

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc  
Suite 400  
150 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1556

850 224-7798  
Fax 850 224-5073

Marshall M. Criser III  
Regulatory Vice President

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RECORDS AND REPORTING

September 15, 1999

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

991392-TP

Re: Approval of an Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and Business Telecom, Inc. (BTI) pursuant to Sections 251, 252 and 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Mrs. Bayo:

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, BellSouth and Business Telecom, Inc. (BTI) are submitting to the Florida Public Service Commission an amendment to their negotiated agreement for the interconnection of their networks, the unbundling of specific network elements offered by BellSouth and the resale of BellSouth's telecommunications services to Business Telecom, Inc. (BTI). The Commission approved the initial agreement between the companies in Order No. PSC-98-0170-FOF-TP issued January 28, 1998 in Docket 971561-TP.

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Act, the Commission is charged with approving or rejecting the negotiated agreement between BellSouth and Business Telecom, Inc. (BTI) 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.

Very truly yours,

*Marshall M. Criser, III*

Regulatory Vice President

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**ATTACHMENT TO TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

The Amendment dated August 4, 1999 to the Agreement entered into by and between Business Telecom, Inc. and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., dated January 2, 1997 for all nine states consists of the following:

ITEM	NO. PAGES
Amendment dated August 4, 1999	1
TOTAL	1

AMENDMENT  
TO  
THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
BUSINESS TELECOM, INC. AND  
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
DATED JANUARY 2, 1997

Pursuant to this Agreement (the "Amendment"), Business Telecom, Inc. ("BTI") and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") hereinafter referred to as the "Parties", hereby agree to amend the Interconnection Agreement between the Parties dated January 2, 1997 ("Interconnection Agreement").

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual provisions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby covenant and agree as follows:

1. Section XVII. B of the Interconnection Agreement is hereby amended to extend the term of the Agreement until December 31, 1999.

2. Pursuant to Section XVII.C, the rates, terms and conditions of the new agreement will be retroactive to the original expiration date of the Interconnection Agreement, January 2, 1999.

3. All of the other provisions of the Interconnection Agreement dated January 2, 1997 shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect until the new agreement is negotiated.

4. Either or both of the Parties is authorized to submit this Amendment to the appropriate regulatory agencies for approval subject to Section 252 (e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Amendment to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives on the date indicated below.

**Business Telecom, Inc.**

**BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**

By: *Anthony M. C... ..*

Signature

By: *Jerry D. Hendrix*

Signature

Name: *Anthony M. C...*

Printed Name

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

Jerry D. Hendrix

Title: *VP...*

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Director

Date: *26 July 99*

Date: *8/4/99*