern region of the U.S (the "Directories"). MFS provides, or intends to provide, local exchange telephone service in communities in which BAPCO publishes Directories. BAPCO and MFS hereby establish the terms by which BAPCO will include listings of MFS subscribers in such Directories and by which BAPCO will provide such Directories to MFS subscribers.
  
2. **MFS OBLIGATIONS.** MFS agrees as follows:
  - (a) MFS shall provide to BAPCO, or its designee, at MFS's expense and at no charge, listing information concerning its subscribers (designating any who do not desire published listings), consisting of customer name, address, telephone number and all other information reasonably requested by BAPCO as set forth on Exhibit A in a mutually acceptable format for use by BAPCO or its affiliates in publishing Directories of whatever type and format and for other derivative purposes.
  
  - (b) MFS shall also provide directory delivery information to BAPCO as set forth in Exhibit A for all subscribers.
  
  - (c) MFS shall advise BAPCO promptly of any directory-related inquiries, requests or complaints which it may receive from MFS subscribers and shall provide reasonable cooperation to BAPCO in response to or resolution of the same.
  
  - (d) MFS shall respond promptly regarding corrections or queries raised by BAPCO to process listing changes requested by subscribers.
  
3. **BAPCO OBLIGATIONS.** BAPCO agrees as follows:
  - (a) BAPCO shall include one standard listing for each MFS subscriber per hunting group in BAPCO's appropriate local alphabetical Directory as published periodically by BAPCO unless nonlisted or nonpublished status is designated by subscribers. Such listings shall be interfiled with the listings of other local exchange telephone company subscribers and otherwise published in the manner of such other listings according to BAPCO's generally applicable publishing policies and standards. BAPCO shall make available at no charge a process whereby MFS is afforded a reasonable opportunity to review and correct its subscribers' alphabetical listings in advance of publication.



(b) Provided MFS establishes appropriate arrangements with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"), BAPCO shall publish additional listings, foreign listings and other alphabetical Directory listings offered by BellSouth, for MFS subscribers upon their request consistent with BAPCO's generally applicable policies in BAPCO's alphabetical Directories.

(c) BAPCO will distribute its regularly published alphabetical and classified Directories to local MFS subscribers at no charge to MFS or MFS's subscribers in accordance with BAPCO's prevailing practices, including delivery following Directory publication and upon establishment of new MFS service, if a current Directory for that geographic area has not previously been provided. Such deliveries may include separate advertising materials accompanying the Directories.

(d) BAPCO will include MFS information in the customer guide pages of its alphabetical Directories for communities where MFS is authorized to provide local exchange telephone service at the time of publication in accordance with BAPCO's prevailing standards for the same as set forth in Exhibit "B" hereto. BAPCO shall interfile MFS's NXXs with other central offices in the Customer Guide Pages to the extent such NXXs fall entirely within the applicable Directory boundary area. BAPCO shall not include other carriers' logos in the informational presentations in such pages unless MFS is allowed to include its logo. MFS will provide information requested by BAPCO for such purpose on a timely basis.

(e) BAPCO shall make available at no charge to MFS or its subscribers one listing for MFS business customers per hunting group in one appropriate heading in BAPCO's appropriate local classified directory as published periodically by BAPCO. Such listings shall be published according to BAPCO's generally applicable publishing policies and standards.

(f) BAPCO agrees to solicit, accept and publish directory advertising from business subscribers for MFS in communities for which BAPCO publishes classified Directories in the same manner and upon substantially the same terms as it solicits, accepts and publishes advertising from advertisers who are not MFS subscribers.

(g) BAPCO will not provide information obtained from MFS concerning its subscribers to other local exchange telephone service providers, including BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., without MFS approval, except as may be required in relation to publishing of Directories or derivative products of BAPCO or its affiliates or as may be permitted by MFS for directory assistance or other purposes. BAPCO agrees not to market or sell MFS's customer lists information to third parties for mailing lists without MFS's consent.

(h) BAPCO and MFS acknowledge that mutual cooperation will be required to successfully serve the needs of their common customers and therefore agree to use reasonable efforts to provide such cooperation to achieve the highest quality of service for

both parties' customers. BAPCO agrees that its handling of MFS shall be consistent with those of other carriers.

4. PUBLISHING POLICIES. BAPCO shall maintain full authority over its publishing schedules, policies, standards, and practices and over the scope and publishing schedules of its Directories. BAPCO shall periodically provide MFS with changes by BAPCO in the same which in BAPCO's judgment affect MFS's conduct in BAPCO's publishing of listings for MFS's subscribers.

5. LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY.

(a) BAPCO's liability to MFS for any errors or omissions in directories or for any default otherwise arising hereunder shall be limited to One Dollar (\$1) for errors or omissions in any subscriber listing in any directory published by BAPCO.

(b) Each party agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the other from all damages, claims, suits, losses or expenses, including without limitation costs and attorneys fees, to the extent of such party's relative fault, arising out of or resulting from any error, omission or act of such party hereunder. MFS agrees to limit its liability and that of BAPCO by contract with MFS's subscribers or by tariff to no more than the cost of service for any errors or omissions in any listings published hereunder for MFS subscribers. Each party shall notify in writing the other promptly of any claimed error or omission affecting this paragraph and of any claim or suit arising hereunder or relating to this Agreement and shall provide reasonable and timely cooperation in its resolution of the same. Without waiver of any rights hereunder, the indemnified party may at its expense undertake its own defense in any such claim or suit.

(c) MFS agrees to include in any local service tariff it files, a provision limiting its liability and that of BAPCO, for any claims relating to directory listings or advertisements, to the subscribers' cost of local service or to the charge for any such listing, whichever is less.

6. TERM. This Agreement shall be effective on the date of the last signature hereto for a term of two (2) years and shall relate to Directories published by BAPCO during such period. Thereafter, it shall continue in effect unless terminated by either party upon sixty days prior written notice.

7. ASSIGNMENT. This Agreement shall be binding upon any successors or assigns of the parties during its Term.

8. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES. This Agreement does not create any joint venture, partnership or employment relationship between the parties or their employees, and the relationship between the parties shall be that of an independent contractor. There shall be no intended third party beneficiaries to this Agreement.

9. NONDISCLOSURE.

(a) During the term of this Agreement it may be necessary for the parties to provide each other with certain information ("Information") considered to be private or proprietary. The recipient shall protect such Information from distribution, disclosure or dissemination to anyone except its employees or contractors with a need to know such Information in conjunction herewith, except as otherwise authorized in writing. All such Information shall be in writing or other tangible form and clearly marked with a confidential or proprietary legend. Information conveyed orally shall be designated as proprietary or confidential at the time of such oral conveyance and shall be reduced to writing within forty-five (45) days.

(b) The parties will not have an obligation to protect any portion of Information which: (1) is made publicly available lawfully by a nonparty to this Agreement; (2) is lawfully obtained from any source other than the providing party; (3) is previously known without an obligation to keep it confidential; (4) is released by the providing party in writing; or (5) commencing two (2) years after the termination date of this Agreement if such Information is not a trade secret under applicable law.

(c) Each party will make copies of the Information only as necessary for its use under the terms hereof, and each such copy will be marked with the same proprietary notices as appear on the originals. Each party agrees to use the Information solely in support of this Agreement and for no other purpose.

10. FORCE MAJEURE. Neither party shall be responsible to the other for any delay or failure to perform hereunder to the extent caused by fire, flood, explosion, war, strike, riot, embargo, governmental requirements, civic or military authority, act of God, or other similar cause beyond its reasonable control. Each party shall use best efforts to notify the other promptly of any such delay or failure and shall provide reasonable cooperation to ameliorate the effects thereof.

11. PUBLICITY. Neither party shall disclose the terms of this Agreement nor use the trade names or trademarks of the other without the prior express written consent of the other.

12. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS. The parties will comply with all current and future laws, ordinances and regulations applicable to them concerning publication of directories.

13. REPRESENTATIVES AND NOTICES.

(a) Each party shall name one or more representatives for contacts between the parties which shall be authorized to act on its behalf. Such representatives may be changed from time to time upon written notice to the other party.

(b) Notices required by law or under this Agreement shall be given in writing by hand delivery, certified or registered mail, or by facsimile followed by certified or registered mail, addressed to the named representatives of the parties with copies to:

If to BAPCO:

Director-LEC/BST Interface  
BellSouth Advertising & Publishing Corporation  
Room 270  
59 Executive Park South  
Atlanta, GA 30329

With Copy to:

Vice President and General Counsel  
BellSouth Advertising & Publishing Corporation  
Room 430  
59 Executive Park South  
Atlanta, GA 30329

If to MFS:

Manager, Directory and Operator Services  
MFS Communications Company, Inc.  
3 Wing Drive  
Suite 200  
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927

14. AUTHORITY. MFS represents that it has authority to bind its operating local exchange carrier affiliates and subsidiaries to the terms and conditions herein.

15. MISCELLANEOUS. This Agreement represents the entire Agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes any previous oral or written communications, representations, understandings, or agreements with respect thereto. It may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original. All prior and contemporaneous written or oral agreements, representations, warranties, statements, negotiations, and /or understandings by and between the parties, whether express or implied, are superseded, and there are no representations or warranties, either oral or written, express or implied, not herein contained. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the state of Georgia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement by their duly authorized representatives in one or more counterparts, each of which shall constitute an original, on the dates set forth below.

BELLSOUTH ADVERTISING &  
PUBLISHING CORPORATION

By: [Signature]

Title: Director - LEC Int'l

Date: 7/19/96

METROPOLITAN FIBER  
SYSTEMS OF FLORIDA, INC.

By: [Signature]

Title: Vice President

Date: 7/22/96

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
BY: [Signature]  
PARKEY D. JOHNSON  
Attorney



## EXHIBIT A

### ACCOUNT INFORMATION SECTION (Items in this section are mandatory)

1. Main Telephone Number: Main line of telephone service that all other numbers are associated to. (Area Code/NXX/Line Numbers)
2. Published Telephone Number: Telephone number to appear in the directory.
3. Old Telephone Number: If the number is changing, enter the OLD Telephone Number.
4. Type of Directory Service: Bus (Business) or Res (Residence)
5. Order Type: N - New connect order; D - Disconnect service order; C - Change of listings; R - Directory delivery only.
6. Due Date: Date that service is requested.
7. Carrier Name: The name of the local exchange carrier and operating company code.
8. Carrier Number: Operating Company Number

### PRIMARY LISTING INFORMATION SECTION (Items in this section are mandatory)

9. Listed Name: The way the listing is to appear in the directory. (maximum 1,000 characters - including spaces) Caption arrangements should be formatted per guidelines. Non-Pub or Non-List situations should be indicated.
10. Listed Address: Current address may include street number - street name, city, state, and zip code. (Note: P.O. Box or Route not acceptable). Omitted address shown as (OAD). (maximum 250 characters)
11. Service Address: Physical location of the telephone.
12. Community Name: The name of the community where the listing appears. (i.e.: the Atlanta Directory may have a Community name of Buckhead).
13. Zip code: 5 or 9 character code.
14. Yellow Pages Heading: The Yellow Page heading where customer wants his listing to appear. (Valid for Business Primary Listings only).
15. Directory Name: Name of the directory where Customer desires listing to appear (including town section if applicable). If consistent with existing central office and directory configuration, listing will be included. If different, a Foreign Listing will be charged. Directory appearance entitled free is based on the central office prefix. Entitlement for appearance in other directories will be at the rate of a Foreign Listing (FL).

### BILLING INFORMATION SECTION (Items in this section are requested but optional)

16. Billing: Name to appear on bill.
17. Billing Address: Street number, street name, city, state, zip.
18. Contact Telephone Number: Telephone number to contact regarding billing.
19. Responsible Person: Owner's name or partners' names or 2 corporate officers.
20. Type of Ownership: Sole owner; Partnership or Corporation
21. Tax ID Number or Social Security Number: If sole owner, must have social security number.

### DIRECTORY DELIVERY INFORMATION SECTION (Items in this section are mandatory)

22. Name: Personal or business name.
23. Delivery Address: Street number, street name, city, state, zip code of where directories are to be delivered.
24. Directory (Book ID): Bolt code of the directory.
25. Number of books now: for immediate delivery/replacement.
26. Number of books annually: 0 - 3 residence, 0 - 5 business, then negotiated.

### REMARKS SECTION (As required)

27. Remarks: Free flow field used by Carrier for any additional information

PRIVATE/PROPRIETARY

Contains private and/or proprietary information. May not be used or disclosed outside the BellSouth companies except pursuant to a written agreement.

## EXHIBIT B

### Standards for Inclusion in Customer Guide Pages:

1. Carrier shall be certified by the applicable state's public service commission for provision of local exchange service.
2. Carrier shall have established appropriate resale or interconnection arrangements with BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc; provided, however, that for purposes of the 1996-1997 Atlanta area Directories only, the requirement set forth in this paragraph shall be deemed satisfied so long as carrier is actively pursuing such arrangements in good faith.
3. Carrier's telephone numbers which will be included in the Customer Guide Pages will be answered by service representatives during normal business hours throughout the Directory service period, and Carrier will warrant the same to BAPCO in writing.
4. BAPCO shall have the right to impose such other guidelines and policies as may be necessary and appropriate, including ethical standards and publishing requirements.