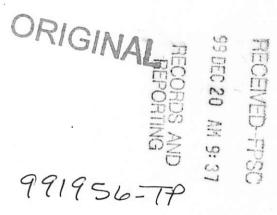
@ BELLSOUTH

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

December 17, 1999

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



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. 98-0170 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,

Regulatory Vice President

ll M. Criser III

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DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

ATTACHMENT TO TRANSMITTAL LETTER

The Amendment dated November 15, 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 November 15, 1999 | 2 |
| | |
| TOTAL | 2 |

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. Attachment C-1 of the Interconnection Agreement is hereby amended to include the following rates for Physical and Virtual Cross Connects:

Physical Collocation

| Element | Unit | Monthly Recurring Rate | Non-Recurring Rate |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cross-Connects | Per Cross Connect | | First / Additional |
| 2-wire | Common | \$.30 | \$19.20/\$19.20 |
| 4-wire | | \$.50 | \$19.20/\$19.20 |
| 2-fiber | | \$15.64 | \$41.56/\$29.82 |
| 4-fiber | | \$28.11 | \$50.53/\$38.78 |
| | 1 | | Disconnect Charges |
| | | | First / Additional |
| 2-fiber | Ì | | \$12.96/\$10.34 |
| 4-fiber | | | \$16.97/\$14.35 |

Virtual Collocation

| Element | Unit | Monthly Recurring Rate | Non-Recurring Rate |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cross-Connects | Per Cross Connect | | First / Additional |
| 2-wire | | \$.30 | \$19.20/\$19.20 |
| 4-wire | | \$.50 | \$19.20/\$19.20 |
| 2-fiber | 1 | \$15.64 | \$41.56/\$29.82 |
| 4-fiber | | \$28.11 | \$50.53/\$38.78 |
| | | | Disconnect Charges |
| | | | First / Additional |
| 2-fiber | | | \$12.96/\$10.34 |
| 4-fiber | | | \$16.97/\$14.35 |

- 2. All of the other provisions of the Interconnection Agreement dated January 2, 1997 shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect until the expiration date.
- 3. 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. | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Ву: | By: | | |
| Name: Joe Merrill | Name: Jerry D. Hendrix | | |
| Title: Vice President | Title: Senior Director | | |
| Date: 1/12/49 | Date: 11/15/99 | | |