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Marshall M. Criser III
Regulatory Vice President

ORIGINAL

September 2, 1999

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22 SEP -2 PM 4: 38
RECORDS AND REPORTING

991292-JP

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

Re: Approval of the Resale Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and Spring Board Telecom pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Mrs. Bayo:

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, BellSouth and Spring Board Telecom are submitting to the Florida Public Service Commission their negotiated agreement for the purchase of BellSouth's telecommunications services for the purpose of resale to end users by Spring Board Telecom.

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Act, the Commission is charged with approving or rejecting the negotiated agreement between BellSouth and Spring Board Telecom within 90 days of its submission. The Act provides that the Commission may only reject such an agreement if it finds that the agreement or any portion of the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement or the implementation of the agreement or any portion of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. Both parties aver that neither of these reasons exist as to the agreement they have negotiated and therefore, are very hopeful that the Commission shall approve their agreement.

- AFA _____
- APP _____
- CAF _____
- CMU _____
- CTR _____
- EAG _____
- LEG _____
- MAS _____
- OPC _____
- PAI _____
- SEC _____
- WAW _____
- OTH _____

Very truly yours,

Marshall M. Criser III

Regulatory Vice President

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mw
FPSC-BUREAU OF RECORDS

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

10573 SEP-28

FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

ATTACHMENT TO TRANSMITTAL LETTER

The Agreement entered into by and between Spring Board Telecom and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., dated 6/21/99 for the state(s) of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee consists of the following:

ITEM	NO. PAGES
General Terms and Conditions	21
Attachment 1	17
TOTAL	38

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., (“BellSouth”), a Georgia corporation, and Spring Board Telecom (“SBT”), a South Carolina corporation, and shall be deemed effective as of June 21, 1999. This agreement may refer to either BellSouth or SBT or both as a “Party” or “Parties.”

WITNESSETH

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

WHEREAS, SBT is an alternative local exchange telecommunications company (“CLEC”) authorized to provide telecommunications services in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to resell BellSouth’s telecommunications services and/or interconnect their facilities, purchase unbundled elements, and exchange traffic specifically for the purposes of fulfilling their obligations pursuant to sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (“the Act”).

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

The terms and conditions contained within the General Terms and Conditions were negotiated as a whole and each term and condition within the General Terms and Conditions is interdependent upon the other terms and conditions.

1. **Purpose**

The Parties agree that the rates, terms and conditions contained within this Agreement, including all Attachments, comply and conform with each Parties' obligations under sections 251 and 252 of the Act. The resale, access and interconnection obligations contained herein enable SBT to provide competing telephone exchange service to residential and business subscribers within the territory of BellSouth. The Parties agree that SBT will not be considered to have offered telecommunications services to the public in any state within BellSouth’s region until such time as it has ordered services for resale or interconnection facilities for the purposes of providing business and/or residential local exchange service to customers.

2. Term of the Agreement

2.1 The term of this Agreement shall be two years, beginning June 21, 1999.

2.2 The Parties agree that by no later than one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration of this Agreement, they shall commence negotiations with regard to the terms, conditions and prices of resale and/or local interconnection to be effective beginning on the expiration date of this Agreement (“Subsequent Agreement”). The Parties further agree that any such Subsequent Agreement shall be for a term of no less than two (2) years unless the Parties agree otherwise.

2.3 If, within one hundred and thirty-five (135) days of commencing the negotiation referred to in Section 2.2, above, the Parties are unable to satisfactorily negotiate new resale and/or local interconnection terms, conditions and prices, either Party may petition the Commission to establish appropriate local interconnection and/or resale arrangements pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 252. The Parties agree that, in such event, they shall encourage the Commission to issue its order regarding the appropriate local interconnection and/or resale arrangements no later than the expiration date of this Agreement. The Parties further agree that in the event the Commission does not issue its order prior to the expiration date of this Agreement, or if the Parties continue beyond the expiration date of this Agreement to negotiate the local interconnection and/or resale arrangements without Commission intervention, the terms, conditions and prices ultimately ordered by the Commission, or negotiated by the Parties, will be effective retroactive to the day following the expiration date of this Agreement. Until the Subsequent Agreement becomes effective, the Parties shall continue to exchange traffic pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

3. Ordering Procedures

3.1 SBT shall provide BellSouth its Carrier Identification Code (CIC), Operating Company Number (OCN), Group Access Code (GAC) and Access Customer Name and Address (ACNA) code as applicable prior to placing its first order.

3.2 Detailed procedures for ordering and provisioning BellSouth services are set forth in BellSouth’s Local Interconnection and Facility Based Ordering Guide and Resale Ordering Guide, as appropriate.

3.3 BellSouth has developed electronic systems for placing most resale and some UNE orders. BellSouth has also developed electronic systems for accessing data needed to place orders including valid address, available

services and features, available telephone numbers, due date estimation on pre-order and calculation on firm order, and customer service records where applicable. Charge for Operational Support Systems (OSS) shall be as set forth in this agreement in Exhibit A of Attachment 1 and/or in Attachment 2, as applicable.

4. **Parity**

The services and service provisioning that BellSouth provides SBT for resale will be at least equal in quality to that provided to BellSouth, or any BellSouth subsidiary, affiliate or end user. In connection with resale, BellSouth will provide SBT with pre-ordering, ordering, maintenance and trouble reporting, and daily usage data functionality that will enable SBT to provide equivalent levels of customer service to their local exchange customers as BellSouth provides to its own end users. BellSouth shall also provide SBT with unbundled network elements, and access to those elements, that is at least equal in quality to that which BellSouth provides BellSouth, or any BellSouth subsidiary, affiliate or other CLEC. BellSouth will provide number portability to SBT and their customers with minimum impairment of functionality, quality, reliability and convenience.

5. **White Pages Listings**

BellSouth shall provide SBT and their customers access to white pages directory listings under the following terms:

- 5.1 **Listings.** BellSouth or its agent will include SBT residential and business customer listings in the appropriate White Pages (residential and business) or alphabetical directories. Directory listings will make no distinction between SBT and BellSouth subscribers.
- 5.2 **Rates.** Subscriber primary listing information in the White Pages shall be provided at no charge to SBT or its subscribers provided that SBT provides subscriber listing information to BellSouth at no charge.
- 5.3 **Procedures for Submitting SBT Subscriber Information.** BellSouth will provide to SBT a magnetic tape or computer disk containing the proper format for submitting subscriber listings. SBT will be required to provide BellSouth with directory listings and daily updates to those listings, including new, changed, and deleted listings, in an industry-accepted format. These procedures are detailed in BellSouth's Local Interconnection and Facility Based Ordering Guide.
- 5.4 **Unlisted Subscribers.** SBT will be required to provide to BellSouth the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all SBT customers that wish to be omitted from directories.

- 5.5 Inclusion of SBT Customers in Directory Assistance Database. BellSouth will include and maintain SBT subscriber listings in BellSouth's directory assistance databases at no charge. BellSouth and SBT will formulate appropriate procedures regarding lead time, timeliness, format and content of listing information.
- 5.6 Listing Information Confidentiality. BellSouth will accord SBT's directory listing information the same level of confidentiality that BellSouth accords its own directory listing information, and BellSouth shall limit access to SBT's customer proprietary confidential directory information to those BellSouth employees who are involved in the preparation of listings.
- 5.7 Optional Listings. Additional listings and optional listings will be offered by BellSouth at tariffed rates as set forth in the General Subscriber Services Tariff.
- 5.8 Delivery. BellSouth or its agent shall deliver White Pages directories to SBT subscribers at no charge.

6. Bona Fide Request/New Business Request Process for Further Unbundling

If SBT is a facilities based provider or a facilities based and resale provider, this section shall apply. BellSouth shall, upon request of SBT, provide to SBT access to its unbundled elements at any technically feasible point for the provision of SBT's telecommunications service where such access is necessary and failure to provide access would impair the ability of SBT to provide services that it seeks to offer. Any request by SBT for access to an unbundled element that is not already available shall be treated as an unbundled element Bona Fide Request/New Business Request, and shall be submitted to BellSouth pursuant to the Bona Fide Request/New Business Request process set forth following.

- 6.1 Bona Fide Request/New Business Requests are to be used when SBT makes a request of BellSouth to provide a new or modified network element, interconnection option, or other service option pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996; or to provide a new or custom capability or function to meet SBT's business needs, referred to as a Business Opportunity Request (BOR). The BFR process is intended to facilitate the two way exchange of information between the requesting Party and BellSouth, necessary for accurate processing of requests in a consistent and timely fashion.
- 6.2 A Bona Fide Request/New Business Request shall be submitted in writing by SBT and shall specifically identify the required service date, technical requirements, space requirements and/or such specifications that clearly

define the request such that BellSouth has sufficient information to analyze and prepare a response. Such a request also shall include a SBT's designation of the request as being (i) pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 or (ii) pursuant to the needs of the business. The request shall be sent to SBT's Account Executive.

7. Liability and Indemnification

7.1 BellSouth Liability. BellSouth shall take financial responsibility for its own actions in causing, or its lack of action in preventing, unbillable or uncollectible SBT revenues.

7.2 Liability for Acts or Omissions of Third Parties. Neither BellSouth nor SBT shall be liable for any act or omission of another telecommunications company providing a portion of the services provided under this Agreement.

7.3 Limitation of Liability.

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

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

7.3.3 Neither BellSouth nor SBT 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.

- 7.3.4 Under no circumstance shall a Party be responsible or liable for indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including, but not limited to, economic loss or lost business or profits, damages arising from the use or performance of equipment or software, or the loss of use of software or equipment, or accessories attached thereto, delay, error, or loss of data. In connection with this limitation of liability, each Party recognizes that the other Party may, from time to time, provide advice, make recommendations, or supply other analyses related to the Services, or facilities described in this Agreement, and, while each Party shall use diligent efforts in this regard, the Parties acknowledge and agree that this limitation of liability shall apply to provision of such advice, recommendations, and analyses.
- 7.4 Indemnification for Certain Claims. BellSouth and SBT providing services, their affiliates and their parent company, shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by each other 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, invasion of privacy or copyright infringement arising from the content of the receiving company's own communications, or (2) any claim, loss or damage claimed by the other company's customer arising from one company's use or reliance on the other company's services, actions, duties, or obligations arising out of this Agreement.
- 7.5 No liability for Certain Inaccurate Data. Neither BellSouth nor SBT assumes any liability for the accuracy of data provided by one Party to the other and each Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the other for any claim, action, cause of action, damage, or injury that might result from the supply of inaccurate data in conjunction with the provision of any service provided pursuant to this Agreement.
- 7.6 Disclaimer. EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED TO THE CONTRARY IN THIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES TO THE OTHER PARTY CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC QUALITY OF ANY SERVICES, OR FACILITIES PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. THE PARTIES DISCLAIM, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTY OR GUARANTEE OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARISING FROM COURSE OF PERFORMANCE, COURSE OF DEALING, OR FROM USAGES OF TRADE.
- 7.7 Whenever a Claim shall arise for indemnification under this Section, the relevant Indemnitee, as appropriate, shall promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. Failure to

so notify the Indemnifying Party shall not relieve the Indemnifying Party of any liability that the Indemnifying Party might have, except to the extent that such failure prejudices the Indemnifying Party's ability to defend such Claim. The Indemnifying Party shall have the right to defend against such liability or assertion in which event the Indemnifying Party shall give written notice to the Indemnitee of acceptance of the defense of such Claim and the Identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party. Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such Claim and the relevant records of each Party shall be available to the other Party with respect to any such defense.

8. Intellectual Property Rights {tc "Section 10. Intellectual Property Rights"} and Indemnification

8.1 No License. No patent, copyright, trademark or other proprietary right is licensed, granted or otherwise transferred by this Agreement. SBT is strictly prohibited from any use, including but not limited to in sales, in marketing or advertising of telecommunications services, of any BellSouth name, service mark or trademark.

8.2 Ownership of Intellectual Property. Any intellectual property which originates from or is developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive ownership of that Party. Except for a limited license to use patents or copyrights to the extent necessary for the Parties to use any facilities or equipment (including software) or to receive any service solely as provided under this Agreement, no license in patent, copyright, trademark or trade secret, or other proprietary or intellectual property right now or hereafter owned, controlled or licensable by a Party, is granted to the other Party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel. It is the responsibility of each Party to ensure at no additional cost to the other Party that it has obtained any necessary licenses in relation to intellectual property of third Parties used in its network that may be required to enable the other Party to use any facilities or equipment (including software), to receive any service, or to perform its respective obligations under this Agreement.

8.3 Indemnification. The Party providing a service pursuant to this Agreement will defend the Party receiving such service or data provided as a result of such service against claims of infringement arising solely from the use by the receiving Party of such service and will indemnify the receiving Party for any damages awarded based solely on such claims in accordance with Section 7 of this Agreement.

8.4 Claim of Infringement. In the event that use of any facilities or equipment (including software), becomes, or in reasonable judgment of the Party who owns the affected network is likely to become, the subject of a claim, action, suit, or proceeding based on intellectual property infringement,

then said Party shall promptly and at its sole expense, but subject to the limitations of liability set forth below:

- 8.4.1 modify or replace the applicable facilities or equipment (including software) while maintaining form and function, or
- 8.4.2 obtain a license sufficient to allow such use to continue.
- 8.4.3 In the event 8.4.1 or 8.4.2 are commercially unreasonable, then said Party may, terminate, upon reasonable notice, this contract with respect to use of, or services provided through use of, the affected facilities or equipment (including software), but solely to the extent required to avoid the infringement claim.
- 8.5 **Exception to Obligations.** Neither Party's obligations under this Section shall apply to the extent the infringement is caused by: (i) modification of the facilities or equipment (including software) by the indemnitee; (ii) use by the indemnitee of the facilities or equipment (including software) in combination with equipment or facilities (including software) not provided or authorized by the indemnitor provided the facilities or equipment (including software) would not be infringing if used alone; (iii) conformance to specifications of the indemnitee which would necessarily result in infringement; or (iv) continued use by the indemnitee of the affected facilities or equipment (including software) after being placed on notice to discontinue use as set forth herein.
- 8.6 **Exclusive Remedy.** The foregoing shall constitute the Parties' sole and exclusive remedies and obligations with respect to a third party claim of intellectual property infringement arising out of the conduct of business under this agreement.

9. Treatment of Proprietary and Confidential Information

- 9.1 **Confidential Information.** It may be necessary for BellSouth and SBT to provide each other with certain confidential information, including trade secret information, including but not limited to, technical and business plans, technical information, proposals, specifications, drawings, procedures, customer account data, call detail records and like information (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Information"). All Information shall be in writing or other tangible form and clearly marked with a confidential, private or proprietary legend and that the Information will be returned to the owner within a reasonable time. The Information shall not be copied or reproduced in any form. BellSouth and SBT shall receive such Information and not disclose such Information. BellSouth and SBT shall protect the Information received from distribution, disclosure or dissemination to anyone except employees of BellSouth and SBT with a need to know such Information and which employees agree to

be bound by the terms of this Section. BellSouth and SBT will use the same standard of care to protect Information received as they would use to protect their own confidential and proprietary Information.

- 9.2 **Exception to Obligation.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, there will be no obligation on BellSouth or SBT to protect any portion of the Information that is: (1) made publicly available by the owner of the Information or lawfully disclosed by a Party other than BellSouth or SBT; (2) lawfully obtained from any source other than the owner of the Information; or (3) previously known to the receiving Party without an obligation to keep it confidential.

10. **Assignments**

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 company of the Party without the consent of the other Party. 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 of delegation hereof shall relieve the assignor of its obligations under this Agreement in the event that the assignee fails to perform such obligations.

11. **Resolution of Disputes**

Except as otherwise stated in this Agreement, the Parties agree that if any dispute arises as to the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement or as to the proper implementation of this Agreement, either Party may petition the Commission for a resolution of the dispute. However, each Party reserves any rights it may have to seek judicial review of any ruling made by the Commission concerning this Agreement.

12. **Taxes**

- 12.1 **Definition.** For purposes of this Section, the terms “taxes” and “fees” shall include but not 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) imposed, or sought to be imposed, on or with respect to the services furnished hereunder or measured by the charges or payments therefore, excluding any taxes levied on income.

12.2 Taxes and Fees Imposed Directly On Either Seller or Purchaser.

12.2.1 Taxes and fees imposed on the providing Party, which are not permitted or required to be passed on by the providing Party to its customer, shall be borne and paid by the providing Party.

12.2.2 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.

12.3 Taxes and Fees Imposed on Purchaser But Collected And Remitted By Seller.

12.3.1 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.

12.3.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and/or 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.

12.3.3 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 may contest the same in good faith, at its own expense. 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 taxing authority.

12.3.4 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.

- 12.3.5 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.
- 12.3.6 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.
- 12.3.7 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 taxing 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.
- 12.4 Taxes and Fees Imposed on Seller But Passed On To Purchaser.
- 12.4.1 Taxes and fees imposed on the providing Party, which are permitted or required to be passed on by the providing Party to its customer, shall be borne by the purchasing Party.
- 12.4.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and/or 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.
- 12.4.3 If the purchasing Party disagrees with the providing Party's determination as to the application or basis for any such tax or fee, the Parties shall consult with respect to the imposition and billing 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 and fees; provided, however, that any such contest undertaken at the request of the purchasing Party shall be at the purchasing Party's expense.
- 12.4.4 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.

- 12.4.5 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.
- 12.4.6 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 reasonable 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.
- 12.4.7 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 taxing 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.
- 12.5 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.

13. Force Majeure

In the event performance of this Agreement, or any obligation hereunder, is either directly or indirectly prevented, restricted, or interfered with by reason of fire, flood, earthquake or like acts of God, wars, revolution, civil commotion, explosion, acts of public enemy, embargo, acts of the government in its sovereign capacity, labor difficulties, including without limitation, strikes, slowdowns, picketing, or boycotts, unavailability of equipment from vendor, changes requested by Customer, or 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 until the delay, restriction or interference has ceased); provided however, that the Party so affected shall use diligent efforts to avoid or remove such causes of

non-performance and both Parties shall proceed whenever such causes are removed or cease.

14. Year 2000 Compliance

Each party warrants that it has implemented a program the goal of which is to ensure that all software, hardware and related materials (collectively called "Systems") delivered, connected with BellSouth or supplied in the furtherance of the terms and conditions specified in this Agreement: (i) will record, store, process and display calendar dates falling on or after January 1, 2000, in the same manner, and with the same functionality as such software records, stores, processes and calendar dates falling on or before December 31, 1999; and (ii) shall include without limitation date data century recognition, calculations that accommodate same century and multicentury formulas and date values, and date data interface values that reflect the century.

15. Modification of Agreement

- 15.1 BellSouth shall make available, pursuant to 47 USC § 252 and the FCC rules and regulations regarding such availability, to SBT 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.
- 15.2 If SBT 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 SBT to notify BellSouth of said change and request that an amendment to this Agreement, if necessary, be executed to reflect said change.
- 15.3 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.
- 15.4 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).

15.5 In the event that any final and nonappealable legislative, regulatory, judicial or other legal action materially affects any material terms of this Agreement, or the ability of SBT or BellSouth to perform any material terms of this Agreement, SBT 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 11.

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

16. Waivers

A failure or delay of either Party to enforce any of the provisions hereof, to exercise any option which is herein provided, or to require performance of any of the provisions hereof shall in no way be construed to be a waiver of such provisions or options, 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.

17. Governing Law

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

18. 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.

19. Notices

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

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

CLEC Account Team
9th Floor
600 North 19th Street
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

and

General Attorney - COU
Suite 4300
675 W. Peachtree St.
Atlanta, GA 30375

Spring Board Telecom
P.O. Box 12100
Rock Hill, SC 29731
Attn: Frank Mobley
(ph) 803-324-7215

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

- 19.2 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.
- 19.3 BellSouth shall provide SBT 45-day advance notice via Internet posting of price changes and of changes to the terms and conditions of services available for resale. To the extent that revisions occur between the time BellSouth notifies SBT of changes under this Agreement and the time the changes are scheduled to be implemented, BellSouth will immediately notify SBT of such revisions consistent with its internal notification process. SBT may not hold BellSouth responsible for any cost incurred as a result of such revisions, unless such costs are incurred as a result of BellSouth's intentional misconduct. SBT may not utilize any notice given under this subsection concerning a service to market resold offerings of that service in advance of BellSouth.

20. Rule of Construction

No rule of construction requiring interpretation against the drafting Party hereof shall apply in the interpretation of this Agreement.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. Implementation of Agreement

If SBT is a facilities based provider or a facilities based and resale provider, this section shall apply. Within 60 days of the execution of this Agreement, the parties will adopt a schedule for the implementation of the Agreement. The schedule shall state with specificity time frames for submission of including but not limited to, network design, interconnection points, collocation arrangement requests, pre-sales testing and full operational time frames for the business and residential markets. An implementation template to be used for the implementation schedule is contained in Attachment 10 of this Agreement.

24. 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, said costs shall be borne by SBT.

25. Entire Agreement

This Agreement and its Attachments, incorporated herein by this reference, sets forth the entire understanding and supersedes prior agreements between the Parties relating to the subject matter contained herein and merges all prior discussions between them, and neither Party shall be bound by any definition, condition, provision, representation, warranty, covenant or promise other than as expressly stated in this Agreement or as is contemporaneously or subsequently set forth in writing and executed by a duly authorized officer or representative of the Party to be bound thereby.

This agreement may include attachments with provisions for the following services:


- Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs)
- Local Interconnection
- Resale
- Collocation

For facilities based providers, the following services are included as options for purchase by SBT. SBT shall elect said services by written request to its Account Manager if applicable. For resellers, the following services are available upon request under separate agreements:

- Optional Daily Usage File (ODUF)
- Enhanced Optional Daily Usage File (EODUF)
- Access Daily Usage File (ADUF)
- Line Information Database (LIDB) Storage
- Centralized Message Distribution Service (CMDS)
- Calling Name (CNAM)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement the day and year above first written.

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.



Signature
Jerry D. Hendrix

Name


Sr. Director – Interconnection Svcs

Title

8/12/99

Date

Spring Board Telecom



Signature
Frank Mobley

Name

General Manager

Title

8/4/99

Date

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Definitions

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.

Centralized Message Distribution System is the BellCore administered national system, based in Kansas City, Missouri, used to exchange Exchange Message Interface (EMI) formatted data among host companies.

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.

Daily Usage File is the compilation of messages or copies of messages in standard Exchange Message Interface (EMI) format exchanged from BellSouth to an CLEC.

Exchange Message Interface is the nationally administered standard format for the exchange of data among the Exchange Carriers within the telecommunications industry.

Information Service means the offering of a capability for generating, acquiring, storing, transforming, processing, retrieving, utilizing, or making available information via telecommunications, and includes electronic publishing, but does not include any use of any such capability for the management, control, or operation of a telecommunications system or the management of a telecommunications service.

Intercompany Settlements (ICS) is the revenue associated with charges billed by a company other than the company in whose service area such charges were incurred. ICS on a national level includes third number and credit card calls and is administered by BellCore's Credit Card and Third Number Settlement System (CATS). Included is traffic that originates in one Regional Bell Operating Company's (RBOC) territory and bills in another RBOC's territory.

Intermediary function is defined as the delivery of traffic from SBT; a CLEC other than SBT or another telecommunications carrier through the network of BellSouth or SBT to an end user of SBT; a CLEC other than SBT or another telecommunications carrier.

Local Interconnection is defined as 1) the 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; 2) the LEC unbundled network features, functions, and capabilities set forth in this Agreement; and 3) Service Provider Number Portability sometimes referred to as temporary telephone number portability to be implemented pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

Local Traffic is defined as any telephone call that originates in one exchange and terminates in either the same exchange, or other local calling areas as defined and specified in Section A3 of BellSouth's General Subscriber Service Tariff. Local Traffic does not include traffic that originates from or terminates to an enhanced service provider or information service provider.

Message Distribution is routing determination and subsequent delivery of message data from one company to another. Also included is the interface function with CMDS, where appropriate.

Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing ("MECAB") means the document prepared by the Billing Committee of the Ordering and Billing Forum ("OBF"), which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions ("ATIS") and by Bellcore as Special Report SR-BDS-000983, Containing the recommended guidelines for the billing of Exchange Service access provided by two or more LECs and/or CLECs or by one LEC in two or more states within a single LATA.

Non-Intercompany Settlement System (NICS) is the BellCore system that calculates non-intercompany settlements amounts due from one company to another within the same RBOC region. It includes credit card, third number and collect messages.

Percent of Interstate Usage (PIU) is defined as a factor to be applied to terminating access services minutes of use to obtain those minutes that should be rated as interstate access services minutes of use. The numerator includes all interstate "non-intermediary" minutes of use, including interstate minutes of use that are forwarded due to service provider number portability less any interstate minutes of use for Terminating Party Pays services, such as 800 Services. The denominator includes all "non-intermediary", local, interstate, intrastate, toll and access minutes of use adjusted for service provider number portability less all minutes attributable to terminating Party pays services.

Percent Local Usage (PLU) is defined as a factor to be applied to intrastate terminating minutes of use. The numerator shall include all "non-intermediary" local minutes of use adjusted for those minutes of use that only apply local due to Service Provider Number Portability. The denominator is the total intrastate minutes of use including local, intrastate toll, and access, adjusted for Service Provider Number Portability less intrastate terminating Party pays minutes of use.

Revenue Accounting Office (RAO) Status Company is a local exchange company/alternate local exchange company that has been assigned a unique RAO

code. Message data exchanged among RAO status companies is grouped (i.e. packed) according to From/To/Bill RAO combinations.

Service Control Points (“SCPs”) are defined as databases that store information and have the ability to manipulate data required to offer particular services.

Signal Transfer Points (“STPs”) are signaling message switches that interconnect Signaling Links to route signaling messages between switches and databases. STPs enable the exchange of Signaling System 7 (“SS7”) messages between switching elements, database elements and STPs. STPs provide access to various BellSouth and third party network elements such as local switching and databases.

Signaling links are dedicated transmission paths carrying signaling messages between carrier switches and signaling networks. Signal Link Transport is a set of two or four dedicated 56 kbps transmission paths between SBT designated Signaling Points of Interconnection that provide a diverse transmission path and cross connect to a BellSouth Signal Transfer Point.

Telecommunications means the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user’s choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received.

Telecommunications Service means the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used.

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.).

Attachment 1

Resale

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RESALE

The rates, terms and conditions contained within this Attachment were negotiated as a whole and each rate, term and condition within the Attachment is interdependent upon the other rates, terms and conditions.

1 Discount Rates

The rates pursuant by which SBT is to purchase services from BellSouth for resale shall be at a discount rate off of the retail rate for the telecommunications service. The discount rates shall be as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. Such discount shall reflect the costs avoided by BellSouth when selling a service for wholesale purposes.

2 Definition of Terms

- 2.1 CUSTOMER OF RECORD means the entity responsible for placing application for service; requesting additions, rearrangements, maintenance or discontinuance of service; payment in full of charges incurred such as non-recurring, monthly recurring, toll, directory assistance, etc.
- 2.2 DEPOSIT means assurance provided by a customer in the form of cash, surety bond or bank letter of credit to be held by the Company.
- 2.3 END USER means the ultimate user of the telecommunications services.
- 2.4 END USER CUSTOMER LOCATION means the physical location of the premises where an end user makes use of the telecommunications services.
- 2.5 NEW SERVICES means functions, features or capabilities that are not currently offered by BellSouth. This includes packaging of existing services or combining a new function, feature or capability with an existing service.
- 2.6 OTHER/COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANY (OLEC/CLEC) means a telephone company certificated by the public service commissions of the Company's franchised area to provide local exchange service within the Company's franchised area.
- 2.7 RESALE means an activity wherein a certificated CLEC, such as SBT subscribes to the telecommunications services of the Company and then reoffers those telecommunications services to the public (with or without "adding value").
- 2.8 RESALE SERVICE AREA means the area, as defined in a public service commission approved certificate of operation, within which an CLEC, such as SBT, may offer resold local exchange telecommunications service.

3 **General Provisions**

- 3.1 SBT may resell the tariffed local exchange and toll telecommunications services of BellSouth contained in the General Subscriber Service Tariff and Private Line Service Tariff subject to the terms, and conditions specifically set forth herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the exclusions and limitations on services available for resale will be as set forth in Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

BellSouth shall make available telecommunications services for resale at the rates set forth in Exhibit A to this agreement and subject to the exclusions and limitations set forth in Exhibit B to this agreement. BellSouth does not however waive its rights to appeal or otherwise challenge any decision regarding resale that resulted in the discount rates contained in Exhibit A or the exclusions and limitations contained in Exhibit B. BellSouth reserves the right to pursue any and all legal and/or equitable remedies, including appeals of any decisions. If such appeals or challenges result in changes in the discount rates or exclusions and limitations, the parties agree that appropriate modifications to this Agreement will be made promptly to make its terms consistent with the outcome of the appeal.

- 3.2 SBT may purchase resale services from BellSouth for their own use in operating their business. The resale discount will apply to those services under the following conditions:
- 3.2.1 SBT must resell services to other end users.
- 3.2.2 SBT must order services through resale interfaces, i. e., the Local Carrier Service Center (LCSC) and/or appropriate Resale Account Teams pursuant to Section 3 of the General Terms and Conditions.
- 3.2.3 SBT cannot be an alternative local exchange telecommunications company for the single purpose of selling to themselves.
- 3.3 The provision of services by the Company to SBT does not constitute a joint undertaking for the furnishing of any service.
- 3.4 SBT will be the customer of record for all services purchased from BellSouth. Except as specified herein, the Company will take orders from, bill and expect payment from SBT for all services.
- 3.5 SBT will be the Company's single point of contact for all services purchased pursuant to this Agreement. The Company shall have no contact with the end user except to the extent provided for herein.
- 3.6 The Company will continue to bill the end user for any services that the end user specifies it wishes to receive directly from the Company.
- 3.7 The Company maintains the right to serve directly any end user within the service area of SBT. The Company will continue to directly market its own telecommunications products and services and in doing so may establish independent relationships with end users of SBT.
- 3.8 Neither Party shall interfere with the right of any person or entity to obtain service directly from the other Party.
- 3.9 Current telephone numbers may normally be retained by the end user. However, telephone numbers are the property of the Company and are assigned to the service furnished. SBT has no property right to the telephone number or any other call number designation associated with

services furnished by the Company, and no right to the continuance of service through any particular central office. The Company reserves the right to change such numbers, or the central office designation associated with such numbers, or both, whenever the Company deems it necessary to do so in the conduct of its business.

- 3.10 For the purpose of the resale of BellSouth's telecommunications services by SBT, BellSouth will provide SBT with an on line access to telephone numbers for reservation on a first come first serve basis. Such reservations of telephone numbers, on a pre-ordering basis shall be for a period of nine (9) days. SBT acknowledges that there may be instances where there is a shortage of telephone numbers in a particular Common Language Location Identifier Code (CLLIC) and in such instances BellSouth may request that SBT cancel its reservations of numbers. SBT shall comply with such request.

Further, upon SBT's request, and for the purpose of the resale of BellSouth's telecommunications services by SBT, BellSouth will reserve up to 100 telephone numbers per CLLIC, for SBT's sole use. Such telephone number reservations shall be valid for ninety (90) days from the reservation date. SBT acknowledges that there may be instances where there is a shortage of telephone numbers in a particular CLLIC and in such instances BellSouth shall use its best efforts to reserve for a ninety (90) day period a sufficient quantity of SBT's reasonable need in that particular CLLIC.

- 3.11 The Company may provide any service or facility for which a charge is not established herein, as long as it is offered on the same terms to SBT.
- 3.12 Service is furnished subject to the condition that it will not be used for any unlawful purpose.
- 3.13 Service will be discontinued if any law enforcement agency advises that the service being used is in violation of the law.
- 3.14 The Company can refuse service when it has grounds to believe that service will be used in violation of the law.
- 3.15 The Company accepts no responsibility to any person for any unlawful act committed by SBT or its end users as part of providing service to SBT for purposes of resale or otherwise.
- 3.16 The Company will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies with subpoenas and court orders for assistance with the Company's customers. Law enforcement agency subpoenas and court orders regarding end users of SBT will be directed to SBT. The Company will bill SBT for implementing any requests by law enforcement agencies regarding SBT end users.
- 3.17 The characteristics and methods of operation of any circuits, facilities or equipment provided by any person or entity other than the Company shall not:
- 3.17.1 Interfere with or impair service over any facilities of the Company, its affiliates, or its connecting and concurring carriers involved in its service;
 - 3.17.2 Cause damage to the Company's plant;
 - 3.17.3 Impair the privacy of any communications; or
 - 3.17.4 Create hazards to any BellSouth employees or the public.

- 3.18 SBT assumes the responsibility of notifying the Company regarding less than standard operations with respect to services provided by SBT.
- 3.19 Facilities and/or equipment utilized by BellSouth to provide service to SBT remain the property of BellSouth.
- 3.20 White page directory listings will be provided in accordance with regulations set forth in Section A6 of the General Subscriber Services Tariff and will be available for resale.
- 3.21 BellSouth provides electronic access to customer record information. Access is provided through the Local Exchange Navigation System (LENS) and the Telecommunications Access Gateway (TAG). Customer Record Information includes but is not limited to, customer specific information in CRIS and RSAG. SBT agrees not to view, copy, or otherwise obtain access to the customer record information of any customer without that customer's permission, and further agrees that SBT will obtain access to customer record information only in strict compliance with applicable laws, rules, or regulations of the State in which the service is provided.
- 3.22 All costs incurred by BellSouth to develop and implement operational interfaces shall be recovered from Reseller who utilize the services. Charges for use of Operational Support Systems (OSS) shall be as set forth in Exhibit A of this attachment.
- 3.23 Where available to BellSouth's end users, BellSouth shall provide the following telecommunications services at a discount to allow for voice mail services:
- Station Message Desk Interface - Enhanced ("SMDI-E")
 - Station Message Desk Interface ("SMDI") Message Waiting Indicator ("MWT") stutter dialtone and message waiting light feature capabilities
 - Call Forward on Busy/Don't Answer ("CF-B/DA")
 - Call Forward on Busy ("CF/B")
 - Call Forward Don't Answer ("CF/DA")

Further, BellSouth messaging services set forth in BellSouth's Messaging Service Information Package shall be made available for resale without the wholesale discount.

- 3.24 BellSouth's Inside Wire Maintenance Service Plans may be made available for resale at rates, terms and conditions as set forth by BellSouth and without the wholesale discount.
- 3.25 All costs incurred by BellSouth for providing services requested by Reseller that are not covered in the BellSouth tariffs shall be recovered from the Reseller(s) who utilize those services.
- 3.26 Recovery of charges associated with implementing Number Portability through a monthly charges assessed to end users has been authorized by the FCC. This end user line charge will be billed to Resellers of BellSouth's telecommunications services and will be as filed in FCC No. 1. This charge will not be discounted.

4 BellSouth's Provision of Services to SBT

- 4.1 SBT agrees that its resale of BellSouth services shall be as follows:

- 4.1.1 The resale of telecommunications services shall be limited to users and uses conforming to the class of service restrictions.
- 4.1.2 To the extent SBT is a telecommunications carrier that serves greater than 5 percent of the Nation's presubscribed access lines, SBT shall not jointly market its interLATA services with the telecommunications services purchased from BellSouth pursuant to this Agreement in any of the states covered under this Agreement. For the purposes of this subsection, to jointly market means any advertisement, marketing effort or billing in which the telecommunications services purchased from BellSouth for purposes of resale to customers and interLATA services offered by SBT are packaged, tied, bundled, discounted or offered together in any way to the end user. Such efforts include, but are not limited to, sales referrals, resale arrangements, sales agencies or billing agreements. This subsection shall be void and of no effect for a particular state covered under this Agreement as of February 8, 1999 or on the date BellSouth is authorized to offer interLATA services in that state, whichever is earlier.
- 4.1.3 Hotel and Hospital PBX services are the only telecommunications services available for resale to Hotel/Motel and Hospital end users, respectively. Similarly, Access Line Service for Customer Provided Coin Telephones is the only local service available for resale to Independent Payphone Provider (IPP) customers. Shared Tenant Service customers can only be sold those local exchange access services available in the Company's A23 Shared Tenant Service Tariff in the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, and in A27 in the states of Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.
- 4.1.4 SBT is prohibited from furnishing both flat and measured rate service on the same business premises to the same subscribers (end users) as stated in A2 of the Company's Tariff except for backup service as indicated in the applicable state tariff Section A3.
- 4.1.5 If telephone service is established and it is subsequently determined that the class of service restriction has been violated, SBT will be notified and billing for that service will be immediately changed to the appropriate class of service. Service charges for changes between class of service, back billing, and interest as described in this subsection shall apply at the Company's sole discretion. Interest at a rate as set forth in Section A2 of the General Subscriber Service Tariff and Section B2 of the Private Line Service Tariff for the applicable state, compounded daily for the number of days from the back billing date up to and including the date that SBT actually makes the payment to the Company may be assessed.
- 4.1.6 The Company reserves the right to periodically audit services purchased by SBT to establish authenticity of use. Such audit shall not occur more than once in a calendar year. SBT shall make any and all records and data available to the Company or the Company's auditors on a reasonable basis. The Company shall bear the cost of said audit.
- 4.2 Resold services can only be used in the same manner as specified in the Company's Tariffs. Resold services are subject to the same terms and conditions as are specified for such services when furnished to an individual end user of the Company in the appropriate section of the Company's Tariffs. Specific tariff features, e.g. a usage allowance per month, shall not be aggregated across multiple resold services.
- 4.3 SBT may resell services only within the specific resale service area as defined in its certificate.

- 4.4 Telephone numbers transmitted via any resold service feature are intended solely for the use of the end user of the feature. Resale of this information is prohibited.

5 Maintenance of Services

- 5.1 SBT will adopt and adhere to the standards contained in the applicable CLEC Work Center Operational Understanding Agreement regarding maintenance and installation of service.
- 5.2 Services resold under the Company's Tariffs and facilities and equipment provided by the Company shall be maintained by the Company.
- 5.3 SBT or its end users may not rearrange, move, disconnect, remove or attempt to repair any facilities owned by the Company, other than by connection or disconnection to any interface means used, except with the written consent of the Company.
- 5.4 SBT accepts responsibility to notify the Company of situations that arise that may result in a service problem.
- 5.5 SBT will be the Company's single point of contact for all repair calls on behalf of SBT's end users. The parties agree to provide one another with toll-free contact numbers for such purposes.
- 5.6 SBT will contact the appropriate repair centers in accordance with procedures established by the Company.
- 5.7 For all repair requests, SBT accepts responsibility for adhering to the Company's prescreening guidelines prior to referring the trouble to the Company.
- 5.8 The Company will bill SBT for handling troubles that are found not to be in the Company's network pursuant to its standard time and material charges. The standard time and material charges will be no more than what BellSouth charges to its retail customers for the same services.
- 5.9 The Company reserves the right to contact SBT's customers, if deemed necessary, for maintenance purposes.

6 Establishment of Service

- 6.1 After receiving certification as a local exchange company from the appropriate regulatory agency, SBT will provide the appropriate Company service center the necessary documentation to enable the Company to establish a master account for SBT. Such documentation shall include the Application for Master Account, proof of authority to provide telecommunications services, an Operating Company Number ("OCN") assigned by the National Exchange Carriers Association ("NECA") and a tax exemption certificate, if applicable. When necessary deposit requirements are met, the Company will begin taking orders for the resale of service.
- 6.2 Service orders will be in a standard format designated by the Company.
- 6.3 When notification is received from SBT that a current customer of the Company will subscribe to SBT's service, standard service order intervals for the appropriate class of service will apply.
- 6.4 The Company will not require end user confirmation prior to establishing service for SBT's end user customer. SBT must, however, be able to demonstrate end user authorization upon request.

- 6.5 SBT will be the single point of contact with the Company for all subsequent ordering activity resulting in additions or changes to resold services except that the Company will accept a request directly from the end user for conversion of the end user's service from SBT to the Company or will accept a request from another CLEC for conversion of the end user's service from SBT to the other LEC. The Company will notify SBT that such a request has been processed.
- 6.6 If the Company determines that an unauthorized change in local service to SBT has occurred, the Company will reestablish service with the appropriate local service provider and will assess SBT as the CLEC initiating the unauthorized change, the unauthorized change charge described in F.C.C. Tariff No. 1, Section 13 or applicable state tariff. Appropriate nonrecurring charges, as set forth in Section A4. of the General Subscriber Service Tariff, will also be assessed to SBT. These charges can be adjusted if SBT provides satisfactory proof of authorization.
- 6.7 In order to safeguard its interest, the Company reserves the right to secure the account with a suitable form of security deposit, unless satisfactory credit has already been established.
- 6.7.1 Such security deposit shall take the form of an irrevocable Letter of Credit or other forms of security acceptable to the Company. Any such security deposit may be held during the continuance of the service as security for the payment of any and all amounts accruing for the service.
- 6.7.2 If a security deposit is required, such security deposit shall be made prior to the inauguration of service.
- 6.7.3 Such security deposit may not exceed two months' estimated billing.
- 6.7.4 The fact that a security deposit has been made in no way relieves SBT from complying with the Company's regulations as to advance payments and the prompt payment of bills on presentation nor does it constitute a waiver or modification of the regular practices of the Company providing for the discontinuance of service for non-payment of any sums due the Company.
- 6.7.5 The Company reserves the right to increase the security deposit requirements when, in its sole judgment, circumstances so warrant and/or gross monthly billing has increased beyond the level initially used to determine the security deposit.
- 6.7.6 In the event that SBT defaults on its account, service to SBT will be terminated and any security deposits held will be applied to its account.
- 6.7.7 Interest on a security deposit shall accrue and be paid in accordance with the terms in the appropriate BellSouth tariff.

7 **Payment And Billing Arrangements**

- 7.1 Prior to submitting orders to the Company for local service, a master account must be established for SBT. The SBT is required to provide the following before a master account is established: proof of PSC/PUC certification, the Application for Master Account, an Operating Company Number ("OCN") assigned by the National Exchange Carriers Association ("NECA") and a tax exemption certificate, if applicable.
- 7.2 The Company shall bill SBT on a current basis all applicable charges and credits.

- 7.3 Payment of all charges will be the responsibility of SBT. SBT shall make payment to the Company for all services billed. The Company is not responsible for payments not received by SBT from SBT's customer. The Company will not become involved in billing disputes that may arise between SBT and its customer. Payments made to the Company as payment on account will be credited to an accounts receivable master account and not to an end user's account.
- 7.4 The Company will render bills each month on established bill days for each of SBT's accounts.
- 7.5 The Company will bill SBT, in advance charges for all services to be provided during the ensuing billing period except charges associated with service usage, which charges will be billed in arrears. Charges will be calculated on an individual end user account level, including, if applicable, any charge for usage or usage allowances. BellSouth will also bill all charges including but not limited to 911 and E911 charges, telecommunications relay charges, and franchise fees, to SBT.
- 7.6 The payment will be due by the next bill date (i.e., same date in the following month as the bill date) and is payable in immediately available funds. Payment is considered to have been made when received by the Company.
- 7.6.1 If the payment due date falls on a Sunday or on a Holiday which is observed on a Monday, the payment due date shall be the first non-Holiday day following such Sunday or Holiday. If the payment due date falls on a Saturday or on a Holiday which is observed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, the payment due date shall be the last non-Holiday day preceding such Saturday or Holiday. If payment is not received by the payment due date, a late payment penalty, as set forth in section 7.8 following, shall apply.
- 7.6.2 If SBT requests multiple billing media or additional copies of bills, the Company will provide these at an appropriate charge to SBT.
- 7.6.3 Billing Disputes
- 7.6.3.1 Each Party agrees to notify the other Party upon the discovery of a billing dispute. In the event of a billing dispute, the Parties will endeavor to resolve the dispute within sixty (60) calendar days of the Bill Date on which such disputed charges appear. Resolution of the dispute is expected to occur at the first level of management resulting in a recommendation for settlement of the dispute and closure of a specific billing period. If the issues are not resolved within the allotted time frame, the following resolution procedure will begin:
- 7.6.3.2 If the dispute is not resolved within sixty (60) days of the Bill Date, the dispute will be escalated to the second level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution. If the dispute is not resolved within ninety (90) days of the Bill Date, the dispute will be escalated to the third level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution
- 7.6.3.3 If the dispute is not resolved within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the Bill Date, the dispute will be escalated to the fourth level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution.
- 7.6.3.4 If a Party disputes a charge and does not pay such charge by the payment due date, such charges shall be subject to late payment charges as set forth in the Late Payment Charges provision of this Attachment. If a Party disputes charges and the dispute is resolved in favor of such Party, the other Party shall credit the

bill of the disputing Party for the amount of the disputed charges along with any late payment charges assessed no later than the second Bill Date after the resolution of the dispute. Accordingly, if a Party disputes charges and the dispute is resolved in favor of the other Party, the disputing Party shall pay the other Party the amount of the disputed charges and any associated late payment charges assessed no later than the second bill payment due date after the resolution of the dispute. BellSouth shall only assess interest on previously assessed late payment charges in a state where it has authority pursuant to its tariffs.

- 7.7 Upon proof of tax exempt certification from SBT, the total amount billed to SBT will not include any taxes due from the end user to reflect the tax exempt certification and local tax laws. SBT will be solely responsible for the computation, tracking, reporting, and payment of taxes applicable to SBT's end user.
- 7.8 If any portion of the payment is received by the Company after the payment due date as set forth preceding, or if any portion of the payment is received by the Company in funds that are not immediately available to the Company, then a late payment penalty shall be due to the Company. The late payment penalty shall be the portion of the payment not received by the payment due date times a late factor and will be applied on a per bill basis. The late factor shall be as set forth in Section A2 of the General Subscriber Services Tariff and Section B2 of the Private Line Service Tariff.
- 7.9 Any switched access charges associated with interexchange carrier access to the resold local exchange lines will be billed by, and due to, the Company. No additional charges are to be assessed to SBT
- 7.10 The Company will not perform billing and collection services for SBT as a result of the execution of this Agreement. All requests for billing services should be referred to the appropriate entity or operational group within the Company.
- 7.11 Pursuant to 47 CFR Section 51.617, the Company will bill SBT end user common line charges identical to the end user common line charges the Company bills its end users.
- 7.12 In general, the Company will not become involved in disputes between SBT and SBT's end user customers over resold services. If a dispute does arise that cannot be settled without the involvement of the Company, SBT shall contact the designated Service Center for resolution. The Company will make every effort to assist in the resolution of the dispute and will work with SBT to resolve the matter in as timely a manner as possible. SBT may be required to submit documentation to substantiate the claim.

8 Discontinuance of Service

- 8.1 The procedures for discontinuing service to an end user are as follows:
- 8.1.1 Where possible, the Company will deny service to SBT's end user on behalf of, and at the request of, SBT. Upon restoration of the end user's service, restoral charges will apply and will be the responsibility of SBT.
- 8.1.2 At the request of SBT, the Company will disconnect a SBT end user customer.
- 8.1.3 All requests by SBT for denial or disconnection of an end user for nonpayment must be in writing.

- 8.1.4 SBT will be made solely responsible for notifying the end user of the proposed disconnection of the service.
 - 8.1.5 The Company will continue to process calls made to the Annoyance Call Center and will advise SBT when it is determined that annoyance calls are originated from one of their end user's locations. The Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by SBT and/or the end user against any claim, loss or damage arising from providing this information to SBT. It is the responsibility of SBT to take the corrective action necessary with its customers who make annoying calls. Failure to do so will result in the Company's disconnecting the end user's service.
 - 8.1.6 BellSouth may disconnect and reuse facilities when the facility is in a denied state and BellSouth has received an order to establish new service or transfer of service from a customer or a customer's CLEC at the same address served by the denied facility.
- 8.2 The procedures for discontinuing service to SBT are as follows:
- 8.2.1 The Company reserves the right to suspend or terminate service for nonpayment or in the event of prohibited, unlawful or improper use of the facilities or service, abuse of the facilities, or any other violation or noncompliance by SBT of the rules and regulations of the Company's Tariffs.
 - 8.2.2 If payment of account is not received by the bill day in the month after the original bill day, BellSouth may provide written notice to SBT, that additional applications for service will be refused and that any pending orders for service will not be completed if payment is not received by the fifteenth day following the date of the notice. In addition BellSouth may, at the same time, give thirty days notice to the person designated by SBT to receive notices of noncompliance, and discontinue the provision of existing services to SBT at any time thereafter.
 - 8.2.3 In the case of such discontinuance, all billed charges, as well as applicable termination charges, shall become due.
 - 8.2.4 If BellSouth does not discontinue the provision of the services involved on the date specified in the thirty days notice and SBT's noncompliance continues, nothing contained herein shall preclude BellSouth's right to discontinue the provision of the services to SBT without further notice.
 - 8.2.5 If payment is not received or arrangements made for payment by the date given in the written notification, SBT's services will be discontinued. Upon discontinuance of service on a SBT's account, service to SBT's end users will be denied. The Company will also reestablish service at the request of the end user or SBT upon payment of the appropriate connection fee and subject to the Company's normal application procedures. SBT is solely responsible for notifying the end user of the proposed disconnection of the service.
 - 8.2.6 If within fifteen days after an end user's service has been denied no contact has been made in reference to restoring service, the end user's service will be disconnected.

APPLICABLE DISCOUNTS

The telecommunications services available for purchase by SBT for the purposes of resale to SBT end users shall be available at the following discount off of the retail rate.

DISCOUNT*			
STATE	RESIDENCE	BUSINESS	CSAs***
ALABAMA	16.3%	16.3%	
FLORIDA	21.83%	16.81%	
GEORGIA	20.3%	17.3%	
KENTUCKY	16.79%	15.54%	
LOUISIANA	20.72%	20.72%	9.05%
MISSISSIPPI	15.75%	15.75%	
NORTH CAROLINA	21.5%	17.6%	
SOUTH CAROLINA	14.8%	14.8%	8.98%
TENNESSEE**	16%	16%	

- When a CLEC provides Resale service in a cross boundary area (areas that are part of the local serving area of another state's exchange) the rates, regulations and discounts for the tariffing state will apply. Billing will be from the serving state.
- ** In Tennessee, if CLEC provides its own operator services and directory services, the discount shall be 21.56%. CLEC must provide written notification to BellSouth within 30 days prior to providing its own operator services and directory services to qualify for the higher discount rate of 21.56%.
- *** Unless noted in this column, the discount for Business will be the applicable discount rate for CSAs.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS (OSS) RATES

The parties agree that Electronic Interface (EI) costs and manual work done by the LCSC will be recovered on a "per LSR" basis, with an individual LSR identified by its Purchase Order Number (PON). The CLEC will be assessed either the manual or mechanized charge for most accepted LSRs submitted to BellSouth. Manually submitted UNE LSRs will not incur the manual LSR charge in states that have a separate UNE manual additive. CLECs will be charged the manual rate for most LSRs submitted by mail, courier, fax, etc. CLECs will be charged the mechanized rate for LSRs submitted over any of the mechanized systems (e.g. LENS, EDI, EDI-PC, and TAG).

- A. Bill a single mechanized CLEC EI charge for each resale LSR delivered over an electronic interface. This charge recovers the development and expense costs associated with the CLEC EIs that are allocated to resale LSR volumes, as well as the manual processing associated with mechanized requests that "fall out" in the LCSC for manual handling.
- B. Bill the same mechanized CLEC EI charge for each UNE LSR delivered over an electronic interface.
- C. Bill a single manual LSR charge for each resale LSR delivered manually that reflects the costs associated with the manual processing of those LSRs in the LCSC.
- D. Bill the same manual LSR charge for each manually submitted UNE LSR in those states that do not have a per element UNE non-recurring manual additive.
- E. Establish a transitional plan to bill the mechanized LSR charge for manual LSRs for CLECs who submit a significant proportion of their total LSR volume on a mechanized basis. This volume threshold will increase each year and be eliminated in 2002. This arrangement may be superceded by BellSouth with an LSR-specific process that would apply the mechanized LSR rate to only those manual LSRs which cannot be submitted over a mechanized system.

The regional average pricing plan establishes averaged prices that are the same regardless of:

- CLEC EI system used
- Action being requested on the LSR (order, change, deny, restore, cancel, disconnect, etc.)
- Number of supplements or clarifications received
- Number of service orders result from the LSR

Some CLECs presently provide lists of customers to be denied and restored, rather than individual LSRs. However, since each location on the list must have a separate PON, they will be billed as separate manual LSRs.

A CLEC will be charged for an accepted LSR that is later canceled by the CLEC.

At the present time, five states (AL, GA, LA, MS, SC) have a manual NRC additive per element for UNEs. This manual additive supercedes the manual LSR charge for manual UNE LSRs. Until the other four states adopt this methodology, BellSouth proposes that the manual LSR charge apply for manual UNE LSRs in those states.

RESALE

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS (OSS) RATES	<u>Electronic</u> Per LSR received from the CLEC by one of the OSS interactive interfaces	<u>Manual</u> Per LSR received from the CLEC by means other than one of the OSS interactive interfaces
OSS Order Charge	\$3.50	\$19.99
USOC	SOMECS	SOMAN

In addition to the OSS charges, applicable discounted service order and related discounted charges apply per the tariff.

The Parties agree that CLEC-1 will incur the mechanized rate for all LSRs, both mechanized and manual, if the percentage of mechanized LSRs to total LSRs exceeds the threshold percentages shown below:

Year	Ratio: Mechanized/Total LSRs
1999	70%
2000	80%
2001	90%

The threshold plan will be discontinued in 2002.

BellSouth will track the total LSR volume for each CLEC for each quarter. At the end of that time period, a Percent Electronic LSR calculation will be made for that quarter based on the LSR data tracked in the LCSC. If this percentage exceeds the threshold volume, all of that CLECs' future manual LSRs will be billed at the mechanized LSR rate. To allow time for obtaining and analyzing the data and updating the billing system, this billing change will take place on the first day of the second month following the end of the quarter (e.g. May 1 for 1Q, Aug 1 for 2Q, etc.). There will be no adjustments to the amount billed for previously billed LSRs.

The Parties agree that any charges BellSouth is unable to bill on April 15, 1999 will be trued up on or about July 1, 1999.

Attachment I
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Exhibit B
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Type of Service	AL		FL		GA		KY		LA	
	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?
1 Grandfathered Services (Note 1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 Contract Service Arrangements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3 Promotions - > 90 Days(Note 2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 Promotions - < 90 Days (Note 2)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
5 Lifeline/Link Up Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Note 4	Note 4	Yes	Yes
6 911/E911 Services (See Note7)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
7 N11 Services (See Note 7)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
8 AdWatch SM Svc (See Note 6)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
9 MemoryCall [®] Service	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
10 Mobile Services	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
11 Federal Subscriber Line Charges	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
12 Non-Recurring Charges	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13 End User Line Charge – Number Portability	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Type of Service	MS		NC		SC		TN	
	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?
1 Grandfathered Services (Note 1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 Contract Service Arrangements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Note 8	Yes	Yes
3 Promotions - > 90 Days(Note 2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Note 3
4 Promotions - < 90 Days (Note 2)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
5 Lifeline/Link Up Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Note 4
6 911/E911 Services (See Note7)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7 N11 Services (See Note 7)	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8 AdWatch SM Svc (See Note 6)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
9 MemoryCall [®] Service	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
10 Mobile Services	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
11 Federal Subscriber Line Charges	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
12 Non-Recurring Charges	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
13 End User Line Charge – Number Portability	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Applicable Notes:

- 1 **Grandfathered services** can be resold only to existing subscribers of the grandfathered service.
- 2 Where available for resale, **promotions** will be made available only to end users who would have qualified for the promotion had it been provided by BellSouth directly.
- 3 In Tennessee, long-term **promotions** (offered for more than ninety (90) days) may be obtained at one of the following rates:
 - (a) the stated tariff rate, less the wholesale discount;
 - (b) the promotional rate (the promotional rate offered by BellSouth will not be discounted further by the wholesale discount rate)

4. **Lifeline/Link Up** services may be offered only to those subscribers who meet the criteria that BellSouth currently applies to subscribers of these services. In Kentucky, the SBT is responsible for funding its own Lifeline and Link Up benefit. In Tennessee, SBT shall purchase BellSouth's Message Rate Service at the stated tariff rate, less the wholesale discount. SBT must further discount the wholesale Message Rate Service to Lifeline customers with a discount which is no less than the minimum discount that BellSouth now provides. SBT is responsible for recovering the Subscriber Line Charge from the National Exchange Carriers Association interstate toll settlement pool just as BellSouth does today. The maximum rate that SBT may charge for Lifeline Service shall be capped at the flat retail rate offered by BellSouth.
- 5 Some of BellSouth's local exchange and toll telecommunications services are not available in certain central offices and areas.
- 6 AdWatchSM Service is tariffed as BellSouth[®] AIN Virtual Number Call Detail Service.
- 7 Exclusions for N11/911/E911 are also applicable to equipment associated with the service.
- 8 In South Carolina, CSAs are available for resale at the CSA specific resale discount of 8.98%. The state specific resale discount rate applies to Special Assemblies.