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Marshall M. Criser III  
Regulatory Vice President

July 13, 2001

Mrs. Blanca S. Bayo  
Director, Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

010968-TP

Re: Approval of the CMRS Interconnection Agreement negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and Tritel Communications, Inc. for the entire BellSouth region 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 Tritel Communications, 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 Tritel Communications, 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 Tritel Communications, Inc. within 30 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 (MC)

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

## AGREEMENT

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., ("BellSouth"), a Georgia corporation, and Tritel Communications, Inc., ("Carrier") a Delaware corporation and shall be deemed effective as of March 16, 2001, (the "Effective Date"). This agreement may refer to either BellSouth or Carrier or both as a "party" or "parties."

## WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, BellSouth is an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) 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 CMRS in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to interconnect their facilities and exchange traffic for the purposes of fulfilling their obligations pursuant to sections 251, 252 and 271 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** For purposes of this Agreement, the following capitalized terms have the meanings set forth below unless the context requires otherwise. Terms that appear herein (whether or not capitalized) that are not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act (defined hereto), or (if not defined therein) have the meanings customarily associated with them based on ordinary usage in the telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date.

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. **Effective Date** is defined in the first sentence of this Agreement.

**C. Intermediary function** is defined as the delivery, pursuant to this agreement or to Commission directive, of local or toll (using traditional landline definitions) telecommunications traffic to or from (i) a local exchange carrier (LEC) other than BellSouth; or (ii) an alternative (or competitive) local exchange carrier ("ALEC"); or (iii) another telecommunications carrier such as a CMRS provider other than Carrier through the network of BellSouth or Carrier from or to an end user of the other party.

**D. Local Traffic** is defined for purposes of reciprocal compensation under this Agreement as: (1) any telephone call that originates on the network of Carrier within a Major Trading Area ("MTA") and terminates on the network of BellSouth in the same MTA and within the Local Access and Transport Area ("LATA") in which the call is handed off from Carrier to BellSouth, and (2) any telephone call that originates on the network of BellSouth that is handed off directly to Carrier in the same LATA in which the call originates and terminates on the network of Carrier in the MTA in which the call is handed off from BellSouth to Carrier. For purposes of this Agreement, LATA shall have the same definition as that contained in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and MTA shall have the same definition as that contained in the FCC's rules.

**E. Local Interconnection** is defined for purposes of this Agreement as (1) the connection of the parties' respective networks for the exchange and delivery of Local Traffic between the parties to be terminated on each party's network so that end users of either party have the ability to reach end users of the other party without the use of any access code or substantial delay in the processing of the call; and 2) a LEC's provision of unbundled network features, functions, and capabilities to Carrier.

**F. Percent of Interstate Usage (PIU)** is defined as a factor to be applied to that portion of Non-Local Traffic comprised of interstate interMTA minutes of use in order to designate those minutes that should be rated as interstate access services minutes of use. The numerator is all interstate interMTA minutes of use, less any interstate minutes of use for "Terminating Party Pays" services, such as 800 Services. The denominator is all interMTA minutes of use less all minutes attributable to "Terminating Party Pays" services.

**G. Percent Local Usage (PLU)** is defined as a factor to be applied to terminating minutes of use. The numerator is all "nonintermediary" Local minutes of use. The denominator is the total minutes of use including Local and Non-Local.

**H. 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.).

I. **Non-Local Traffic** is defined as all traffic that is neither Local Traffic nor access services (the latter described in Section V.F of this Agreement).

## 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, 252 and 271. The access and interconnection obligations contained herein enable Carrier to provide CMRS in those areas where it is authorized to provide such services within the nine state region of BellSouth.

The parties have entered into this Agreement to memorialize their agreement with respect to certain matters concerning Local Interconnection as a result of their negotiations pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act. With respect to any facility, feature, function, service, or other arrangement concerning Local Interconnection or any other matter subject to negotiation pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act between the parties that has not been agreed upon by the parties and memorialized herein, (a) the parties may conduct further negotiations pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act upon a written request therefor by Carrier, and (b) Carrier reserves any rights it might have under Section 332(c)(1)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. 332(c)(1)(B), as amended.

## III. **Term of the Agreement**

A. The term of this Agreement shall be two years, beginning on the Effective Date. 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 after 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, the one hundred sixty day (160) period for arbitration prescribed by 47 U.S.C. 252 (b)(1) has expired 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 and Compensation**

**A.** The delivery of Local Traffic between the parties shall be reciprocal and compensation will be mutual according to the provisions of this Agreement. The parties agree that the exchange of traffic on BellSouth's interLATA EAS routes shall be considered as Local Traffic and compensation for the termination of such traffic shall be pursuant to the terms of this Section IV. 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.** Each party will pay the other for terminating its Local Traffic on the other'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. The amount that each party shall pay to the other for the delivery of Local Traffic shall be calculated by multiplying the applicable rate in Attachment B-1 for each type of call by the total minutes of use each month for each such type of call. The minutes of use or portion thereof for each call, as the case may be, will be accumulated for the monthly billing period and the total of such minutes of use for the entire month rounded to the nearest minute. The usage

charges will be based on the rounded total monthly minutes. The charges for Local Interconnection shall be billed monthly and payable monthly. 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 the due date of the 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.

## **V. Methods of Interconnection**

A. 1. The parties agree that there are three appropriate methods of interconnecting facilities: (1) interconnection at any technically feasible point via purchase of facilities from either party (or from a third 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 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 provided, however, that such interconnection arrangements shall be provided at the rates, terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. Facilities for interconnection or for other BellSouth-supplied facilities, features, functions, or services may be purchased by Carrier (i) pursuant to a separate agreement between the parties, or (ii) pursuant to the rates, terms and conditions set forth in applicable tariffs, including without limitation BellSouth's intrastate Switched Access (Section E6) or Special Access (Section E7) services tariff.

2. Local Interconnection shall be provided at a level of quality at least equal to that which each party provides to itself, to any of its Affiliates, or, in the case of BellSouth-supplied interconnection, at least equal to that provided by BellSouth to any similarly-situated CMRS provider having interconnection arrangement(s) with BellSouth comparable to the interconnection arrangement(s) provided to Carrier under this Agreement; except that, upon request, a different level of quality may be provided to the extent technically feasible and subject to the negotiation of acceptable provisions and compensation arrangements. All interconnection facilities shall meet the applicable telecommunications industry standards of engineering, design, and operation, as the case may be, for LEC-CMRS interconnection in effect from time to time. Rates and charges for both virtual and physical collocation may be provided in a separate collocation agreement. Rates for virtual collocation will be based on BellSouth's Interstate Access Services Tariff, FCC #1, Section 20 and/or BellSouth's

Intrastate Access Services Tariff, Section E20. Rates for physical collocation will be negotiated on an individual case basis.

**B.** The parties will accept and provide any of the preceding methods of interconnection. Reciprocal 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 for delivery of traffic to end users served by that end office. Such interconnecting facilities shall conform, at a minimum, to the telecommunications industry standard of DS-1 pursuant to Bellcore Standard No. TR-NWT-00499. Signal transfer point, Signaling System 7 ("SS7") connectivity is required at each interconnection point after Carrier implements SS7 capability within its own network. BellSouth will provide out-of-band signaling using Common Channel Signaling Access Capability where technically and economically feasible, in accordance with the technical specifications set forth in the BellSouth Guidelines to Technical Publication, TR-TSV-000905. The parties agree to engineer their respective facilities' (i) to provide the necessary on-hook, off-hook answer and disconnect supervision, (ii) hand off calling party number ID when technically feasible, and (iii) to honor privacy codes and line blocking requests.

**C.** Nothing herein shall prevent Carrier from utilizing existing collocation facilities, purchased from the appropriate tariffs, for local interconnection; provided, however, that, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, if Carrier orders new facilities for interconnection or rearranges any of its existing facilities 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.

**D.** The parties agree to establish trunk groups from the interconnecting facilities of subsection (A) of this Section such that each party provides a reciprocal of each trunk group established by the other party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each party may construct its network, including the interconnecting facilities, to achieve optimum cost effectiveness and network efficiency. The parties agree to provide at least a P.01 level of service and to work cooperatively in the placement and/or removal of interconnection facilities. Unless otherwise agreed:

(i) BellSouth will provide or bear the cost of all trunk groups for the delivery of Local Traffic from BellSouth's network to Carrier's Mobile Telephone Switching offices within BellSouth's service territory; and

(ii) Carrier will provide or bear the cost of all trunk groups for the delivery of Local Traffic from Carrier to each BellSouth access tandem and end office at which the parties' networks are interconnected, and, Carrier will provide or bear the cost of all trunk groups for delivery and receipt of

Intermediary traffic; Carrier may supply its own interconnection facilities or may purchase such facilities (a) from BellSouth pursuant to a separate agreement or tariff for this purpose, or (b) from any other third-party supplier; and

(iii) in the event the parties agree to use two-way interconnection facilities in lieu of separate one-way facilities, the appropriate charges for such facilities shall be divided on a pro rata basis reflecting the estimated or actual percentage of traffic that terminates on the network of each party; provided however that, in such circumstance, BellSouth's treatment of Carrier as to said charges shall be consistent with BellSouth treatment of other local exchange carriers for the same charges.

**E.** The parties will use an auditable PLU factor as a method for determining the amount of traffic exchanged by the parties that is Local Traffic and the amount of traffic that is Non-Local Traffic. The PLU factor will be used for traffic delivered by either party for termination on the other party's network.

**F.** 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. If access charges are billed, each party will bill its own access service rates to the IXC.

**G.** 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 amended from time to time. The ordering and provisioning of facilities or services by a party, including, but limited to, installation, testing, maintenance, repair, and disaster recovery, shall be provided at a level of quality and care at least equal to that which it provides to itself, an affiliate, or, in the case of BellSouth supplied interconnection, at least equal to that provided by BellSouth to any other similarly situated CMRS provider having interconnection arrangement(s) with BellSouth comparable to the interconnection arrangement(s) provided to Carrier under this Agreement, unless Carrier and BellSouth specifically negotiate a different level of quality or care.

**H.** BellSouth will make available to Carrier an electronic mail capability, via the Internet, through which Carrier may deliver ordering information to BellSouth and through which Carrier may receive confirmation of such ordering information.

## **VI. Non-Local Traffic Interconnection**

**A.** The delivery of Non-Local Traffic by a party to the other party shall be reciprocal and compensation will be mutual. For terminating its Non-Local Traffic on the other party's network, each party will pay either the access charges



described in paragraph (B) hereunder or the Non-Local Intermediary Charges described in paragraph (D) hereunder, as appropriate.

**B.** For originating and terminating intrastate or interstate interMTA Non-Local Traffic, each party shall pay the other BellSouth's intrastate or interstate, as appropriate, switched network access service rate elements on a per minute of use basis. Said rate elements shall be as set out in BellSouth's Intrastate Access Services Tariff or BellSouth's Interstate Access Services Tariff as those tariffs may be amended from time to time during the term of this Agreement. The appropriate charges will be determined by the routing of the call.

**C.** The parties agree that actual traffic measurements in each of the appropriate categories is the preferred method of classifying and billing traffic. If, however, either party cannot measure traffic in each category, then the parties shall agree on a surrogate method of classifying and billing traffic, taking into consideration territory served (e.g. MTA boundaries, LATA boundaries and state boundaries) and traffic routing of the parties.

**D.** If Non-Local Traffic originated by a party to this Agreement is delivered by the other party for termination to the network of a nonparty telecommunications carrier ("Nonparty Carrier"), then the party performing the intermediary function will bill the other party and the other party shall pay a \$.002 per minute intermediary charge in addition to any charges that the party performing the intermediary function may be obligated to pay to the Nonparty Carrier (collectively called "Non-Local Intermediary Charges"). The charges that BST may be obligated to pay to the Nonparty Carrier may change during the term of this Agreement and that the appropriate rate shall be the rate in effect when the traffic is terminated. The parties shall agree for purposes of this Section, and subject to verification by audit what percentage of the Non-Local Traffic delivered to BellSouth by Carrier shall be subject to Non-Local Intermediary Charges. The parties agree that none of the Non-Local Traffic delivered to Carrier by BellSouth shall be subject to the Non-Local Intermediary Charges, and thus none of the Non-Local Traffic delivered to Carrier by BellSouth shall be subject to the Non-Local Intermediary Charges. Also, Intermediary traffic transiting BellSouth's network to Carrier is not Local Traffic and Carrier shall not bill BellSouth for such traffic as BellSouth is not obligated to pay Carrier for such traffic.

## **VII. Provision of Network Elements**

**A.** BellSouth shall, upon request of Carrier, and to the extent technically feasible, provide to Carrier access to its Network Elements for the provision of a Carrier telecommunications service. Any request by Carrier for access to a BellSouth Network Element that is not already available shall be treated as a Network Element bona fide request. Carrier will pay BellSouth the cost associated with the bona fide request if Carrier cancels the request or fails to

purchase the service once completed. Carrier shall provide BellSouth access to its Network Elements as mutually agreed by the parties or as required by the Commission or the FCC.

B. A Network Element obtained by one party from the other party under this section 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.

C. A separate agreement or an amendment to this Agreement may be required for utilization of the above referenced Network Elements.

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

BellSouth will 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.

#### **IX. Access to 911/E911 Emergency Network**

A. BellSouth and Carrier recognize that 911 and E911 services were designed and implemented primarily as methods of providing emergency services to fixed location subscribers. While BellSouth and Carrier recognize the need to provide "911-like" service to mobile subscribers, both parties recognize that current technological restrictions prevent an exact duplication of the services provided to fixed location customers. BellSouth will route "911-like" calls received from Carrier to the emergency agency designated by Carrier for such calls. Carrier will provide the information necessary to BellSouth so that each call may be properly routed and contain as much pertinent information as is technically feasible.

B. BellSouth and Carrier recognize that the technology and regulatory requirements for the provision of "911-like" service by CMRS carriers are evolving and agree to modify or supplement the foregoing in order to incorporate industry accepted technical improvements that Carrier desires to implement and to permit Carrier to comply with applicable regulatory requirements.

#### **X. 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.

## **XI. Local Number Portability**

The Permanent Number Portability (PNP) database supplies routing numbers for calls involving numbers that have been ported from one local service provider to another. PNP is currently being worked in industry forums. The results of these forums will dictate the industry direction of PNP. BellSouth will provide access to the PNP database at rates, terms and conditions as set forth by BellSouth and in accordance with an effective FCC or Commission directive.

## **XII. Access to Signaling and Signaling Databases**

**A.** BellSouth will offer to Carrier use of BellSouth's signaling network and signaling databases on an unbundled basis at BellSouth's published tariffed rates set forth in Section XIII B below or at unbundled rates that may be available through non-tariffed arrangements. Signaling functionality will be available with both A-link and B-link connectivity.

**B.** Where interconnection is via B-link connections, charges for the SS7 interconnection elements are as follows: 1) Port Charge - BellSouth shall not bill an STP port charge nor shall BellSouth pay a port charge; 2) SS7 Network Usage - BellSouth shall bill its tariffed usage charge and shall pay usage billed by the Carrier at rates not to exceed those charged by BellSouth; 3) SS7 Link - BellSouth will bill its tariffed charges for only two links of each quad ordered. Application of these charges in this manner is designed to reflect the reciprocal use of the parties' signaling networks. Where interconnection is via A-link connections, charges for the SS7 interconnection elements are as follows: 1) Port Charge - BellSouth shall bill its tariffed STP port charge but shall not pay a termination charge at the Carrier's end office; 2) SS7 Network Usage - BellSouth shall bill its tariffed usage charge but shall not pay for any usage; 3) SS7 Link - BellSouth shall bill its tariffed charges for each link in the A-link pair but shall not pay the Carrier for any portion of those links.

## **XIII. Network Design and Management**

**A.** The parties will work cooperatively to install and maintain reliable interconnected telecommunications networks, including but not limited to, maintenance contact numbers and escalation procedures. BellSouth will provide public notice of changes in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of Carrier's 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, e.g. call gapping, to alleviate or prevent network congestion.

**E.** The parties will provide Common Channel Signaling (CCS) information to one another, where available and technically feasible, in conjunction with all traffic in order to enable full interoperability of CLASS features and functions except for features or functions that have not been deployed in the parties' respective networks. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided, including automatic number identification (ANI), originating line information (OLI) calling party category, charge number, etc. All privacy indicators will be honored, and the parties agree to cooperate on the exchange of Transactional Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) messages to facilitate full interoperability of CCS-based features between the respective networks.

**F.** For network expansion, the parties will review engineering requirements on a quarterly basis and establish forecasts for trunk utilization as required by Section V of this Agreement. New trunk groups will be implemented as stated by engineering requirements for both parties.

**G.** The parties will 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.

#### **XIV. Auditing Procedures**

**A.** Upon thirty (30) days written notice, each party must provide the other the ability and opportunity to conduct an annual audit to ensure the proper billing of traffic between the parties. The parties will retain records of call detail for a minimum of nine months from which the PLU, the percent intermediary traffic, the percent interMTA traffic, and the PIU can be ascertained. The audit shall be accomplished during normal business hours at an office designated by the party being audited. Audit request shall not be submitted more frequently than one (1) time per calendar year. Audits shall be performed by a mutually acceptable independent auditor paid for by the party requesting the audit. The PLU shall be adjusted based upon the audit results and shall apply to the usage for the quarter the audit was completed, the usage for the quarter prior to the completion of the audit, and to the usage for the two quarters following the completion of the audit.

B. Should Carrier in the future provide toll services through the use of network switched access services, then all jurisdictional report requirements, rules and regulations specified in E2.3.14 of BellSouth's Intrastate Access Services Tariff will apply to Carrier. After the Local Traffic percentage has been determined by use of the PLU factor for application and billing of Local Interconnection, the PIU factor will be used for application and billing of interstate and intrastate access charges, as appropriate.

## XV. Liability and Indemnification

A. **Tritel Liability.** In the event that Tritel consists of two (2) or more separate entities as set forth in this Agreement and/or any Amendments hereto, all such entities shall be jointly and severally liable for the obligations of Tritel under this Agreement.

B. **Liability for Acts or Omissions of Third Parties.** Neither Party shall be liable to the other Party for any act or omission of another telecommunications company providing services to said other Party.

C. **Limitation of Liability.** Except for any indemnification obligations of the Parties hereunder, each Party's liability to the other for any action, loss, cost, claim, judgement, damages, injury or liability or expense, including without limitation reasonable attorney's fees, (collectively, "Loss") 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. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this limitation of liability shall not apply in the event of either Party's (1) gross negligence, (2) willful misconduct, or (3) material breach of any material term of this Agreement which has not been cured pursuant to the following terms. If either Party believes the other Party has materially breached this Agreement, the aggrieved party must notify the breaching Party and the breaching Party shall have sixty (60) days to cure such breach. Willful misconduct as used in this Section shall not include actions in reliance upon either Party's reasonable interpretation of this Agreement even if such term is ultimately found to be erroneous by the Commission, FCC, or court of competent jurisdiction. Further, failure to pay any undisputed sums due under this Agreement shall not be subject to the notice and cure provisions of this Section.

D. **Limitations in Tariffs.** A Party may, in its sole discretion, provide in its tariffs and contracts with its End Users 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 the End User 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 or (ii) for Consequential Damages (defined hereunder). 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.

**E.** Neither BellSouth nor Tritel shall be liable for damages to the other Party's terminal location, equipment or End User 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 Party's negligence or willful misconduct or by a Party's failure to ground properly a local loop after disconnection.

**F.** 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 (collectively, "Consequential Damages"). 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.

**G.** To the extent any specific provision of this Agreement purports to impose liability, or limitation of liability, on either Party different from or in conflict with the liability or limitation of liability set forth in this Section, then with respect to any facts or circumstances covered by such specific provisions, the liability or limitation of liability contained in such specific provision shall apply.

**H. Indemnification for Certain Claims.** The Party providing services hereunder, its affiliates and its parent company, shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the Party receiving services hereunder from and against any Loss arising from the receiving Party's use of the services provided under this Agreement to the extent such Loss pertains to (1) claims for libel, slander or invasion of privacy arising from the content of the receiving Party's own communications, or (2) any Loss claimed by the End User of the Party receiving services arising from such receiving Party's use or reliance on the providing Party's services, actions, duties, or obligations arising out of this Agreement.

I. **Disclaimer.** 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.

**XVI. Modification of Agreement**

A. BellSouth shall make available, pursuant to 47 USC § 252(i) 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 Tritel changes its name or otherwise makes changes to its public identity due to a merger, acquisition, transfer or any other reason, it is the responsibility of Tritel 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 imply that the executing Party agrees with any decision(s) issued pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 or with 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, Tritel 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 XIX.

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.

## **XVII. 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 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.

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

A. The parties agree that it may be necessary to provide each other 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 and like information (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Information"). The parties agree that if Information is provided in written, graphic or other usable form and clearly marked with a confidential, private or proprietary legend, then that Information will be returned to the owner within a reasonable time. Both parties agree that such marked Information shall not be copied or reproduced in any form except to the extent required to perform this Agreement. The parties shall protect any Information received from distribution, disclosure or dissemination to anyone except (i) employees of the parties with an identifiable need to know such Information who agree in writing to be bound by the terms of this Section, and (ii) the parties' respective attorneys and other professional advisors having a duty to protect clients' confidential information; however, in no event shall any of Carrier's Information be disclosed to any person employed by an Affiliate of BellSouth engaged in the provision of CMRS. In the event any person having had access to Carrier's Information is subsequently employed by an Affiliate of BellSouth engaged in the provision of CMRS, such person shall be required to agree in writing not to reveal or use such Information. The 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, all Information in any party's possession that would constitute Customer Proprietary Network Information of the party or the parties' customers pursuant to any federal or state law or the rules and regulations of the FCC or any state commission, and any Information developed or received by a party regarding the other party's facilities, services, volumes, or usage shall automatically be deemed confidential Information for all purposes, even if not marked as such, and shall be held confidential as is required for Information.

**C.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, there will be no obligation to protect any portion of any 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) independently developed by personnel of the receiving party to whom Information had not been previously disclosed and not based on or derived from such Information; or 4) previously known to the receiving party without an obligation to keep it confidential. A party may also disclose all Information it is required or ordered to disclose by law, a court, or governmental agency, as long as the party that owns such Information has been notified of the required disclosure promptly after the disclosing party becomes aware of its requirement to disclose. The party required to disclose the Information shall take all lawful measures to avoid disclosing the Information called for until the party that owns the Information has had a reasonable time to seek and comply with a protective order issued by a court or governmental agency of competent jurisdiction that with respect to the Information otherwise required to be disclosed.

**D.** The party's obligations to safeguard information shall survive for one (1) year after the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever.

## **XIX. Resolution of Disputes**

Except as otherwise stated in this Agreement, 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 disputed issue to the individuals designated by the parties. If the issue is not resolved within 30 days, either party may petition the 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.

## **XX. 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.

## **XXI. 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.

## **XXII. 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; provided, that (i) the parties will permit the addition of Affiliates as parties hereto, and (ii) a party may assign its rights or delegate its obligations hereunder without the consent of the other party to an Affiliate if such Affiliate is, in the case of BellSouth, an authorized local exchange telephone carrier, or in the case of Carrier, a licensed provider of commercial mobile radio telecommunications services.

## **XXIII. Amendment**

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

## **XXIV. 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.

## **XXV. 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 for a period of two (2) years.

## **XXVI. 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 Georgia's conflict of laws principles, and, where applicable, federal law, including the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Act.

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

The drafting of this Agreement was a collaborative effort between the parties. Accordingly, in connection with the interpretation for any reason of any provision of this Agreement, there shall be no inference drawn against the party that drafted such provision.

## **XXVIII. No Joint Venture**

The parties are independent contractors and nothing herein shall be construed to imply that they are partners, joint venturers or agents of one another.

## **XXIX. Remedies Cumulative**

Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, each of the remedies provided under this Agreement is cumulative and is in addition to any remedies that may be available at law or in equity.

## **XXX. No Third Party Beneficiaries**

Except as may be specifically set forth in this Agreement, this Agreement does not provide and shall not be construed to provide any person not a party or proper assignee or successor hereunder with any beneficial interest, remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other privilege arising under or relating to this Agreement.

## **XXXI. Publicity**

Neither party shall publish or use any advertising, sales promotions or other publicity materials that use the other party's logo, trademarks or service marks.

## **XXXII. References to Other Documents**

Whenever any provision of this Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, or any other document specifically incorporated into this Agreement, it will be deemed to be a reference to the most recent version or edition

(including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) or such documents that is in effect, and will include the most recent version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) or each document incorporated by reference in such a technical reference, technical publication, or publication of industry standards. Should there be an inconsistency between or among publications or standards, the parties shall mutually agree upon which requirement shall apply.

### **XXXIII. Execution**

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and which together shall constitute a single agreement. A facsimile copy of a party's execution of this Agreement shall be valid and binding upon the party and must be followed as soon as practicable thereafter by the original version of such execution.

### **XXXIV. 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 interest 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.

### **XXXV. 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

**Tritel Communications, Inc.**  
111 E. Capital Street  
Suite 500  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Attn: Mr. Joseph Pardue  
Director of Carrier Relations

Copy to:

Chip Gerry  
Gerry, Friend & Sapronov, LLP  
Three Ravinia Drive, Suite 1450  
Atlanta, Georgia 30346-2131

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.

**XXXVI. Entire Agreement**

This Agreement, together with its preamble, recitals and all Attachments hereto, 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: 

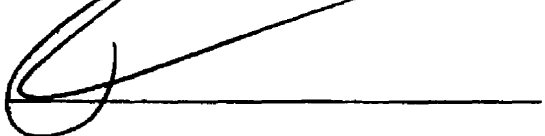
Randy J. Ham

Managing Director –  
Wireless interconnection

Title

June 25, 2001  
Date

**Tritel Communications, Inc.**

By: 

Thomas H. Sullivan  
President

Title

JUN 06 2001  
Date



**Attachment B-1**

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

Alabama

Type 1 (End Office Switched):	\$ .004709
Type 2A (Tandem Switched):	\$ .004709
Type 2B (Dedicated End Office):	\$ .0017

Florida

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

Georgia

Type 1 (End Office Switched):	\$ .004513
Type 2A (Tandem Switched):	\$ .004513
Type 2B (Dedicated End Office):	\$ .00160

Kentucky

Type 1 (End Office Switched):	\$ .005273
Type 2A (Tandem Switched):	\$ .005273
Type 2B (Dedicated End Office):	\$ .002562

Louisiana

Type 1 (End Office Switched):	\$ .003730
Type 2A (Tandem Switched):	\$ .003730
Type 2B (Dedicated End Office):	\$ .001599

Mississippi

Type 1 (End Office Switched):	\$ .009104
Type 2A (Tandem Switched):	\$ .009104
Type 2B (Dedicated End Office):	\$ .0026

Tennessee

Type 1 (End Office Switched):	\$ .003767
Type 2A (Tandem Switched):	\$ .003767
Type 2B (Dedicated End Office):	\$ .0019