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 **BELLSOUTH**

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Marshall M. Criser III  
Regulatory Vice President

OCT 30 PM 4:45

RECORDS AND  
REPORTING

October 30, 2000

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

001647-TP

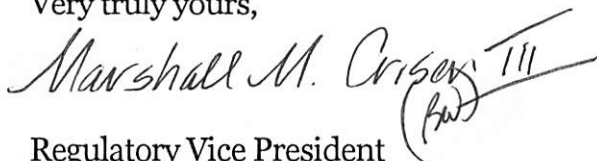
Re: Approval of the negotiation Interconnection Agreement by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and R&G Distributors, Inc. pursuant to Sections 251, 252 and 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Mrs. Bayo:

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, BellSouth and R&G Distributors, Inc. 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 R&G Distributors, Inc. 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 R&G Distributors, Inc. 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 exists as to the agreement they have negotiated and that the Commission should approve their agreement.

Very truly yours,

  
Regulatory Vice President

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

14084 OCT 30 00

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

**ATTACHMENT TO TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

The Agreement entered into by and R&G Distributors, Inc. and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., dated January 1, 2000, for the state(s) of Florida consists of the following:

ITEM	NO. PAGES
PAGING AGREEMENT	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>

## ONE-WAY PAGING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., ("BellSouth"), a Georgia corporation, and R&G Distributors, Inc., ("Carrier") a Florida corporation and shall be deemed effective as of January 1, 2000 (the "Effective Date"). This Agreement may refer to either BellSouth or Carrier or both as a "party" or "parties."

### WITNESSETH

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

**WHEREAS**, Carrier is a Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") provider licensed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to provide one-way paging and/or narrowband Personal Communications Service (hereinafter "Paging Services") in the state of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties wish to interconnect their facilities for the purposes of fulfilling their obligations pursuant to sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and to replace any and all other prior agreements, both written and oral;

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual agreements contained herein, BellSouth and Carrier agree as follows:

#### **I. Definitions**

**A. Commission** is defined as the appropriate regulatory agency in each of BellSouth's nine state region: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

**B. Local Traffic** is defined for purposes of this Agreement as any telephone call that originates on the network of BellSouth that is handed off to Carrier at a point of interconnection in the same Local Access and Transport Area ("LATA") in which the call originates. For purposes of this Agreement, LATA shall have the same definition as that contained in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

**C. Local Interconnection** is defined for purposes of this Agreement as the delivery of Local Traffic to be terminated on Carrier's local network so that end users of BellSouth have the ability to reach end users of Carrier without the use of any access code or substantial delay in the processing of the call.

**D. Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act")** means Public Law 104-104 of the United States Congress effective February 8, 1996. The Act amended the Communications Act of 1934 (47, U.S.C. Section 1 et. seq.).

## **II. Purpose**

The parties desire to enter into this Agreement consistent with all applicable federal, state and local statutes, rules and regulations in effect as of the date of its execution including, without limitation, the Act at Sections 251 and 252. The access and interconnection obligations contained herein enable Carrier to provide Paging Services in those areas where it is authorized to provide such service within the nine state region of BellSouth. Carrier remains liable to BellSouth for payment for all services and facilities obtained from BellSouth prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement pursuant to the applicable tariff or contract provisions.

## **III. Term and Termination**

**A.** The term of this Agreement shall be two years, beginning January 1, 2000. If as of the expiration of this Agreement, a Subsequent Agreement (as defined in Section B below) has not been executed by the Parties, this Agreement shall continue on a month-to-month basis while a Subsequent Agreement is being negotiated. The Parties' rights and obligations with respect to this Agreement after expiration shall be as set forth in Section D below.

**B.** The Parties agree that by no later than one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration of this Agreement, they shall commence negotiations with regard to the terms, conditions and prices of local interconnection to be effective beginning on the expiration date of this Agreement ("Subsequent Agreement").

**C.** If, within one hundred and thirty-five (135) days of commencing the negotiation referred to in Section B above, the Parties are unable to satisfactorily negotiate new local interconnection terms, conditions and prices, either Party may petition the Commission to establish appropriate local interconnection arrangements pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 252. The Parties agree that, in such event, they shall encourage the Commission to issue its order regarding the appropriate local interconnection arrangements no later than the expiration date of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that in the event the Commission does not issue its order prior to the expiration date of this Agreement, or if the Parties continue beyond the expiration date of this

Agreement to negotiate the local interconnection arrangements without Commission intervention, the terms, conditions and prices ultimately ordered by the Commission, or negotiated by the Parties, will be effective retroactive to the day following the expiration date of this Agreement.

**D.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that as of the date of expiration of this Agreement and conversion of this Agreement to a month-to-month term, the Parties have not entered into a Subsequent Agreement and either no arbitration proceeding has been filed in accordance with Section C above, or the Parties have not mutually agreed (where permissible) to extend the arbitration window for petitioning the applicable Commission(s) for resolution of those terms upon which the Parties have not agreed, then either Party may terminate this Agreement upon sixty (60) days notice to the other Party. In the event that BellSouth terminates this Agreement as provided above, BellSouth shall continue to offer services to Carrier pursuant to the terms, conditions and rates set forth in BellSouth's General Subscriber Services Tariff, Section A35, or, in the case of North Carolina, in the North Carolina Connection and Traffic Interchange Agreement effective June 30, 1994, as amended.

#### **IV. Local Interconnection**

**A.** The delivery of Local Traffic shall be one way from BellSouth to Carrier. The delivery of traffic on BellSouth's interLATA EAS routes shall be considered as Local Traffic. EAS routes are those exchanges within an exchange's Basic Local Calling Area, as defined in Section A3 of BellSouth's General Subscriber Services Tariff.

**B.** BellSouth will pay Carrier for terminating its Local Traffic on the Carrier's network the local interconnection rates as set forth in Attachment B-1. Charges for terminating traffic will be in accumulated conversation minutes, whole and partial, measured from receipt of answer supervision to receipt of disconnect supervision and rounded up to the next whole minute at the close of the billing period. If Carrier is unable to measure traffic in this manner, the charges from Carrier for traffic terminating to Carrier will be based upon actual usage determined by multiplying the actual number of pages per month times the facilities percentage referenced in Section V. Paragraph C (85%) times the average hold time per page, which is agreed to by the parties as fifteen (15) seconds per page, and rounding up to the next whole minute at the close of the billing period. The charges for local interconnection are to be billed and paid monthly. The parties will share the recurring charges for certain transport facilities for Local Traffic as more fully set forth in Section V of this Agreement. Carrier's share of charges for such local transport facilities are to be billed and paid pursuant to the terms and conditions of the applicable state tariff(s) from which such facilities are provided. Late payment fees, not to exceed 1 1/2% per month (or a lower percent as specified by an appropriate state regulatory agency) after the due date may be assessed, if undisputed interconnection charges are not paid, within thirty (30) days after due date

after monthly bill. All charges under this agreement shall be billed within one year from the time the charge was incurred. Previously unbilled charges more than one year old shall not be billed by either party.

C. If during the term of this agreement BellSouth has interconnection agreements with other Carriers containing usage rate(s) for Cellular/PCS/SMR which are different from the usage rate(s) in this agreement and 75% of the other Carriers' usage is subject to a different rate, the parties agree that either party shall have the right to modify the rates in Attachment B-1 to the then current usage rate contained in the Cellular/PCS/SMR interconnection agreements.

## **V. Methods of Interconnection**

A. There are three appropriate methods of interconnecting facilities: (1) interconnection via purchase of facilities from either party by the other party; (2) physical collocation; and (3) virtual collocation where physical collocation is not practical for technical reasons or because of space limitations. Type 1, Type 2A and Type 2B and other interconnection arrangements described in BellSouth's General Subscriber Services Tariff, Section A35, or, in the case of North Carolina, in the North Carolina Connection and Traffic Interchange Agreement effective June 30, 1994, as amended, may be purchased pursuant to this Agreement subject, however, to the sharing of recurring charges for certain transport facilities for Local Traffic as more fully set forth in this section.

B. The parties will accept and provide any of the preceding methods of interconnection. Connectivity shall be established to at least one BellSouth access tandem within every LATA Carrier desires to serve, or Carrier may elect to interconnect directly at an end office. In the event a party interconnects via the purchase of facilities and/or services from the other party, the appropriate intrastate tariff, as amended from time to time will apply. The parties acknowledge, however, that with respect to such facilities that run from BellSouth's tandem or end office to Carrier's first switch or terminal as the case may be, in the same LATA as the interconnected BellSouth tandem or end office, the applicable recurring charges for such facilities will be shared by the parties with BellSouth responsible for 85% of the facility charges and Carrier responsible for 15% of the facility charges, except that BellSouth shall only share the cost of the first twenty-five (25) miles of interoffice facilities, with Carrier responsible for all other interoffice facility charges. Sharing of recurring facility charges shall apply to activated trunks only. Carrier shall be and remain solely responsible for all installation and other nonrecurring charges for such facilities.

C. The decision to activate facilities for which charges are shared will be made by the party responsible for the majority of the recurring charges for the facility. This decision will be based on traffic information from studies performed by BellSouth or, if BellSouth has not or will not perform such studies, by traffic information provided

by Carrier. Recurring facility charges sharing will be at the DS1 level for transport facilities at the DS1 or higher level. If trunks have been activated in quantities exceeding the capacity of a full DS1, but not sufficient to fully occupy an additional DS1, sharing will be rounded up to the next DS1. Sharing of recurring facility charges for those carriers who subscribe to voice grade transport at less than the DS1 level will be based on actual facilities installed.

**D.** Nothing herein shall prevent Carrier from utilizing existing collocation facilities, purchased from the interexchange tariffs, for local interconnection; provided, however, that if Carrier orders new facilities for interconnection or rearranges any facilities presently used for its alternate access business in order to use such facilities for local interconnection hereunder and a BellSouth charge is applicable thereto, BellSouth shall only charge Carrier the lower of the interstate or intrastate tariffed rate or promotional rate.

**E.** When the parties provide an access service connection between an interexchange carrier ("IXC") and each other, each party will provide its own access services to the IXC. Each party will bill its own access services rates to the IXC.

**F.** The ordering and provision of all services purchased from BellSouth by Carrier shall be as set forth in the BellSouth Telecommunications Wireless Customer Guide as that guide is amended by BellSouth from time to time during the term of this Agreement.

## **VI. Access To Poles, Ducts, Conduits, and Rights of Way**

BellSouth agrees to provide to Carrier, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 224, as amended by the Act, nondiscriminatory access to any pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way owned or controlled by BellSouth.

## **VII. Directory Listings**

**A.** Subject to execution of an agreement between Carrier and BellSouth's affiliate, BellSouth Advertising & Publishing Corporation, ("BAPCO"), (1) listings shall be included in appropriate White Pages or alphabetical directories; (2) Carrier's business subscribers' listings shall also be included in appropriate Yellow Pages, or classified directories; and (3) copies of such directories shall be delivered to Carrier's subscribers.

**B.** Upon Carrier's request, BellSouth will include Carrier's subscriber listings in BellSouth's directory assistance databases and BellSouth will not charge Carrier to maintain the Directory Assistance database. The parties agree to cooperate with each

other in formulating appropriate procedures regarding lead time, timeliness, format and content of listing information.

C. Upon Carrier's request, BellSouth will provide Carrier a magnetic tape or computer disk containing the proper format for submitting subscriber listings. Carrier will provide BellSouth with its directory listings and daily updates to those listings, including new, changed, and deleted listings, in an industry-accepted format.

D. Upon Carrier's request, BellSouth and BAPCO will accord Carrier's directory listing information the same level of confidentiality which BellSouth and BAPCO accords its own directory listing information, and BellSouth shall limit access to Carrier's customer proprietary confidential directory information to those BellSouth or BAPCO employees who are involved in the preparation of listings.

E. Additional listings and optional listings may be provided by BellSouth at the rates set forth in the General Subscriber Services Tariff as the tariff is amended from time to time during the term of this Agreement.

#### **VIII. Access to Telephone Numbers**

Carrier is responsible for interfacing with the North American Numbering Plan administrator for all matters dealing with dedicated NXXs. BellSouth will cooperate with Carrier in the provision of shared NXXs where BellSouth is the service provider.

#### **IX. Network Design and Management**

A. The parties agree to work cooperatively to install and maintain reliable interconnected telecommunications networks, including but not limited to, maintenance contact numbers and escalation procedures. BellSouth agrees to provide public notice of changes in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of services using its local exchange facilities or networks, as well as of any other changes that would affect the interoperability of those facilities and networks.

B. The interconnection of all networks will be based upon accepted industry/national guidelines for transmission standards and traffic blocking criteria.

C. The parties will work cooperatively to apply sound network management principles by invoking appropriate network management controls to alleviate or prevent network congestion.

D. Neither party intends to charge rearrangement, reconfiguration, disconnection, termination or other non-recurring fees that may be associated with the initial reconfiguration of either party's network interconnection arrangement contained in



this Agreement. However, the interconnection reconfigurations will have to be considered individually as to the application of a charge. Notwithstanding the foregoing, BellSouth intends to charge non-recurring fees for any additions to, or added capacity to, any facility or trunk provided to Carrier.

**E.** The parties agree to provide each other with the proper call information, including all proper translations for routing between networks and any information necessary for billing where BellSouth provides recording capabilities. This exchange of information is required to enable each party to bill properly.

#### **X. Liability and Indemnification**

**A.** EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR IN THIS AGREEMENT OR IN THIS SECTION XVI, NEITHER PARTY SHALL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, RELIANCE, PUNITIVE, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY THE OTHER PARTY (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DAMAGES FOR HARM TO BUSINESS, LOST REVENUES, LOST SAVINGS, OR LOST PROFITS SUFFERED BY THE OTHER PARTY), REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF ACTION, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, WARRANTY, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION NEGLIGENCE OF ANY KIND WHETHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PARTIES KNEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH DAMAGES COULD RESULT.

**B.** Neither party shall be liable to the other for any act or omission of any other telecommunications company providing a portion of a service under this Agreement, nor shall either party hold liable any other telecommunications company providing a portion of a service under this Agreement for any act or omission of BellSouth or Carrier.

**C.** Neither party is liable for damages to the other party's terminal location, POI nor customer's premises resulting from the furnishing of a service, including but not limited to the installation and removal of equipment and associated wiring, unless the damage is caused by a party's gross or willful negligence or intentional misconduct.

**D.** Each party shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the other party against any claim, loss or damage arising from the other party's acts or omissions under this Agreement, including without limitation: 1) Claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of copyright arising from the other party's own communications; 2) Claims for patent infringement arising from combining or using the service furnished by either party in connection with facilities or equipment furnished by either party or either party's customer; 3) any claim, loss, or damage claimed by a customer of either party arising from services provided by the other party under this Agreement; or 4) all other claims arising out of an act or omission of the other party in the course of using services provided pursuant to this Agreement. Each Party's liability

to the other for any loss, cost, claim, injury or liability or expense, including reasonable attorney's fees relating to or arising out of any negligent act or omission in its performance of this Agreement whether in contract or in tort, shall be limited to a credit for the actual cost of the services or functions not performed or improperly performed.

**E.** A Party may, in its sole discretion, provide in its tariffs and contracts with its Customer and third parties that relate to any service, product or function provided or contemplated under this Agreement, that to the maximum extent permitted by Applicable Law, such Party shall not be liable to Customer or third Party for (i) any Loss relating to or arising out of this Agreement, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, that exceeds the amount such Party would have charged that applicable person for the service, product or function that gave rise to such Loss and (ii) Consequential Damages. To the extent that a Party elects not to place in its tariffs or contracts such limitations of liability, and the other Party incurs a Loss as a result thereof, such Party shall indemnify and reimburse the other Party for that portion of the Loss that would have been limited had the first Party included in its tariffs and contracts the limitations of liability that such other Party included in its own tariffs at the time of such Loss.

**F.** Neither BellSouth nor Carrier shall be liable for damages to the other's terminal location, POI or other company's customers' premises resulting from the furnishing of a service, including, but not limited to, the installation and removal of equipment or associated wiring, except to the extent caused by a company's negligence or willful misconduct or by a company's failure to properly ground a local loop after disconnection.

**G.** Under no circumstance shall a Party be responsible or liable for indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including, but not limited to, economic loss or lost business or profits, 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, each Party recognizes that the other Party may, from time to time, provide advice, make recommendations, or supply other analyses related to the Services, or facilities described in this Agreement, and, while each Party shall use diligent efforts in this regard, the Parties acknowledge and agree that this limitation of liability shall apply to provision of such advice, recommendations, and analyses.

**H.** The Party providing services hereunder, its affiliates and its parent company, shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the Party receiving services hereunder against any claim, loss or damage arising from the receiving company's use of the services provided under this Agreement pertaining to (1) claims for libel, slander or invasion of privacy arising from the content of the receiving company's own communications, or (2) any claim, loss or damage claimed by the customer of the Party receiving services arising from such company's use or reliance

on the providing company's services, actions, duties, or obligations arising out of this Agreement.

I. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, claims for damages by Carrier or Carrier's clients or any other person or entity resulting from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of BellSouth shall not be subject to such limitation of liability.

J. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, claims for damages by BellSouth or any other person or entity resulting from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of Carrier shall not be subject to such limitation of liability.

K. Neither party assumes liability for the accuracy of the data provided to it by the other party.

L. No license under patents (other than the limited license to use) is granted by either party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel, with respect to any service offered pursuant to this Agreement.

M. Each party's failure to provide or maintain services offered pursuant to this Agreement shall be excused by labor difficulties, governmental orders, civil commotion, criminal actions taken against them, acts of God and other circumstances beyond their reasonable control.

N. EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED TO THE CONTRARY IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES TO THE OTHER PARTY CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC QUALITY OF ANY SERVICES, OR FACILITIES PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. 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.

O. The obligations of the parties contained within this section shall survive the expiration of this Agreement.

#### **XI. Modification of Agreement**

A. BellSouth shall make available, pursuant to 47 USC § 252 and the FCC rules and regulations regarding such availability, to Carrier any interconnection, service, or network element provided under any other agreement filed and approved pursuant to 47 USC § 252. The Parties shall adopt all rates, terms and conditions concerning such other interconnection, service or network element and any other rates, terms and conditions that are interrelated or were negotiated in exchange for or in conjunction with

the interconnection, service or network element being adopted. The adopted interconnection, service, or network element and agreement shall apply to the same states as such other agreement and for the identical term of such other agreement.

**B.** If Carrier changes its name or makes changes to its company structure or identity due to a merger, acquisition, transfer or any other reason, it is the responsibility of Carrier to notify BellSouth of said change and request that an amendment to this Agreement, if necessary, be executed to reflect said change.

**C.** No modification, amendment, supplement to, or waiver of the Agreement or any of its provisions shall be effective and binding upon the Parties unless it is made in writing and duly signed by the Parties.

**D.** Execution of this Agreement by either Party does not confirm or infer that the executing Party agrees with any decision(s) issued pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the consequences of those decisions on specific language in this Agreement. Neither Party waives its rights to appeal or otherwise challenge any such decision(s) and each Party reserves all of its rights to pursue any and all legal and/or equitable remedies, including appeals of any such decision(s).

**E.** In the event that any effective legislative, regulatory, judicial or other legal action materially affects any material terms of this Agreement, or the ability of Carrier or BellSouth to perform any material terms of this Agreement, Carrier or BellSouth may, on thirty (30) days' written notice require that such terms be renegotiated, and the Parties shall renegotiate in good faith such mutually acceptable new terms as may be required. In the event that such new terms are not renegotiated within ninety (90) days after such notice, the Dispute shall be referred to the Dispute Resolution procedure set forth in Section XIV.

**F.** If any provision of this Agreement, or the application of such provision to either Party or circumstance, shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Agreement, or the application of any such provision to the Parties or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be effective thereby, provided that the Parties shall attempt to reformulate such invalid provision to give effect to such portions thereof as may be valid without defeating the intent of such provision.

## **XII. Taxes and Fees**

**A. 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) which are imposed, or sought to be imposed, on or with respect to the services furnished hereunder or measured by the charges or payments therefor.

**B. Taxes And Fees Imposed Directly On Either Providing Party Or Purchasing Party.**

1. Taxes and fees imposed on the providing party, which are neither permitted nor required to be passed on by the providing party to its customer, shall be borne and paid by the providing party.
2. 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.

**C. Taxes And Fees Imposed On Purchasing Party But Collected And Remitted By Providing Party.**

1. 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.
2. To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and 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.
3. 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 the purchasing party provides written certification, reasonably satisfactory to the providing party, 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 shall have the right, at its own expense, to contest the same in good faith, in its own name or on the providing party's behalf. In any such contest, the purchasing party shall promptly furnish the providing party with copies of all filings in any proceeding, protest, or legal challenge, all rulings issued in connection therewith, and all correspondence between the purchasing party and the governmental authority.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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 governmental authority; such notice to be provided, if possible, 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.

8. The Purchasing Party shall have the right, at its own expense, to claim a refund or credit, in its own name or on the Providing Party's behalf, of any such tax or fee that it determines to have paid in error, and the Purchasing Party shall be entitled to any recovery thereof.

**D. Taxes And Fees Imposed On Providing Party But Passed On To Purchasing Party.**

1. Taxes and fees imposed on the providing party, which are permitted or required to be passed on by the providing party to its customer, shall be borne by the purchasing party.

2. To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and 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.

3. If the purchasing party disagrees with the providing party's determination as to the application or basis of 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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 governmental authority; such notice to be provided, if possible, 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.

**E. Mutual Cooperation.** In any contest of a tax or fee by one Party, the other Party shall cooperate fully by providing records, testimony and such additional information or assistance as may reasonably be necessary to pursue the contest. Further, the other Party shall be reimbursed for any reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket copying and travel expenses incurred in assisting in such contest.

### **XIII. Treatment of Proprietary and Confidential Information**

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

**B.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, both parties agree that there will be no obligation to protect any portion of the Information that is either: 1) made publicly available by the owner of the Information or lawfully disclosed by a nonparty to this Agreement; 2) lawfully obtained from any source other than the owner of the Information; 3) previously known to the receiving party without an obligation to keep it confidential; or 4) requested by a governmental agency, provided that the party upon whom the request is made shall notify the party who originally provided the confidential Information at least seven (7) days prior to its release to the agency; or, 5) information that does not constitute a trade secret or CPNI following two (2) years after termination or expiration of this Agreement.

**C.** The obligations of this Section XIII shall survive the expiration of this Agreement for a period of two (2) years.

### **XIV. Resolution of Disputes**

Except as otherwise stated in this Agreement, the parties agree that if any dispute arises as to the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement or as to the proper implementation of this Agreement, the parties will initially refer the issue to the appropriate company representatives. If the issue is not resolved within 30 days, either party may petition the FCC or applicable Commission for a resolution of the dispute. However, each party reserves the right to seek judicial review of any ruling made by the Commission concerning this Agreement.



## **XV. Limitation of Use**

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

## **XVI. Waivers**

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

## **XVII. Assignment**

No party may assign any of its rights or delegate any of its obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other party, which will not be unreasonably withheld.

## **XVIII. Amendment**

This Agreement may not be amended in any way except upon written consent of the parties.

## **XIX. Severability**

In the event that any provision of this Agreement shall be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, it shall be severed from the Agreement and the remainder of this Agreement shall remain valid and enforceable and shall continue in full force and effect; provided however, that if any severed provisions of this Agreement are essential to any party's ability to continue to perform its material obligations hereunder, the parties shall immediately begin negotiations of new provisions to replace the severed provisions.

## **XX. Survival**

Any liabilities or obligations of a party for acts or omissions prior to the cancellation or termination of this Agreement, any obligation of a party under the provisions regarding indemnification, confidential information, limitations of liability and

any other provisions of this Agreement which, by their terms, are contemplated to survive (or be performed after) termination of this Agreement, shall survive cancellation or termination thereof.

#### **XXI. Governing Law**

This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the State of Georgia, without regard to its conflict of laws principles, and the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Act.

#### **XXII. Arm's Length Negotiations**

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

#### **XXIII. Filing of Agreement**

Upon execution of this Agreement, it shall be filed with the appropriate state regulatory agency pursuant to the requirements of Section 252 of the Act. If the regulatory agency imposes any filing or public notice fees regarding the filing or approval of the Agreement, Carrier shall be responsible for publishing the required notice and the publication and/or notice costs shall be borne by Carrier.

#### **XIV. Notices**

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

**BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**  
675 W. Peachtree St. N.E.  
Suite 4300  
Atlanta, Georgia 30375  
Attn: Legal Dept. "Wireless" Attorney

**R&G Distributors, Inc.**  
1665 West 68 Street  
Suite 201  
Hialeah, Florida 33014  
Attn: Ezequiel De La Torre

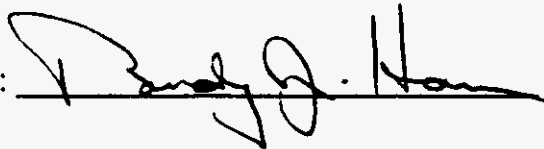
or at such other address as the intended recipient previously shall have designated by written notice to the other party.

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

**XXV. Entire Agreement**

This Agreement and its Attachments, incorporated herein by this reference, sets forth the entire understanding and supersedes prior agreements between the parties relating to the subject matter contained herein and merges all prior discussions between them, and neither party shall be bound by any definition, condition, provision, representation, warranty, covenant or promise other than as expressly stated in this Agreement or as is contemporaneously or subsequently set forth in writing and executed by a duly authorized officer or representative of the party to be bound thereby. In the event of any conflict between the term(s) of this Agreement and those of an applicable tariff, the terms of this Agreement shall control.

**BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**

By: 

Randy J. Ham  
Name

Manager - Wireless Interconnection  
Title

September 6, 2000  
Date

**R&G Distributors, Inc.**

By: 

EZEQUIEL DE LA TORRE  
Name

PRES  
Title

9-20-00  
Date

**Attachment B-1**

**CMRS Local Interconnection Rates**  
**(All rates are Per Minute of Use)**

**Florida**

Type 1 (End Office Switched):	\$ .003776
Type 2A (Tandem Switched):	\$ .003776
Type 2B (Dedicated End Office):	\$ .002