

State of Florida



# Public Service Commission

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**DATE:** April 6, 2006

**TO:** Director, Division of the Commission Clerk & Administrative Services (Bayó)

**FROM:** Division of Competitive Markets & Enforcement (M. Watts) *MA*  
Office of the General Counsel (L. Tan) *LT PLW*

**RE:** Docket No. 060164-TP -- Joint petition for waiver of Rule 25-4.118, F.A.C., to allow transfer of customers from Trinsic Communications, Inc. to Access Integrated Networks, Inc.

**AGENDA:** 04/18/06 – Regular Agenda – Proposed Agency Action – Interested Persons May Participate

**COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED:** All Commissioners

**PREHEARING OFFICER:** Administrative

**CRITICAL DATES:** None

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:** None

**FILE NAME AND LOCATION:** S:\PSC\CMP\WP\060164.RCM.DOC

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### Case Background

On February 27, 2006, Access Integrated Networks, Inc. (AIN) and Trinsic Communications, Inc. (Trinsic), both competitive local exchange companies (CLECs) and intrastate interexchange companies (IXCs), submitted a joint request for a waiver of the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. The purpose of filing for the waiver is so Trinsic can transfer approximately 3,500 of its customers to AIN without AIN having to obtain each customer's authorization. The Trinsic customers have Trinsic IXC service bundled with their local plan. After the transfer, customers will receive bundled CLEC and IXC services from AIN.

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These waivers are being sought to provide the Commission notice of the transfer of assets, for the treatment of customers in a consumer-friendly manner and to allow for a transition to occur in a smooth process protecting both the consumer and the company. Without this waiver, AIN would be required to obtain signed letters of agency (LOAs) or third party verifications (TPVs) from each customer being transferred. These waivers are also beneficial to the customers as they will not be subject to a loss of service on the date of transfer. Thus, this recommendation addresses the requests for waiver of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, for CLEC and IXC services.

The Commission is vested with jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Sections 364.02, 364.336, 364.337, and 364.603, Florida Statutes. Accordingly, staff believes the following recommendations are appropriate.

### Discussion of Issues

**Issue 1:** Should the Commission approve the request for waiver of the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, in the transfer of customers from Trinsic Communications, Inc. to Access Integrated Networks, Inc.?

**Recommendation:** Yes, the Commission should approve the request for waiver of the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. **(M. Watts/L. Tan)**

**Staff Analysis:** Pursuant to Rule 25-4.118(1), Florida Administrative Code, a customer's carrier cannot be changed without the customer's authorization. Rule 25-4.118(2), Florida Administrative Code, provides that a carrier shall submit a change request only if one of the following has occurred:

- (a) The provider has a letter of agency (LOA) . . . from the customer requesting the change;
- (b) The provider has received a customer-initiated call for service . . . ;
- (c) A firm that is independent and unaffiliated with the provider . . . has verified the customer's requested change . . .

Pursuant to Rule 25-24.475(3), Florida Administrative Code, Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, is incorporated into Chapter 25-24, and applies to IXC's.

Rule 25-24.455(2), Florida Administrative Code, states:

An IXC may petition for a waiver of any provision of this Part. The waiver shall be granted in whole, granted in Part or denied based on the following:

- (a) The factors enumerated in Section 364.337(4), Florida Statutes;
- (b) The extent to which competitive forces may serve the same function as, or obviate the necessity for, the provision sought to be waived;
- (c) Alternative regulatory requirements for the company which may serve the purposes of this part; and
- (d) Whether the waiver is in the public interest.

Pursuant to Rule 25-24.845, Florida Administrative Code, Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, is incorporated into Chapter 25-24, and applies to CLECs.

Section 364.337(2), Florida Statutes, states in pertinent part;

A certificated competitive local exchange telecommunications company may petition the commission for a waiver of some or all of the requirements of this chapter, except ss. 364.16, 364.336, and

subsections (1) and (5). The commission may grant such petition if determined to be in the public interest.

The authority for Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, is found in Section 364.603, Florida Statutes, which is a section the Commission is authorized to waive.

AIN has attested that it will provide for a seamless transition while ensuring that the affected customers understand available choices with the least amount of disruption to the customers. Staff has reviewed the notice that will be sent to Trinsic's customers and found it to be adequate. The customers should not experience any interruption of service, rate increase, or switching fees.

In addition, Trinsic and AIN stated in the customer notification letter that Trinsic will be responsible for any customer complaints prior to March 28, 2006, and AIN will be responsible for customer complaints received after that date.

Further, neither AIN nor Trinsic has any outstanding regulatory assessment fees, penalties or interest associated with its IXC registration or CLEC certification.

Staff believes that in this instance it is appropriate to waive the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code. If prior authorization is required in this event, customers may fail to respond to a request for authorization, neglect to select another carrier, and lose their local and long distance services. Furthermore, staff believes that granting this waiver will avoid unnecessary slamming complaints during this transition.

Therefore, staff recommends that the Commission approve the waiver of the carrier selection requirements of Rule 25-4.118, Florida Administrative Code, in the transfer of customers from Trinsic Communications, Inc. to Access Integrated Networks, Inc.

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**Issue 2:** Should this docket be closed?

**Recommendation:** If no person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed agency action files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the order, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order. **(L. Tan)**

**Staff Analysis:** If no person whose substantial interests are affected by the proposed agency action files a protest within 21 days of the issuance of the order, this docket should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order.