

ORIGINAL

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DAVID L. THIERRY

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, YOUR POSITION WITH BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. ("BELLSOUTH") AND YOUR BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is David Thierry. I am employed by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") as Manager - Interconnection Services. My business address is 675 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30375.

Q. PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE.

A. My education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia in June of 1985. My professional career with BellSouth spans over eleven years and includes experience in the development of service cost studies, the development of tariffs, and physical collocation contract negotiations.

1 Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE A STATE
2 COMMISSION?

3

4 A. Yes. I testified before the Florida Public Service Commission.

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6 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

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8 A. My testimony provides BellSouth's position on a number of collocation
9 issues raised by ICG Telecom Group ("ICG") in its Petition for
10 Arbitration filed with the Florida Public Service Commission
11 ("Commission") on May 27, 1999. Specifically, I am responding to
12 Issues 11 through 16.

13

14 **ISSUE 11: SHOULD BELLSOUTH BE PERMITTED TO IMPOSE ON ICG A**
15 **BURDENSOME AND LENGTHY PROCESS FOR BECOMING A**
16 **"CERTIFIED VENDOR" BEFORE ALLOWING ICG TO INSTALL,**
17 **PROVISION, OR MAINTAIN ICG'S OWN COLLOCATION SPACE?**

18

19 Q. HAS ICG ACCURATELY PORTRAYED BELLSOUTH'S POSITION ON
20 THIS ISSUE?

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22 A. No. BellSouth does not require ICG to become a "certified vendor" in
23 order to provision or maintain its collocated equipment arrangement.
24 BellSouth does require the use of a BellSouth-certified vendor for the
25 engineering and installation of equipment and facilities placed within a

1 BellSouth central office or upon a BellSouth property in an adjacent
2 collocation arrangement. BellSouth adheres to this requirement itself
3 and expects any other entity installing equipment and facilities within a
4 BellSouth central office to do likewise.

5

6 Q. WHY IS THE USE OF A CERTIFIED VENDOR NECESSARY?

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8 A. Use of a certified vendor is necessary to ensure compliance with
9 technical, safety and quality standards. These standards include, but
10 are not limited to, telecommunications industry standards specified in
11 Bellcore technical reference GR-63-core and National Electric Code
12 standards. Additionally, certified vendors must hold a professional
13 engineering license and carry specified liability insurance coverage.

14

15 Q. IS ICG'S CHARACTERIZATION OF BELLSOUTH'S VENDOR
16 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ACCURATE?

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18 A. No. BellSouth's certification process is neither burdensome nor
19 lengthy. In fact, the company applying for vendor certification is in
20 control over the time period to complete the certification process. The
21 process is no more complicated than the familiarization with technical
22 standards and references and the demonstration, through trial
23 installation, that the applicant has reviewed and has become proficient
24 at, and can comply with these technical, safety and quality engineering
25 and installation guidelines and specifications. A copy of BellSouth's

1 Information Publication, "Services Supplier Certification Process for
2 Detailed Engineering and Installation, IP-73167" is attached to my
3 testimony as Exhibit DLT-1.

4

5 Q. WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF INADEQUATE VENDORS ARE UTILIZED
6 TO INSTALL COLLOCATION EQUIPMENT?

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8 A. Failure to comply with the technical, safety and quality standards could
9 not only result in non-performance, network failure, or network outage,
10 but could also result in hazardous conditions including but not limited to
11 electrocution or fire. BellSouth is responsible for not only assuring the
12 operating environment of its own network, the public switched network,
13 but also that of other collocators. The intricacies associated with
14 equipment engineering and installation are best managed and
15 controlled through a process that ensures the consistent application of
16 technical, safety and security practices. It is BellSouth's position that
17 the vendor certification process is the appropriate mechanism to
18 maintain these standards. BellSouth routinely audits vendor
19 installations and suspends the certification of any vendor whose
20 engineering or installation fails to comply with the appropriate
21 standards. BellSouth's use of the certified vendor process is in the
22 public interest. It assures that the technicians performing critical wiring
23 and electrical connections are competent to do so, thus protecting the
24 integrity of the public switched network.

25

1 **ISSUE 12: SHOULD BELLSOUTH WAIVE OR EXPEDITE ITS "CERTIFIED**
2 **VENDOR" PROCESS FOR ICG EMPLOYEES WHENEVER THERE ARE**
3 **FEWER THAN FIFTY (50) CERTIFIED VENDORS IN A DESIGNATED**
4 **AREA, AND/OR WHEN A "CERTIFIED VENDOR" IS UNABLE TO**
5 **PERFORM THE COLLOCATION WORK ON A TIMELY BASIS PURSUANT**
6 **TO ICG'S NEEDS?**

7

8 Q. WHAT IS BELLSOUTH'S POSITION REGARDING WAIVING THE
9 CERTIFIED VENDOR PROCESS?

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11 A. BellSouth should not be required to waive ICG's use of a certified
12 vendor under any circumstances. A central office is the heart of the
13 public switched network, and the central office environment
14 necessitates careful planning and deployment of equipment, facilities
15 and support components. These activities must be executed by trained
16 technicians that, as demonstrated by their certification, have
17 competence in all aspects of the required engineering and installation
18 activities. ICG may elect, at its option, to apply for vendor certification.

19

20 Q. SHOULD BELLSOUTH BE REQUIRED TO EXPEDITE ICG'S
21 CERTIFICATION AS DESCRIBED IN ITS PETITION?

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23 A. No. As I previously stated, the timeline required to complete the
24 certification program is at the sole discretion of the applicant.

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1 **ISSUE 13: SHOULD BELLSOUTH BE PERMITTED TO REQUIRE A**
2 **"CERTIFIED VENDOR" TO CROSS-CONNECT ICG'S EQUIPMENT WITH**
3 **THE EQUIPMENT OF ANOTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**
4 **THAT DESIRES SUCH A CONNECTION?**

5

6 Q. WHAT IS BELLSOUTH'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE?

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8 A. As stated previously in my testimony, BellSouth requires a certified
9 vendor for its own as well as other interconnectors' equipment and facility
10 installations. ICG is permitted to perform limited cross-connect cabling
11 within its own collocation space and to immediately adjacent collocation
12 spaces. A certified vendor must be utilized to place cable facilities that
13 traverse an equipment area occupied by BellSouth or other
14 interconnectors. One component of the certified vendor program is the
15 proper placement and installation of overhead cabling. These standards
16 ensure not only the protection of other cables within the same cable
17 racking route, but the equipment underneath the cabling racking in which
18 the new cabling is placed. In fact, in its recent Order 99-48, the Federal
19 Communications Commission ("FCC") acknowledged an ILEC's right to
20 impose upon collocating carriers the same requirements that the ILEC
21 imposes upon itself. The Order states, "[w]e see no reason for the
22 incumbent LEC to refuse to permit the collocating carriers to cross-
23 connect their equipment, subject only to the same reasonable safety
24 requirements that the incumbent LEC imposes on its own equipment."
25 (FCC Order 99-48 in the Matters of Deployment of Wireline Services

1 distances. BellSouth does, however, require ICG to pay for a security
2 escort for any additional site visits following the initial pre-installation
3 visit and prior to space acceptance. BellSouth has a right and an
4 obligation to put in place security requirements to protect its network
5 and the networks of other collocated carriers. Between the time
6 BellSouth is in receipt of ICG's Bona Fide Firm Order and ICG's Space
7 Acceptance, BellSouth is taking appropriate measures to secure its
8 premises (e.g., installing security access card reader systems,
9 protecting proprietary information) and awaiting confirmation from ICG
10 that BellSouth's security requirements have been met by ICG. ICG's
11 BellSouth certified vendor may visit the site prior to space acceptance
12 without a security escort, if previously arranged. Following space
13 acceptance, ICG is provided access keys to the central office and may
14 access the space twenty-four (24) hours a day and seven (7) days a
15 week.

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17 **ISSUE 15: SHOULD BELLSOUTH BE REQUIRED TO LIMIT ALL**
18 **CHARGES FOR THE TRANSITION OF ICG'S EQUIPMENT FROM VIRTUAL**
19 **COLLOCATION TO PHYSICAL COLLOCATION TO CHARGES FOR THE**
20 **ACTUAL COSTS OF PHYSICAL LABOR IN MAKING THE TRANSITION**
21 **AND A RECORDS CHANGE?**

22

23 Q. WHAT IS BELLSOUTH'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE?

24

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1 A. BellSouth should not be required to limit charges for the transition of
2 ICG's equipment from a Virtual collocation arrangement to a physical
3 collocation arrangement as ICG suggests. Virtual collocation and
4 physical collocation are two different service offerings. While a
5 collocating carrier has direct access to its physical collocation
6 equipment on a twenty-four hour a day, seven-day a week basis,
7 access to virtual collocation is restricted to limited inspection visits only.
8 Virtual collocation arrangements are most commonly placed within the
9 BellSouth line-up, since BellSouth leases virtual collocation equipment
10 from the carrier and assumes the maintenance and repair responsibility
11 at the direction of the carrier. The conversion of an existing virtual
12 collocation arrangement to a physical collocation arrangement usually
13 necessitates either the relocation of the virtual collocation equipment to
14 the space designated for the new physical collocation arrangement or
15 the placement of new equipment in the physical collocation space and
16 the decommissioning of the old virtual collocation arrangement.
17 BellSouth must separately review its ability to provide physical
18 collocation and assess the support components necessary to support
19 the particular arrangement (e.g., space allocation based on engineering
20 drawings, HVAC, power feeder and distribution, grounding, cable
21 racking). To perform these activities, BellSouth incurs costs. BellSouth
22 recovers these costs through the assessment of an Application Fee.
23 Furthermore, BellSouth is obligated by law to treat requesting
24 collocators in a non-discriminatory manner. Each request for a physical
25 collocation arrangement is handled in the same non-discriminatory

1 manner. Thus a collocator who previously had virtual collocated
2 equipment within an office must follow the same process and pay the
3 same fees for physical collocation as a collocator who did not
4 previously have virtual collocation within that office.

5

6 **ISSUE 16: SHOULD BELLSOUTH ALLOW ICG TO SUBLEASE ANY OF**
7 **ICG'S EQUIPMENT LOCATED ON BELLSOUTH'S PREMISES?**

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9 Q. WHAT IS BELLSOUTH'S POSITION?

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11 A. BellSouth permits ICG to sublease a portion of its Caged Collocation
12 Space to other competitive LECs who are providing
13 telecommunications services through the interconnection or access to
14 BellSouth's network. Additionally, BellSouth permits any
15 telecommunications carrier to provision service to any other
16 telecommunications carrier's collocation space, allowing ICG to partner
17 with other telecommunications carriers to better serve ICG customers.

18

19 Q. WHAT IS BELLSOUTH'S OBLIGATION TO PERMIT ICG TO
20 SUBLEASE ITS EQUIPMENT?

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22 A. BellSouth is required by the FCC's recent Order 99-48 to allow a
23 competitive carrier to share collocation space with another competitive
24 carrier. The Order specifically describes the requirement as follows:

25

1 "...we require incumbent LECs to make shared collocation
2 cages available to new entrants. A shared collocation cage is a
3 caged collocation space shared by two or more competitive
4 LECs..." (FCC Order 99-48 in the Matters of Deployment of
5 Wireline Services Offering Advanced Telecommunications
6 Capability, ¶ 41)

7 The Order explicitly states the opportunity for sharing of space is for
8 caged collocation arrangements. ICG may elect to share a caged
9 arrangement or may choose another collocation alternative. BellSouth
10 does not require the purchase of a cage as a prerequisite to obtaining
11 physical collocation. If ICG's greatest concern is for efficient use of
12 space as stated in its petition, ICG can certainly apply for its minimum
13 requirements in single bay increments in a cageless collocation
14 arrangement. Through the use of co-carrier cross-connects, ICG can
15 efficiently and economically connect its equipment to that of any other
16 collocated telecommunications carrier to facilitate the "partnering"
17 referenced in the petition.

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19 Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

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21 A. Yes.

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