

ORIGINAL

**BELLSOUTH**

**BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**

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**Marshall M. Criser III**

Vice President  
Regulatory & External Affairs

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June 16, 2003

030534-TP

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

RECEIVED 1730  
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COMMISSION  
CLERK

Re: Approval of Commercial Mobile Radio Services Agreement between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and T-Mobile USA, Inc.f/k/a VoiceStream Wireless Corporation

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Please find enclosed for filing and approval, an original and two copies of the Interconnection, Unbundling, Resale and Collocation Agreement between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) and T-Mobile USA, Inc.f/k/a VoiceStream Wireless Corporation.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Kathleen Arant at (850) 222-9380.

Very truly yours,

*Marshall M. Criser III*

Regulatory Vice President (UA)

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**By and Between**

**BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**

**And**

**T-Mobile USA, Inc. f/k/a VoiceStream Wireless  
Corporation**

**INTERCONNECTION  
AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
AND  
T-Mobile USA, Inc.**

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## AGREEMENT

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., ("BellSouth"), a Georgia Corporation, and T-Mobile USA, Inc. f/k/a VoiceStream Wireless Corp. ("Carrier") a Delaware Corporation for and on behalf of those entities listed in Attachment A which entities T-Mobile USA, Inc. hereby represents it has authority to bind hereunder (all collectively referred to as "Carrier") and shall be deemed effective as of May 1, 2003, (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 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, North Carolina, South Carolina 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 herein), 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. Affiliate** is defined as a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "own" means to own an equity interest (or equivalent thereof) of more than 10 percent.

**B. 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.

**C. Intermediary Traffic** is defined as the delivery, pursuant to this agreement or Commission directive, of local or toll (using traditional landline definitions) traffic to or from (i) a local exchange carrier other than BellSouth; (ii) a competitive or alternative local exchange carrier ("CLEC"); or (iii) another telecommunications carrier such as a CMRS provider other than Carrier through the respective networks of BellSouth or Carrier, and delivered from or to an end user of BellSouth or Carrier. All local or toll traffic from a local exchange carrier delivered to Carrier not originated on the BellSouth network by BellSouth is considered Intermediary Traffic.

**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 to Carrier in BellSouth's service territory and in the same LATA in which the call originates and terminates and is delivered to 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. Traffic delivered to or received from an interexchange carrier is not Local Traffic. Interexchange access as defined in 47 CFR Part 69 and in comparable state utility laws ("Access Traffic") is not Local Traffic.

**E. Local Interconnection** is defined for purposes of this Agreement as the connection of the parties' respective networks for the exchange and delivery of Local Traffic to be terminated on each party's local 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.

**F. Non-Local Traffic** is defined as all traffic that is neither Local Traffic nor Access Traffic, as described in section VII of this Agreement.

**G. 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.

**H. 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.

**I. Point of Interconnection (POI)** is defined as the physical geographic location(s), within BellSouth's service area within a LATA, at which the Parties interconnect their facilities for the origination and/or termination of traffic. This point establishes the technical interface, the test point(s), and the point(s) for operational division of responsibility between BellSouth's network and Carrier's network.

**J. 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.).

**K. Type 1 Interconnection** is a trunk side connection between a BellSouth end office and a Carrier's POI and provides the capability to access all BellSouth end offices within the LATA. Type 1 Interconnection is technically defined in Telcordia Technical Reference GR-145-CORE, Issue 2 May 1998, as in effect from time to time (or any successor thereto).

**L. Type 2A Interconnection** are one-way or two-way facilities that provide a trunk side connection between a BellSouth tandem switch and a Carrier's POI and provides access to all BellSouth end offices and third party providers subtending the BellSouth tandem. Type 2A Interconnection is technically defined in Telcordia Technical Reference GR-145-CORE, Issue 2 May 1998, as in effect from time to time (or any successor thereto).

**M. Type 2B Interconnection** are one-way or two-way facilities that provide a high usage route between a BellSouth end office and an Carrier's POI and provides access to all BellSouth NXX codes homed in that specific end office and is provided in conjunction with Type 2A Interconnection. Type 2B Interconnection is technically defined in Telcordia Technical Reference GR-145-CORE, Issue 2 May 1998, as in effect from time to time (or any successor thereto).

## 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.

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

**A.** The term of this Agreement shall be three years, beginning on the Effective Date and shall apply to the BellSouth territory in the state(s) of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

**B.** The Parties agree that by no earlier than two hundred seventy (270) days and no later than one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration of this Agreement, they shall commence negotiations for a new agreement to be effective beginning on the expiration date of this Agreement ("Subsequent Agreement").

**C.** Either party's request under this Section will, for all purposes, be treated as a request under Section 252 of the Act for negotiation received by an incumbent local exchange carrier and will begin the process of voluntary negotiations. If, as of the expiration of this Agreement, a Subsequent Agreement has not been executed by the Parties, this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect while the Parties are within negotiation/arbitration process outlined in Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as may be amended. If the Section 252 process is concluded or abandoned, then this Agreement shall terminate and BellSouth shall continue to offer services to Carrier pursuant to the terms, conditions and rates set forth in BellSouth's then current standard interconnection agreement. In the event that BellSouth's standard interconnection agreement becomes effective as between the Parties, the Parties may continue to negotiate a Subsequent Agreement or arbitrate disputed issues to reach a Subsequent Agreement as set forth in Section III.B above, and the terms of such Subsequent Agreement shall be effective as of the effective date as stated in Subsequent Agreement.

### **IV. Methods of Interconnection**

**A.** By mutual agreement of the parties, trunk groups arrangements between Carrier and BellSouth shall be established using the interconnecting facilities methods of subsection (B) of this section. Each party will use commercially reasonable efforts to construct its network, including the interconnecting facilities, to achieve optimum cost effectiveness and network efficiency.

**B.** There are three methods of interconnecting facilities: (1) interconnection via facilities owned, provisioned and/or provided by either party to the other

party<sup>1</sup>; (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. 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.

**C.** The parties will accept and provide any of the preceding methods of interconnection. Carrier may establish a POI on BellSouth's network at any technically feasible point in accordance with the 47 CFR 51.703(b). Carrier must designate a POI at at least one BellSouth access tandem within every LATA Carrier desires to serve, or alternatively, Carrier may elect (in addition to or in lieu of access interconnection at BellSouth's access tandem) to interconnect directly at any BellSouth 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' respective facilities shall (i) provide the necessary on-hook, off-hook answer and disconnect supervision (ii) shall hand off calling party number ID when technically feasible and (iii) shall honor privacy codes and line blocking requests if possible. In the event a party interconnects via the purchase of facilities and/or services from the other party, it may do so through purchase of services pursuant to the other party's interstate or intrastate tariff, as amended from time to time, or pursuant to a separate agreement between the Parties. . In the event that such facilities are used for two-way interconnection, the appropriate recurring charges for such facilities will be shared by the parties

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<sup>1</sup> On some occasions Carrier may choose to purchase facilities from a third party. In all such cases carrier agrees to give BellSouth 45 (forty five) days notice prior to purchase of the facilities, in order to permit BellSouth the option of providing one-way trunking, if, in its sole discretion BellSouth believes one-way trunking to be a preferable option to third party provided facilities. Such notice shall be sent pursuant to Section XXIX. In no event shall BellSouth assess additional interconnection costs or per-port charges to Carrier or its third-party provider should Carrier purchase facilities from a third party, e.g. the same charges that BellSouth would charge Carrier should it provide the service.

based upon percentages equal to the estimated or actual percentage of traffic on such facilities, in accordance with Section VI.B below.

**D.** Nothing herein shall prevent Carrier from utilizing existing collocation facilities, purchased from the interexchange tariffs, for local interconnection; provided, however, that unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, 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.** 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. The parties will establish trunk groups from the interconnecting facilities of subsection (A) of this section. Each party will use its best efforts to construct its network, including the interconnecting facilities, to achieve optimum cost effectiveness and network efficiency.

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

**G.** Unless otherwise agreed, when the parties deliver Access Traffic from an Interexchange Carrier ("IXC") to each other, each party will provide its own access services to (and bill at its own rates) the IXC.

**H.** 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. 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.

**V. Interconnection Trunk Group Options****A. One-Way Trunk Group Arrangement**

If the Parties mutually agree upon a one-way trunking arrangement, the following will apply:

BellSouth will provide and bear the cost of all one-way trunk groups to provide for the delivery of Local Traffic from BellSouth to Carrier's POI within BellSouth's service territory and within the LATA, and Carrier will provide or bear the cost of one-way trunk group(s) for the delivery of Carrier's originated Local Traffic and for the receipt and delivery of Intermediary Traffic to each BellSouth access tandem and end office at which the parties interconnect. 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 as provided in Section IV(B).

**B. Two-Way Trunk Group Arrangement**

If the Parties mutually agree upon a two-way trunking arrangement, the following will apply:

BellSouth and Carrier will share the cost of the two-way trunk group carrying both Parties traffic proportionally when purchased via this Agreement or the 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 from time to time. BellSouth will bear the cost of the two-way trunk group for the proportion of the facility utilized for the delivery of BellSouth originated Local traffic to Carrier's POI within BellSouth's service territory and within the LATA (calculated based on the number of minutes of traffic identified as BellSouth's divided by the total minutes of use on the facility), and Carrier will provide or bear the cost of the two-way trunk group for all other traffic, including Intermediary traffic.

**C. Combination Trunk Group Arrangement**

If the Parties cannot agree upon a trunk group arrangement or elect a combination arrangement, BellSouth will provide and bear the cost of a one-way trunk group to provide for the delivery of Local Traffic from BellSouth to Carrier's POIs within BellSouth's service territory and within the LATA. Carrier will provide or bear the cost of one-way or two-way trunk group(s), if two-way trunk group(s) are elected by Carrier, for the delivery of all Carrier's originated traffic, and also the delivery and receipt of Intermediary Traffic.

## **VI. Compensation and Billing**

### **A. Compensation of Local Traffic**

Each party will pay the other for terminating its Local Traffic on the other's network at the Local Interconnection rates as set forth in Attachment B-1. These rates are reciprocal for mobile-to-land and land-to-mobile calls.

#### **1. Local Traffic Measurement**

a. If Carrier has recording capability, but recording limitations that prohibits Carrier's ability to determine the amount of BellSouth originated traffic (Local Traffic) terminated to Carrier over two-way multi-use facilities, BellSouth will provide to Carrier, upon Carrier's written request to the Local Interconnection Service Center (LISC), on a quarterly basis the percent of total terminating traffic to Carrier that was originated by BellSouth. Such percent will be used by Carrier to bill BellSouth for the BellSouth Local Traffic for the following quarter.

b. If Carrier has no recording capability and cannot determine the amount of traffic terminated to Carrier, a mutually agreed upon methodology for reciprocal billing percentages for local traffic will be used.

2. The exchange of the parties' traffic on BellSouth's interLATA EAS routes shall be considered Local Traffic and compensation for the termination of such traffic shall be pursuant to the terms of this section. 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. Compensation of Facilities**

1. Where one-way trunking is used, each party will be solely responsible for the recurring and non-recurring cost of that facility up to the designated POI(s) on the terminating party's network.

2. The Parties agree to share proportionately in the recurring costs of two-way interconnection facilities.

a. To determine the amount of compensation due to Carrier for interconnection facilities with two-way trunking for the transport of Local Traffic originating on BellSouth's network and terminating on Carrier's network, Carrier will utilize the prior months undisputed Local Traffic usage billed by BellSouth and Carrier to develop the percent of BellSouth originated Local Traffic.

b. BellSouth will bill Carrier for the entire cost of the facility. Carrier will then apply the BellSouth originated percent against the Local Traffic portion of the two-way interconnection facility charges billed by BellSouth to Carrier. Carrier will invoice BellSouth on a monthly basis, this proportionate cost for the facilities utilized by BellSouth.

### C. Billing

1. The charges for Local Interconnection are to be billed monthly and paid within thirty (30) days ("Due Date"). Usage charges will be billed in arrears.

2. Each party will pay the other for terminating its Local Traffic on the other's network, the Local Interconnection Rates set forth in Attachment B-1 or B-2, as applicable. Charges for terminating traffic will be the actual conversation minutes of use (MOUs) measured from receipt of answer supervision to receipt of disconnect supervision, with such time accumulated at the end of the billing period and rounded up to the next whole minute.

3. The Parties will use an auditable PLU factor as a method for determining whether traffic is Local or Non-Local. The PLU factor will be used for traffic delivered by either party for termination on the other party's network. 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.

4. Billing disputes shall be handled pursuant to the terms of this section.

a. Each party agrees to notify the other party in writing upon the discovery of a billing dispute. In the event of a billing dispute, the Parties will endeavor to informally resolve the dispute within sixty (60) calendar days of the notification date. If the Parties are unable within the 60 day period to reach resolution, then the aggrieved party may pursue dispute resolution in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

b. For purposes of this Section, a billing dispute means a dispute of (i) a specific amount of money actually billed by either party (ii) minutes of use (iii) facilities billed for (iv) methodology applied to calculations (v) delay in sending invoices or (vi) any

other bona fide disagreement with compensation or an invoice. The dispute must be clearly explained by the disputing party and supported by written documentation, which clearly shows the basis for disputing charges. By way of example and not by limitation, a billing dispute will not include the refusal to pay all or part of a bill or bills when no written documentation is provided to support the dispute, nor shall a billing dispute include the refusal to pay other undisputed amounts owed by the billed party until the dispute is resolved. Claims by the billed party for damages of any kind will not be considered a billing dispute for purposes of this Section. Once the billing dispute is resolved, the disputing party will make immediate payment of any of the disputed amount owed to the billing party or the billing party shall have the right to pursue normal treatment procedures. Any credits due to the disputing party, pursuant to the billing dispute, will be applied to the disputing party's account by the billing party immediately upon resolution of the dispute.

c. Either party may elect to withhold payment of disputed amounts. If a party disputes a charge and does not pay such charge by the payment due date, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received by either party after the payment due date, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received in funds which are not immediately available to the other party, then a late payment charge shall be assessed. However, no such late payment charge shall be owed with respect to any disputed amount resolved in favor of the disputing party. For bills rendered by either party for payment, the late payment charge for both Parties shall be calculated based on the portion of the payment not received by the payment due date times the late payment factor set forth in subsection 5 hereof. The Parties shall assess interest on previously assessed late payment charges only in a state where it has the authority pursuant to its tariffs.

5. 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 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 (1) year from the time the charge was incurred; previously unbilled charges more than one (1) year old shall not be billed by either party.

6. Deposit Policy. When purchasing new services from BellSouth totaling more than 10% of the monthly average of the previous three month's charges or \$500,000, whichever is less, in any one month, Carrier will be required to complete the BellSouth Credit Profile and provide information regarding

credit worthiness. Based on the results of the credit analysis, BellSouth reserves the right to secure the account with a suitable form of security deposit. Such security deposit shall take the form, at Carrier's option, of cash, an Irrevocable Letter of Credit ( BellSouth form), Surety Bond (BellSouth form) or some other form of security. Any such security deposit shall in no way release Carrier from its obligation to make complete and timely payments of undisputed amounts of its bill. If Carrier requests to purchase new services, such security may be required by BellSouth if justified as provided herein prior to the installation or provision thereof. If, in the reasonable opinion of BellSouth based on the Creditworthiness Criteria below, the creditworthiness of Carrier has so deteriorated after the Effective Date, that its ability to timely pay undisputed charges under this Agreement is demonstrably in question BellSouth reserves the right to request additional security in the form specified above, at Carrier's option

BellSouth shall base its creditworthiness determination on only the following criteria ("Creditworthiness Criteria):

1. Change from Cash flow positive to Cash flow negative (last FYE and most recent quarter)
2. Change from EBITDA positive to EBITA negative (last FYE and most recent quarter)
3. Debt/tangible net worth 2 or better (last FYE and most recent quarter)
4. Bond rating changes from investment grade as defined by Moody's (if public debt is present)
5. D&B Paydex > 70 (1-100)
6. D&B credit risk class =or < 3
7. Customer falls from compliance with bank (or other loan provider's debt covenants)
8. No more than 2 times slow pay in the last 12 months for undisputed invoices.

Interest on a security deposit, if provided in cash, shall accrue and be paid in accordance with the terms in the appropriate BellSouth tariff. Security deposits collected under this Section shall not exceed an amount not to exceed two (2) months' estimated net undisputed charges to Carrier under this Agreement. In the event Carrier fails to remit to BellSouth any security deposit requested pursuant to this Section, service to Carrier (following thirty 30 day's written notice and opportunity to cure) may be terminated and any security deposits will be applied to Carrier's account(s), provided in the event of a dispute concerning the deposit, then the Dispute Resolution section of this Agreement shall apply and Bellsouth shall not terminate service to Carrier during the pendency of this dispute for the disputed amounts.



## VII. Non-Local Traffic Interconnection

**A.** 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, which are 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.

**C.** If Non-Local Traffic originated by Carrier is delivered by BellSouth for termination to the network of a third party telecommunications carrier that is uniquely identifiable ("Third Party Carrier"), then BST will bill Carrier and Carrier shall pay a \$.002 per minute intermediary\_charge for such Intermediary Traffic in addition to any charges that BST may be obligated to pay to the Third Party Carrier (collectively called "Third Party Termination Charges"). Third Party Termination Charges may change during the term of this Agreement, and the appropriate rate shall be the rate in effect when the traffic is terminated. The Parties agree the percentage of Non-Local Traffic delivered to BellSouth by Carrier shall be subject to Intermediary Charges and Third Party Termination Charges. BellSouth shall not deliver Intermediary Traffic to Carrier for termination to a Third Party Carrier, and therefore, Carrier shall not bill BellSouth any intermediary charges. Intermediary Traffic transiting BellSouth's network to Carrier is not Local Traffic and Carrier shall not bill BellSouth for Intermediary Traffic transiting BellSouth's network. In addition, Carrier shall not bill BellSouth for Traffic received by BellSouth from an interexchange carrier for delivery to Carrier.

**D.** Where technically possible to measure traffic for classifying traffic percentage's, the Parties shall utilize actual traffic measurements to classify traffic in each of the categories shown in subsection E. below. BellSouth may conduct periodic reviews of Carriers' traffic classification percentage's and shall update\_those percentages for the aforementioned traffic accordingly.

**E.** For Carrier's that have not exchanged traffic under a previous CMRS interconnection agreement with BellSouth or for traffic categories that are not technically feasible to measure, the associated **default** traffic classification percentages set forth in this subsection will be used until such time actual traffic patterns have been measured:

Carrier originated traffic to BellSouth

Local Traffic - 60%

Non-Local InterMTA InterState Traffic- .5%

Non-Local InterMTA IntraState Traffic- .5%

Non-Local Intermediary Only Traffic- 31.2%

Non-Local Intermediary Plus Cost Traffic – 7.8%

BellSouth originated traffic to Carrier

Local Traffic - 99%

Non-Local InterMTA InterState Traffic -.5%

Non-Local InterMTA IntraState Traffic -.5%

**F.** In the event Carrier activates service in a state that was not originally covered by this Agreement (“New State(s)”), and in which New State(s) no traffic classification percentages currently exist, BellSouth will apply an average, based on Carrier’s existing traffic classification percentages for the other states in which Carrier has established actual traffic measurements, to such New State(s) until such time as actual traffic percentages have been measured.

### **VIII. Meet Point Billing**

**A.** Meet Point Billing (MPB), as supported by Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing (MECAB) guidelines, shall mean the exchange of billing data relating to jointly provided switched access calls and Intermediary Traffic. MECAB refers to the document prepared by the Billing Committee of the Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF), which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS). The MECAB document, published by Telcordia as Special Report SR-BDS-000983, contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of Switched Access Traffic and Intermediary Traffic provided by two or more telecommunications carriers. Subject to Carrier providing all necessary information, BellSouth agrees to participate in MPB for Switched Access Traffic (as described in BellSouth’s Tariffs) and Intermediary Traffic. In the event a Third Party Carrier continues to charge BellSouth for Carriers’ Intermediary Traffic, Carrier agrees to keep BellSouth whole for such traffic as stipulated in Section VII C. above. BellSouth shall pass Electronic Message Interface (EMI) 1101 call records to Carrier at no charge. Depending on the delivery medium selected by Carrier, appropriate charges for that delivery medium will be applied. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for purposes of MPB, where either or both of the originating or terminating carrier of Intermediary Traffic does not have MPB capability, Section VII C. will apply.

**B.** Information required from Carriers participating in MPB with BellSouth includes, but is not limited to: (1) Regional Accounting Office code (RAO), (2) Operating Company Number (OCN) per state for each entity to be billed (if an

OCN is not available for each billed entity, BellSouth will only render a bill to Carrier), (3) a unique Access Carrier Name Abbreviation (ACNA), (4) Percent Interstate Usage, (5) Percent Local Usage, (6) 800 Service Percent Interstate Usage or default of 50%, (7) Billing Interconnection Percentage, (8) a Screening Telephone Number (STN) from Carrier's dedicated NXX associated with each Trunk Group subscribed to. A default Billing Interconnection Percentage (BIP) of **0% BellSouth** and **100% Carrier** will be used if Carrier does not file with NECA to establish a BIP other than default. Carrier must support MPB for all Switched Access Traffic and Intermediary\_Traffic in accordance with Mechanized MECAB guidelines. The Parties acknowledge that the exchange of 1150 records will not be required.

**C.** MPB will be provided for Switched Access Traffic and Intermediary Traffic at the access tandem level only. Parties utilizing MPB must subscribe to access tandem level interconnections with BellSouth and must deliver all Intermediary\_Traffic to BellSouth over such access tandem level interconnections. Additionally, exchange of records will necessitate both the originating and terminating networks to subscribe to dedicated NXX codes, which can be identified as belonging to the originating and terminating network. NPA/NXX codes are presented in the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) in association with a specific switch Common Language Location Identification (CLLI). Under national programming rules associated with Carrier Access Billing Systems (CABS), each CLLI is associated with a single rate center. Additionally, (i) if the Carrier has Type 2A and Non-Type 2A NPA/NXX codes associated with a single CLLI or, (ii) if the CLLI is associated with additional NPA/NXX codes with rate centers outside of BellSouth's service area or, (iii) if the Type 2A NPA/NXX code or CLLI home on a non-BellSouth SHA "00" tandem or are in a disassociated LATA, then those NPA/NXX codes and CLLI codes will not be included in MPB and Switched Access Traffic and Intermediary Traffic associated with those NPA/NXX codes will continue to be billed in accordance with the provisions of Section VII C. When converting to MPB, if Carrier has NPA/NXX codes with more than a single rate center terminating to a given CLLI, Carrier must provide BellSouth with information stating which BellSouth rate center will be associated with the CLLI. MPB is not available when the access tandem at which the Parties have interconnected does not have the capability to measure actual traffic.

**D.** In a MPB environment, when Carrier utilizes services provided by BellSouth that are necessary to deliver certain types of calls (e.g. Local Number Portability queries and 800 Data Base queries), Carrier will be billed applicable charges as set forth in BellSouth's federal or state access tariffs, as appropriate. In the alternative, Carrier may perform the appropriate database queries prior to delivery of such traffic to BellSouth.

**E.** Participation in MPB is outside the reciprocal compensation requirements of this Agreement. Under MPB, Carrier will compensate BellSouth at the rate set forth in Section VII.C of this Agreement for Carrier originated Intermediary Traffic. Meet Point Billing to IXCs for jointly provided switched access traffic will be consistent with the most current MECAB billing guidelines.

**F.** Exchange of records will begin no earlier than ninety days (90) from the later of the date the contract is signed or the date that all necessary information as defined in Section VIII.B above is provided. Once Carrier sets up MPB arrangements for Intermediary Traffic, Intermediary Traffic will be subject to only the \$.002 per minute Intermediary Charge (or such other rate ordered by the state), and Third Party Termination Charges shall not apply. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event a Third Party Carrier continues to charge BellSouth for Carriers' Intermediary Traffic, Carrier agrees to keep BellSouth whole for such traffic as stipulated in Section VII C. above. MPB as described in this Section VIII anticipates that Carrier will enter into interconnection or traffic exchange agreements with Third Party Carriers who terminate traffic originated by Carrier. Carrier will be liable to BellSouth for any charges, costs and fees BellSouth may incur for delivering Carrier's Intermediary Traffic.

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

BellSouth will provide nondiscriminatory access to any pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way owned or controlled by BellSouth pursuant to 47 U.S.C § 224, as amended by the Act, pursuant to terms and conditions of a license agreement subsequently negotiated with BellSouth's Competitive Structure Provision Center.

**XI. 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.

**XII. 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.

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

**A.** BellSouth will offer to Carrier use of BellSouth's signaling network and signaling databases at BellSouth's published tariffed rates. 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.

### **XIV. 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 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.** Interconnection reconfigurations will have to be considered individually as to the application of a charge. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties do intend to charge non-recurring fees for any additions to, or added capacity to, any facility or trunk purchased. Parties who initiate SS7 STP changes may be charged authorized non-recurring fees from the appropriate tariffs.

**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 call return. 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 periodic basis and establish non-binding forecasts for trunk utilization as required by Section IV 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.

#### **XV. Auditing Procedures**

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 requests 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.

#### **XVI. 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 party for any act or omission of any other telecommunications company providing a portion of a service under this Agreement.

**C.** Neither party shall be liable for damages to the other party's terminal location, Point of Interface (POI) or customer's premises resulting from the furnishing of a service, including but not limited to the installation and removal of equipment and associated wiring, except to the extent caused by a party's gross negligence, willful or intentional misconduct.

**D.** Each party shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the other party against any action, claim, loss, judgment, injury, liability, expense or damage (collectively "Loss") 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 one party in connection with facilities or equipment furnished by the other party or the other party's customer; 3) any claim, loss, or damage claimed by a customer of a 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, 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 customers 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 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) for 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 (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.

**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 Loss 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 to the other party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel, with respect to any service offered pursuant to this Agreement.

**M.** If the performance of this Agreement, or any obligation hereunder, is prevented, restricted or interfered with by reason of (i) acts of God; (ii) war, revolution, civil commotion, acts of public enemies, acts of terrorism, embargo; (iii) acts of the government in its sovereign capacity; (iv) labor difficulties, including, without limitation, strikes, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts; or (v) any other circumstances beyond the reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of the party affected, the party affected, upon giving prompt notice to the other party, shall be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such prevention, restriction, or interference (and the other party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-to-day basis to the extent such party's obligations are related to the performance so prevented, restricted or interfered with); provided, however, that the party so affected shall use its best efforts to avoid or remove such causes of non-performance and both Parties shall proceed whenever such causes are removed or cease. Nothing herein shall affect a party's right to interruption or other credits for failure or delay in performance.

**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 XVI shall survive the expiration of this Agreement.

## **XVII. 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 XX.

## **XVIII. 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 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.

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

**A.** It may be necessary for BellSouth and Carrier, each as the "Discloser," to provide to the other party, as "Recipient," certain proprietary and confidential information (including trade secret information) including but not limited to technical, financial, marketing, staffing and business plans and information, strategic information, proposals, request for proposals, specifications, drawings, maps, prices, costs, costing methodologies, procedures, processes, business systems, software programs, techniques, customer account data, call detail

records and like information (collectively the "Information"). All such Information conveyed in writing or other tangible form shall be clearly marked with a confidential or proprietary legend. Information conveyed orally by the Discloser to Recipient shall be designated as proprietary and confidential at the time of such oral conveyance, shall be reduced to writing by the Discloser within forty-five (45) days thereafter, and shall be clearly marked with a confidential or proprietary legend. 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 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.

**B. Use and Protection of Information.** Recipient agrees to protect such Information of the Discloser provided to Recipient from whatever source from distribution, disclosure or dissemination to anyone except (i) to employees of Recipient with a need to know such Information solely in conjunction with Recipient's analysis of the Information, (ii) to Recipient's attorney and other professionals under a duty to protect client confidences, and (iii) for no other purpose except as authorized herein or as otherwise authorized in writing by the Discloser. Recipient will not make any copies of the Information inspected by it, and shall use the same standard of care to protect Information as it would use to protect its own confidential information.

**C. Exceptions.** Recipient will not have an obligation to protect any portion of the Information which:

(a) is made publicly available by the Discloser or lawfully by a nonparty to this Agreement; (b) is lawfully obtained by Recipient from any source other than Discloser; (c) is previously known to Recipient without an obligation to keep it confidential; or (d) is released from the terms of this Agreement by Discloser upon written notice to Recipient.

**D.** Recipient agrees to use the Information solely for the purposes of negotiations pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 251 or in performing its obligations under this Agreement and for no other entity or purpose, except as may be otherwise agreed to in writing by the Parties. Nothing herein shall prohibit Recipient from providing information requested by the Federal Communications Commission or a state regulatory agency with jurisdiction over this matter, or to support a request for arbitration or an allegation of failure to negotiate in good faith. Furthermore, a Recipient may also disclose all Information it is required or ordered to disclose by law, a court, or governmental agency, as long as the Discloser has been notified of the required disclosure within a reasonable time

after the Recipient becomes aware of its requirement to disclose. The Recipient required to disclose the Information shall take all lawful measures to avoid disclosing the Information called for until the Discloser of 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.

**E.** Recipient agrees not to publish or use the Information for any advertising, sales promotions, press releases, or publicity matters that refer either directly or indirectly to the Information or to the Discloser or any of its affiliates.

**F.** The disclosure of Information neither grants nor implies any license to the Recipient under any trademark, patent, copyright, or application which is now or may hereafter be owned by the Discloser.

**G.** Survival of Confidentiality Obligations. The Parties' rights and obligations under this Section XIX shall survive and continue in effect until two (2) years after the expiration or termination date of this Agreement with regard to all Information exchanged during the term of this Agreement. Thereafter, the Parties' rights and obligations hereunder survive and continue in effect with respect to any Information that is a trade secret under applicable law.

## **XX. 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 issue to the appropriate company representatives. If the issue is not resolved within 30 days, either party may petition the Commission for a resolution of the dispute, or to the extent that the Commission does not have jurisdiction or declines to review the dispute, then the FCC. However, each party reserves the right to seek judicial or FCC review of any ruling made by the Commission concerning this Agreement.

## **XXI. Waivers**

Any failure or delay 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**

Any assignment by either party to any non-Affiliated entity of any right, obligation or duty, or of any other interest hereunder, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent

of the other party shall be void. A party may assign this Agreement or any right, obligation, duty or other interest hereunder to an Affiliate of the party without the consent of the other party; provided, however, that the assigning party shall notify the other party in writing of such assignment thirty (30) days prior to the Effective Date thereof. The Parties shall amend this Agreement to reflect such assignments and shall work cooperatively to implement any changes required due to such assignment. All obligations and duties of any party under this Agreement shall be binding on all successors in interest and assigns of such party. No assignment or delegation hereof shall relieve the assignor of its obligations under this Agreement in the event that the assignee fails to perform such obligations.

### **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 expiration 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 in which service is provided, without regard to its conflict of laws principles, and the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Act.



**XXVII. 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.

**XXVIII. 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.

**XXIX. 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

**T-Mobile USA, Inc.**  
**12920 SE 38<sup>th</sup> St.**  
Bellevue, WA 98006  
ATTN: General Counsel  
CC: Carrier Management

CC: Randy Ham, Director Wireless  
Interconnection

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.

**C.** Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, "writing" or "written" may mean electronic (including E-mail transmissions where receipt is acknowledged by the recipient, but excluding voice-mail), or hard copy, including by facsimile

(with acknowledgment of receipt from the recipient's facsimile machine) unless otherwise stated.

**XXX. Headings of No Force or Effect**

The headings of Articles and Sections of this Agreement are for convenience of reference only, and shall in no way define, modify or restrict the meaning or interpretation of the terms or provisions of this Agreement.

**XXXI. Multiple Counterparts**

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

**XXXII. Entire Agreement**

This Agreement, together with its preamble, recitals and all its Attachments (incorporated herein by this reference), all of which, when taken together, are intended to constitute one indivisible agreement. This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding and supersedes prior agreements between the parties relating to the subject matter contained herein and merges all prior discussions between them. Neither party shall be bound by any definition, condition, provision, representation, warranty, covenant or promise, pre-printed form or other instrument, 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.

**XXXIII. 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.

**XXXIV. 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.

**XXXV. 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.

**XXXVI. References to Other Documents**

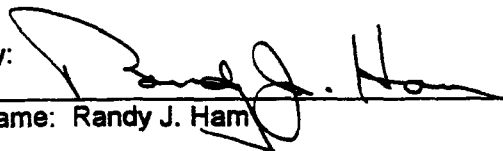
Whenever any provision of this Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, or any other document specifically incorporated into this Agreement, it will be deemed to be a reference to the most recent 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 or if there is a bona-fide dispute as to what is the most recent version or edition, the parties shall mutually agree upon which requirement shall apply.

**XXXVII. Miscellaneous**

References to the "Term" include any extensions thereto.

**WHEREFORE**, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly appointed representatives as follows:

**BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**

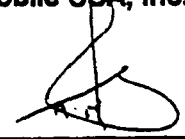
By: 

Name: Randy J. Ham

Title: Assistant Director -  
Wireless Interconnection

Date: 5/8/03

**T-Mobile USA, Inc.**

By: 

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Abdul Saad  
Vice President  
Systems Engineering & Network Operations

Date: 5/2/03

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**Attachment A****AFFILIATES**

VoiceStream GSM I Operating Company, LLC

VoiceStream GSM II Holdings, LLC

VoiceStream Houston, Inc. fka Aerial Houston, Inc.

VoiceStream PCS BTA I Corporation

Cook Inlet/VS GSM IV PCS, LLC

Powertel/Birmingham, Inc.

Powertel/Memphis, Inc.

Powertel/Kentucky, Inc.

Powertel/Atlanta, Inc.

Powertel, Inc.

VoiceStream Tampa/Orlando, Inc. fka Aerial Tampa/Orlando, Inc.

VoiceStream Central Communications, Inc. f/k/a Aerial Communications, \_Inc.

Omnipoint Holdings, Inc.

Powertel/Jacksonville, Inc.

Eliska Wireless Venture I, Inc. f/k/a Digiph PCS, Inc.

**Attachment B-1**CMRS Local Interconnection Rates  
(All rates are Per Minute of Use)

Effective date through June 14, 2003

Type 1 (End Office Switched)	\$ .0010
Type 2A (Tandem Switched)	\$ .0010
Type 2B Dedicated End Office)	\$ .0010

June 15, 2003 through June 14, 2004

(If such dates are applicable during the term of this Agreement)

Type 1 (End Office Switched)	\$ .0007
Type 2A (Tandem Switched)	\$ .0007
Type 2B Dedicated End Office)	\$ .0007

**Attachment B-2**

**Type 1, Type 2A, & 2B Mobile To Land Trunk Usage**  
 (All Rates are Per Voice Grade Trunk)

Mobile originated IntraMTA traffic over Type 1, Type 2A and Type 2B trunks, which terminate at BellSouth Tandems (Local or Access) and/or BellSouth End Offices, without recording capability, may be billed in either of two ways. Carrier may choose to either be billed a surrogate usage rate, on a per voice grade trunk basis, for mobile originated Traffic completed over one-way outward or two way trunks or may choose to provide Traffic data in a company prescribed format to be used for billing purposes. Carriers' provided Traffic data will be billed at the rates prescribe in Attachment B-1. If the Carrier chooses to provide Traffic data, then the detail level provided must be in accordance with BellSouth reasonable requirements. Traffic data must be provided no more that 30 days in arrears from the close of the normal billing cycle. If the Traffic data is not received in the BellSouth prescribed format in the specified time period, the surrogate usage rate set forth in this Attachment will be applied. Surrogate Usage for IntraMTA mobile originated Traffic, which terminates in BellSouth's local service area, shall be billed at a per voice grade trunk level rate as follows:

	<u>Type 1</u>	<u>TYPE 2A</u>	<u>Type 2B</u>
All BellSouth States			
Effective Date			
Thru June 14, 2003	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00
June 15, 2003			
Thru June 14, 2004 (If such dates are applicable during the term of this Agreement)	\$9.10	\$9.10	\$9.10