



BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

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REC'D TN
REGULATORY AUTH.

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January 30, 2002
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Joelle J. Phillips
Attorney

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VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. David Waddell, Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0505

Re: *Approval of the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and ALLTEL Communications, Inc. Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*
Docket No. 02-00106

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Enclosed for filing are the original and thirteen copies of the Petition for Approval of the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and ALLTEL Communications, Inc. ("ALLTEL") Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The enclosed Agreement was negotiated by ALLTEL and BellSouth and is consistent with the standards for approval.

ALLTEL and BellSouth respectfully request that the Petition and Agreement be filed, reviewed and considered for approval as expeditiously as possible.

Very truly yours,

Guy M. Hicks

GMH/dt

Enclosure

cc: Director – CMRS Interconnection Services, ALLTEL Communications, Inc.
Legal Department, ALLTEL Communications, Inc.
Leah Cooper, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
Paul McDaris, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Nashville, Tennessee

In Re: *Approval of the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and ALLTEL Communications, Inc. Pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*

Docket No. 02-00106

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT
NEGOTIATED BY BELL SOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND
ALLTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC. PURSUANT TO SECTIONS
251 AND 252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996**

COME NOW BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and ALLTEL Communications, Inc. ("ALLTEL") and respectfully file this request with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "TRA") for approval of the attached Interconnection Agreement (the "Agreement"). The Agreement was negotiated between ALLTEL and BellSouth pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, ("the Act"). The Agreement provides for the continued interconnection of the two companies' networks, thereby facilitating ALLTEL's provision of commercial mobile radio services ("CMRS") to both residential and business customers in Tennessee. ALLTEL and BellSouth, therefore, respectfully request that the Authority act within the 90 days specified by the Act and approve the Agreement.

In support of their request, ALLTEL and BellSouth state the following:

THE PARTIES

1. BellSouth is an incumbent local exchange carrier authorized to provide local exchange service in Tennessee.
2. ALLTEL is a telecommunications carrier that has been granted authority by the Federal Communications Commission to provide CMRS in a specific market in Tennessee.

THE AGREEMENT

3. ALLTEL and BellSouth have successfully negotiated the agreement for the continued interconnection of their networks. A copy of the Agreement is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
4. BellSouth and ALLTEL have entered into this Agreement, pursuant to Sections 251 (c) and 252 (a) of the Act.
5. Pursuant to Section 252 (e) of the Act, ALLTEL and BellSouth are submitting their Agreement to the TRA for its consideration and approval.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT

6. First, as required by Section 252(e)(2)(a)(i) of the Act, the Agreement does not discriminate against any other telecommunications carrier. Other carriers are not bound by the Agreement and remain free to negotiate independently with BellSouth pursuant to Section 252 of the Act.

7. Second, the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, as required by Section 252(e)(2)(a)(ii) of the Act.

APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT

8. In accordance with Section 252(e) of the Act, the TRA is charged with approving or rejecting the Agreement between ALLTEL and BellSouth within 90 days of its submission. The Act provides that the TRA may reject such Agreement only if it finds that the Agreement or any portion thereof discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the Agreement, or if it finds that the implementation of the Agreement or any portion thereof is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

9. ALLTEL and BellSouth aver that the Agreement is consistent with the standards for approval.

10. Pursuant to Section 252 (i) of the Act, once the Agreement is approved, BellSouth will make the terms and conditions of the Agreement available to any similarly situated CMRS provider.

11. ALLTEL and BellSouth respectfully request that the TRA approve the Agreement negotiated between the parties without revision as expeditiously as possible consistent with the public interest.

This 30th day of JAN, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

BY: 

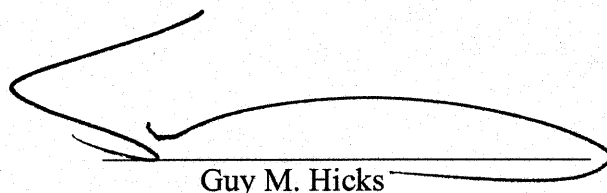
Guy M. Hicks
Suite 2101
333 Commerce Street
Nashville, TN 37201-3300
615/214-6301

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Guy M. Hicks, hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing Petition for Approval of the Interconnection Agreement on the following via United States Mail on the 31st day of JAN, 2002.

ALLTEL Communications, Inc.
One Allied Drive
Mailstop: B4F4N
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202
Attn: Director – CMRS
Interconnection Services

ALLTEL Communications, Inc.,
Legal Department
One Allied Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202



Guy M. Hicks

CMRS0047
CMRS0071

**INTERCONNECTION
AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
AND
ALLTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

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AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is made by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., ("BellSouth"), a Georgia Corporation, and ALLTEL Communications, Inc., a Delaware Corporation for and on behalf of those entities listed in Attachment A which entities ALLTEL Communications, Inc. hereby represents it has authority to bind hereunder (all collectively referred to as "Carrier") and shall be deemed effective as of June 14, 2001, (the "Effective Date"). This Agreement may refer to either BellSouth or Carrier 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, Carrier is a Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") provider licensed by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to provide CMRS in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to interconnect their facilities and exchange traffic for the purposes of fulfilling their obligations pursuant to sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and to replace any and all other prior agreements, both written and oral;

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

I. Definitions

A. **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.

B. **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.

C. **Intermediary Traffic** is defined as the delivery, pursuant to this agreement or Commission directive, of local or toll (using traditional landline definitions) traffic to or from a local exchange carrier other than BellSouth; a CLEC; or another telecommunications company such as a CMRS provider other than Carrier through the network of BellSouth or Carrier from or to an end user of BellSouth or Carrier. All local or toll traffic from a local exchange carrier delivered to Carrier not originated on the BellSouth network by BellSouth is considered Intermediary Traffic.

D. **Local Traffic** is defined for purposes of reciprocal compensation under this Agreement as: (1) any telephone call that originates on the network of Carrier within a Major Trading Area ("MTA") and terminates on the network of BellSouth in the same MTA and within the Local Access and Transport Area ("LATA") in which the call is handed off from Carrier to BellSouth, and (2) any telephone call that originates on the network of BellSouth that is handed off directly to Carrier in BellSouth's service territory and in the same LATA in which the call originates and terminates on the network of Carrier in the MTA in which the call is handed off from BellSouth to Carrier. For purposes of this Agreement, LATA shall have the same definition as that contained in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and MTA shall have the same definition as that contained in the FCC's rules. For purposes of determining compensation under this Agreement, Intermediary Traffic will be excluded from the calculation of Local Traffic.

E. **Local Interconnection** is defined for purposes of this Agreement as the delivery of Local Traffic to be terminated on each party's local network so that end users of each 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.

F. **Non-Local Traffic** is defined as all traffic that is not Local Traffic or access services, as described in section VI of this Agreement.

G. **Percent of Interstate Usage (PIU)** is defined as a factor to be applied to that portion of Non-Local Traffic comprised of interstate InterMTA minutes of use in order to designate those minutes that should be rated as interstate access services minutes of use. The numerator includes all interstate InterMTA minutes of use, less any interstate minutes of use for "Terminating Party Pays" services, such as 800 Services. The denominator includes all InterMTA minutes of use less all minutes attributable to Terminating Party Pays services.

H. **Percent Local Usage (PLU)** is defined as a factor to be applied to terminating minutes of use. The numerator is all "nonintermediary" Local minutes of use. The denominator is the total minutes of use including Local and Non-Local.

I. **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.).

J. **Type 1 Interconnection** is a connection between a BellSouth end office and a CMRS company's point of termination.

K. **Type 2A Interconnection** is a connection between a BellSouth access tandem or local tandem to a CMRS company's point of termination. The CMRS switch functions as an end office.

L. **Type 2B Interconnection** is a connection between a BellSouth end office and the CMRS company's point of termination. This type connection provides a high usage route from/to NXX codes located in the end office and is provided in conjunction with Type 2A interconnection.

II. Purpose

The parties desire to enter into this Agreement consistent with all applicable federal, state and local statutes, rules and regulations in effect as of the date of its execution including, without limitation, the Act at Sections 251 and 252. The access and interconnection obligations contained herein assist Carrier to provide CMRS in those areas where it is authorized to provide such services within the nine-state region of BellSouth.

III. Term of the Agreement

A. The term of this Agreement shall be two years, beginning on the Effective Date. If as of the expiration of this Agreement, a Subsequent Agreement (as defined in Section B below) has not been executed by the Parties, this Agreement shall continue on a month-to-month basis while a Subsequent Agreement is being negotiated. The Parties' rights and obligations with respect to this Agreement after expiration shall be as set forth in Section D below.

B. 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 local interconnection to be effective beginning on the expiration date of this Agreement ("Subsequent Agreement").

C. If, within one hundred and thirty-five (135) days of commencing the negotiation referred to in Section B above, the Parties are unable to satisfactorily negotiate new local interconnection terms, conditions and prices, either Party may petition the Commission to establish appropriate local interconnection 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 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 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.

D. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that as of the date of expiration of this Agreement and conversion of this Agreement to a month-to-month term, the Parties have not entered into a Subsequent Agreement and either no arbitration proceeding has been filed in accordance with Section C above, or the Parties have not mutually agreed (where permissible) to extend the arbitration window for petitioning the applicable Commission(s) for resolution of those terms upon which the Parties have not agreed, then either Party may terminate this Agreement upon sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other Party. In the event that BellSouth terminates this Agreement as provided above, BellSouth shall continue to offer services to Carrier pursuant to the terms, conditions and rates set forth in BellSouth's General Subscriber Services Tariff, Section A35, or, in the case of North Carolina, in the North Carolina Connection and Traffic Interchange Agreement effective June 30, 1994, as amended, or such successor tariff, or in the case of North Carolina, successor agreement, as in either case may be on file and approved by the North Carolina Public Utility Commission.

IV. Compensation and Billing

A. Compensation

1. Each Party will pay the other for terminating its Local Traffic on the other's network at the Local Interconnection rates as set forth in Attachment B-1. These rates are reciprocal for mobile-to-land and land-to-mobile calls.

2. If Carrier is unable to determine the amount of BellSouth originated traffic (Local Traffic) terminated to Carrier over two-way multi-use facilities, BellSouth will provide to Carrier, upon Carrier's written request to the Local Interconnection Service Center (LISC), on a quarterly basis the percent of total terminating traffic to Carrier that was originated by BellSouth and terminated by Carrier over that same two-way multi-use facility. Such percent will be used to bill BellSouth for the BellSouth Local Traffic for the following quarter.

3. Where one-way trunking is used, each Party will be solely responsible for the recurring and non-recurring cost of that facility from its own premise up to the POI.

4. The Parties agree to share proportionately in the recurring costs of two-way interconnection facilities.

a. To determine the amount of compensation due to Carrier for two-way interconnection trunking facilities for the transport of Local Traffic originating on BellSouth's network and terminating on Carrier's network the Parties will develop statewide mobile to land and land to mobile traffic factors based on billed conversation minutes of use. At a minimum, the Parties will use a three (3) month average of billed usage to develop the traffic factors. These factors, at either party's request, may be updated every six (6) months or when significant network changes occur in either Party's network.

b. BellSouth will bill Carrier for the entire cost of the facility. Carrier will then apply the BellSouth originated percent against the total two-way interconnection facility charges billed by BellSouth to Carrier. Carrier will invoice BellSouth on a monthly basis, this proportionate cost for the facilities utilized by BellSouth.

5. The exchange of the parties' traffic on BellSouth's interLATA EAS routes, as defined in Section A3 of BellSouth's General Subscriber Services Tariff shall be considered Local Traffic and compensation for the termination of such traffic shall be pursuant to the terms of this section.

B. Billing

1. The charges for Local Interconnection are to be billed monthly and undisputed amounts are to be paid within thirty (30) days. Usage charges will be billed in arrears.

2. Charges for terminating traffic will be the actual conversation minutes of use (MOUs) measured from receipt of answer supervision to receipt of disconnect supervision, with such time accumulated at the end of the billing period and rounded up to the next whole minute.

3. The Parties will use an auditable PLU factor as the method for determining the amount of traffic which is Local or Non-Local. The PLU factor will be applied to traffic delivered by either Party for termination on the other Party's network.

4. Billing disputes shall be handled pursuant to the terms of this section.

a. Each Party agrees to notify the other Party in writing 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 notification date. If the Parties are unable within the 60-day period to reach resolution, then the aggrieved Party may pursue dispute resolution in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

b. For purposes of this Section, a billing dispute means a dispute of a specific amount of money actually billed by either Party. The dispute must be clearly explained by the disputing Party and supported by written documentation, which clearly shows the basis for disputing charges. By way of example and not by limitation, a billing dispute will not include the refusal to pay all or part of a bill or bills when no written documentation is provided to support the dispute, nor shall a billing dispute include the refusal to pay other amounts owed by the billed Party until the dispute is resolved. Claims by the billed Party for damages of any kind will not be considered a billing dispute for purposes of this Section. Once the billing dispute is resolved, the disputing Party will make immediate payment of any of the disputed amount owed to the billing Party or the billing Party shall have the right to pursue normal treatment procedures. Any credits due to the disputing Party, pursuant to the billing dispute, will be applied to the disputing Party's account by the billing Party immediately upon resolution of the dispute.

c. If a Party disputes a charge and does not pay such charge by the payment due date, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received by either Party after the payment due date, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received in funds which are not immediately available to the other Party, then a late payment charge shall be assessed. For bills rendered by either Party for payment, the late payment charge for both Parties shall be calculated based on the portion of the payment not received by the payment due date times the late factor. The Parties shall assess interest on previously assessed late payment charges only in a state where it has the authority pursuant to its tariffs.

5. Late payment fees, not to exceed 1 1/2% per month (or a lower percent as specified by an appropriate state regulatory agency) after the due date may be assessed, if undisputed interconnection charges are not

paid, within thirty (30) days after the due date of the monthly bill. All charges under this Agreement shall be billed within one (1) year from the time the charge was incurred; previously unbilled charges more than one (1) year old shall not be billed by either Party.

6. Deposit Policy. Because the Parties have established a good payment history, as of the date of the execution of this agreement, they do not require deposits at this time.

V. Methods of Interconnection

A. There are three appropriate methods of interconnecting facilities: (1) interconnection via purchase of facilities from BellSouth by Carrier; (2) physical collocation; and (3) virtual collocation where physical collocation is not practical for technical reasons or because of space limitations. Type 1, Type 2A and Type 2B interconnection arrangements described in BellSouth's General Subscriber Services Tariff, Section A35, or, in the case of North Carolina, in the North Carolina Connection and Traffic Interchange Agreement effective June 30, 1994, as amended, may be purchased pursuant to this Agreement provided, however, that such interconnection arrangements shall be provided at the rates, terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. Rates and charges for both virtual and physical collocation may be provided in a separate collocation agreement. Rates for virtual collocation will be based on BellSouth's Interstate Access Services Tariff, FCC #1, Section 20 and/or BellSouth's Intrastate Access Services Tariff, Section E20. Rates for physical collocation will be negotiated on an individual case basis.

B. BellSouth will provide any of the preceding methods of interconnection. Reciprocal connectivity shall be established to at least one BellSouth access tandem within every LATA Carrier desires to serve, or Carrier may elect to interconnect directly at an end office for interconnection to end users served by that end office. Such interconnecting facilities shall conform, at a minimum, to the telecommunications industry standard of DS-1 pursuant to Bellcore Standard No. TR-NWT-00499. Signal transfer point, Signaling System 7 ("SS7") connectivity is required at each interconnection point after Carrier implements SS7 capability at Carrier's Mobile Telephone Switching Office serving this interconnection point. BellSouth will provide out-of-band signaling using Common Channel Signaling Access Capability where technically and economically feasible, in accordance with the technical specifications set forth in the BellSouth Guidelines to Technical Publication, TR-TSV-000905. The parties' facilities shall provide the necessary on-hook, off-hook answer and disconnect supervision and shall hand off calling party number ID when technically feasible. In the event a party interconnects via the purchase of facilities and/or services from the other party, the appropriate intrastate tariff, as amended from time to time will apply. In the event that such facilities are used for two-way

interconnection, the appropriate recurring charges for such facilities will be shared by the parties based upon percentages equal to the estimated or actual percentage of traffic on such facilities, in accordance with Section IV. A. 4 of this agreement.

C. Nothing herein shall prevent Carrier from utilizing existing collocation facilities, purchased from the interexchange tariffs, for local interconnection; provided, however, that if Carrier orders new facilities for interconnection or rearranges any facilities presently used for its alternate access business in order to use such facilities for local interconnection hereunder and a BellSouth charge is applicable thereto, BellSouth shall only charge Carrier the lower of the interstate or intrastate tariffed rate or promotional rate.

D. The parties will establish trunk groups from the interconnecting facilities of Section A of this Article. Each party will use its best efforts to construct its network, including the interconnecting facilities, to achieve optimum cost effectiveness and network efficiency. Unless otherwise agreed, BellSouth will provide or bear the cost of all trunk groups for the delivery of Local Traffic from BellSouth to Carrier's Mobile Telephone Switching Offices within BellSouth's service territory, and Carrier will provide or bear the cost of all trunk groups for the delivery of traffic from Carrier to each BellSouth access tandem and end office at which the parties interconnect. Carrier will also provide or bear the cost of trunk groups carrying intermediary (transit) traffic in proportion to the amount of transit traffic carried on those trunks..

E. The parties will use an auditable PLU factor as a method for determining whether traffic is Local or Non-Local. The PLU factor will be used for traffic delivered by either party for termination on the other party's network.

F. When the parties provide a service connection between an Interexchange Carrier ("IXC") and the parties, each party will provide its own services to the IXC. If service charges are billed, each party will bill its own service rates to the IXC.

G. The ordering and provision of all services purchased from BellSouth by Carrier shall be as set forth in the BellSouth Telecommunications Wireless Customer Guide as that guide is amended by BellSouth from time to time during the term of this Agreement.

VI. Non-Local Traffic Interconnection

A. The delivery of Non-Local Traffic by a party to the other party shall be reciprocal and compensation will be mutual. For terminating its Non-Local Traffic on the other party's network, each party will pay either the access charges described in paragraph (B) hereunder or the Non-Local Intermediary Charges described in paragraph (D) hereunder, as appropriate.

B. For terminating intrastate interMTA or interstate interMTA Non-Local Traffic which originated on a Party's network, the originating Party shall pay intrastate or interstate, as appropriate, switched network access service rate elements on a per minute of use basis, which are set out in BellSouth's Intrastate Access Services Tariff or BellSouth's Interstate Access Services Tariff as those tariffs may be amended from time to time during the term of this Agreement.

C. Actual traffic measurements in each of the appropriate categories is the preferred method of classifying and billing traffic. If, however, either party cannot measure traffic in a category, then the parties shall agree on a surrogate method of classifying and billing traffic for that category, taking into consideration territory served (e.g. MTA boundaries, LATA boundaries and state boundaries) and traffic routing of the parties.

D. If Non-Local Traffic originated by Carrier is delivered by BellSouth for termination to the network of a nonparty telecommunications carrier ("Nonparty Carrier"), then BST will bill Carrier and Carrier shall pay a \$.002 per minute intermediary charge for such Intermediary Traffic in addition to any charges that BST may be obligated to pay to the Nonparty Carrier (collectively called "Non-Local Intermediary Charges"). The charges that BellSouth may be obligated to pay to the Nonparty Carrier may change during the term of this Agreement and that the appropriate rate shall be the rate in effect when the traffic is terminated. The parties shall agree for purposes of this section, and subject to verification by audit what percentage of the Non-Local Traffic delivered to BellSouth by Carrier shall be subject to Non-Local Intermediary Charges. BellSouth shall not deliver traffic to Carrier which is destined for the network of a nonparty telecommunications carrier, and thus none of the Non-Local Traffic delivered to Carrier by BellSouth shall be subject to the Non-Local Intermediary Charges. Also, Intermediary Traffic transiting BellSouth's network to Carrier is not Local Traffic and Carrier shall not bill BellSouth for such traffic, as BellSouth is not obligated to pay Carrier for such traffic. In addition, traffic received by BellSouth from an interexchange carrier for delivery to Carrier is not Local Traffic and Carrier shall not bill BellSouth for such traffic.

VII. Meet Point Billing

A. For purposes of this Agreement, Meet Point Billing, as supported by Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing (MECAB) guidelines, shall mean the exchange of billing data which details jointly provided switched access calls and calls transiting BellSouth's network from an originating telecommunications carrier other than BellSouth and terminating to a telecommunications carrier other than BellSouth or the originating telecommunications carrier. Subject to Carrier providing all necessary information, BellSouth agrees to participate in Meet Point Billing for traffic which transits its network when both the originating and terminating parties participate in Meet Point Billing with BellSouth and/or originate

and/or terminate switched access traffic to carrier via BellSouth's network. BellSouth shall provide billable records to Carrier at no charge. Depending upon the delivery medium selected by Carrier, appropriate charges for that delivery medium will be applied. Traffic from a network which does not participate in Meet Point Billing will be delivered by BellSouth, however, call records for traffic originated and/or terminated by a non-Meet Point Billing network will not be delivered to the originating and/or terminating network. Parties participating in Meet Point Billing with BellSouth are required to provide information necessary for BellSouth to identify the parties to be billed. Information required for Meet Point Billing includes Regional Accounting Office code (RAO) and Operating Company Number (OCN) per state. The following information is required for billing in a Meet Point Billing environment and includes, but is not limited to; (1) a unique Access Carrier Name Abbreviation (ACNA), (2) Percent Interstate Usage, (3) Percent Local Usage, (4) 800 Service Percent Interstate Usage or default of 50%, and (5) Billing Interconnection Percentage. A default Billing Interconnection Percentage of 95% BellSouth and 5% Carrier will be used if Carrier does not file with NECA to establish a Billing Interconnection Percentage other than default. Carrier must support Meet Point Billing for all intermediary calls in accordance with Mechanized Exchange Carrier Access Billing (MECAB) guidelines. The parties acknowledge that the exchange of 1150 records will not be required.

B. Meet Point Billing will be provided for traffic which transits BellSouth's network at the access tandem level only. Where Carrier desires Meet Point Billing, Carrier will subscribe to access tandem level interconnections with BellSouth. Carrier will deliver all transit traffic to BellSouth over such access tandem level interconnections. Carrier may continue to establish End-Office interconnections, however, billable records will not be provided by BellSouth to Carrier for traffic delivered to Carrier by this facility. Additionally, exchange of records will necessitate both the originating and terminating networks to subscribe to dedicated NXX codes, which can be identified as belonging to the originating and terminating network. When the access tandem, in which interconnection occurs, does not have the capability to record messages and either surrogate or self-reporting of messages and minutes of use occur, Meet Point Billing will not be possible and will not occur. The parties will work cooperatively to develop and enhance processes to deal with messages handled on a surrogate or self-reporting basis.

C. Participation in Meet Point Billing is outside the reciprocal compensation requirements of this agreement. Meet Point Billing, as defined in VII. A above, under this Section will result in Carrier compensating BellSouth at the intermediary rate in Section VI. D of this Agreement for traffic delivered to BellSouth's network, which terminates to a third party network. Meet Point Billing to IXCs for jointly provided switched access traffic will occur consistent with the most current MECAB billing guidelines.

D. Commencement of exchange of records will begin no earlier than sixty days from the later date of, the date the contract is signed or the date that all necessary information as defined in Section VII. A above is provided. The date the Parties begin the exchange of records process will be the date that the percentages in Section VI. D of this Agreement will no longer be applied to determine what percentage of the non-local traffic delivered by BellSouth to Carrier shall be subject to Non-Local Intermediary charges. Once Carrier has established, as between it and BellSouth, meet-point billing arrangements for Transit Traffic from Non-party Carriers, Transit Traffic will be subject only to the \$.002 per minute Transit Charge (or such other rate ordered by the state), and additional Nonparty Carrier charges shall not be billed to Carrier by BellSouth. The limitation on BellSouth to bill Carrier only the Transit Charge shall apply regardless of the billing arrangement between Carrier and a Nonparty Carrier or between BellSouth and Nonparty Carrier.

VIII. Access To Poles, Ducts, Conduits, and Rights of Way

BellSouth will provide to Carrier, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 224, as amended by the Act, nondiscriminatory access to any pole, duct, conduit, or right-of-way owned or controlled by BellSouth.

IX. Access to 911/E911 Emergency Network

A. BellSouth and Carrier recognize that 911 and E911 services were designed and implemented primarily as methods of providing emergency services to fixed location subscribers. While BellSouth and Carrier recognize the need to provide "911-like" service to mobile subscribers, both parties recognize that current technological restrictions prevent an exact duplication of the services provided to fixed location customers. BellSouth will route "911-like" calls received from Carrier to the emergency agency designated by Carrier for such calls. Carrier will provide the information necessary to BellSouth so that each call may be properly routed and contain as much pertinent information as Carrier is technically able to provide.

B. BellSouth and Carrier recognize that the technology and regulatory requirements for the provision of "911-like" service by CMRS carriers are evolving and agree to modify or supplement the foregoing in order to incorporate industry accepted or regulatory mandated technical improvements that Carrier desires to implement and to permit Carrier to comply with applicable regulatory requirements.

X. Access to Telephone Numbers

Carrier is responsible for interfacing with the North American Numbering Plan administrator for all matters dealing with dedicated NXXs. BellSouth will cooperate with Carrier in the provision of shared NXXs where BellSouth is the service provider.

XI. Local Number Portability

The Permanent Number Portability (PNP) database supplies routing numbers for calls involving numbers that have been ported from one local service provider to another. PNP is currently being worked in industry forums. The results of these forums will dictate the industry direction of PNP. BellSouth will provide access to the PNP database at rates, terms and conditions in accordance with effective FCC or Commission requirements.

XII. Access to Signaling and Signaling Databases

A. BellSouth will offer to Carrier use of its signaling network and signaling databases on an unbundled basis at BellSouth's published tariffed rates or at unbundled rates that may be available through non-tariffed arrangements. Signaling functionality will be available with both A-link and B-link connectivity.

B. Where interconnection is via B-link connections, charges for the SS7 interconnection elements are as follows: 1) Port Charge - BellSouth shall not bill an STP port charge nor shall BellSouth pay a port charge; 2) SS7 Network Usage - BellSouth shall bill its tariffed usage charge and shall pay usage billed by the Carrier at rates not to exceed those charged by BellSouth; 3) SS7 Link - BellSouth will bill its tariffed charges for only two links of each quad ordered. Application of these charges in this manner is designed to reflect the reciprocal use of the parties' signaling networks. Where interconnection is via A-link connections, charges for the SS7 interconnection elements are as follows: 1) Port Charge - BellSouth shall bill its tariffed STP port charge but shall not pay a termination charge at the Carrier's end office; 2) SS7 Network Usage - BellSouth shall bill its tariffed usage charge but shall not pay for any usage; 3) SS7 Link - BellSouth shall bill its tariffed charges for each link in the A-link pair but shall not pay the Carrier for any portion of those links.

XIII. Network Design and Management

A. The parties will work cooperatively to install and maintain reliable interconnected telecommunications networks, including but not limited to, maintenance contact numbers and escalation procedures. BellSouth will provide public notice of changes in the information necessary for the transmission and routing of services using its local exchange facilities or networks, as well as of any other changes that would affect the interoperability of those facilities and networks.

B. The interconnection of all networks will be based upon accepted industry/national guidelines for transmission standards and traffic blocking criteria.

C. The parties will work cooperatively to apply sound network management principles by invoking appropriate network management controls to alleviate or prevent network congestion.

D. The parties will provide Common Channel Signaling (CCS) information to one another, where available and technically feasible, in conjunction with all traffic in order to enable full interoperability of CLASS features and functions except for call return. All CCS signaling parameters will be provided, including automatic number identification (ANI), originating line information (OLI) calling party category, charge number, etc. All privacy indicators will be honored, and the parties agree to cooperate on the exchange of Transactional Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) messages to facilitate full interoperability of CCS-based features between the respective networks.

E. For network expansion, the parties will review engineering requirements on a periodic basis and establish forecasts for trunk utilization as required by Section V of this Agreement. New trunk groups will be implemented as stated by engineering requirements for both parties.

F. The parties will provide each other with the proper call information, including all proper translations for routing between networks and any information necessary for billing where BellSouth provides recording capabilities. This exchange of information is required to enable each party to bill properly.

XIV. Auditing Procedures

Upon thirty (30) days written notice, each party must provide the other the ability and opportunity to conduct an annual audit to ensure the proper billing of traffic between the parties. The parties will retain records of call detail for a minimum of nine months from which the PLU, the percent intermediary traffic, the percent InterMTA traffic, and the PIU can be ascertained. The audit shall be accomplished during normal business hours at an office designated by the party being audited. Audit requests shall not be submitted more frequently than one (1) time per calendar year. Audits shall be performed by a mutually acceptable independent auditor paid for by the party requesting the audit. The PLU shall be adjusted based upon the audit results and shall apply to the usage for the quarter the audit was completed, the usage for the quarter prior to the completion of the audit, and to the usage for the two quarters following the completion of the audit.

XV. Liability and Indemnification

A. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR IN THIS AGREEMENT OR IN THIS SECTION XVI, NEITHER PARTY SHALL BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY FOR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, RELIANCE,

PUNITIVE, OR SPECIAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY THE OTHER PARTY (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DAMAGES FOR HARM TO BUSINESS, LOST REVENUES, LOST SAVINGS, OR LOST PROFITS SUFFERED BY THE OTHER PARTY), REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF ACTION, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, WARRANTY, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION NEGLIGENCE OF ANY KIND WHETHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE, AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PARTIES KNEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH DAMAGES COULD RESULT.

B. Neither party shall be liable to the other for any act or omission of any other telecommunications company providing a portion of a service under this Agreement.

C. Neither party is liable for damages to the other party's terminal location, Point of Interface (POI) nor customer's premises resulting from the furnishing of a service, including but not limited to the installation and removal of equipment and associated wiring, unless the damage is caused by a party's gross or willful negligence or intentional misconduct.

D. Each party shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the other party against any claim, loss or damage arising from the other party's acts or omissions under this Agreement, including without limitation: 1) Claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of copyright arising from the other party's own communications; 2) Claims for patent infringement arising from combining or using the service furnished by either party in connection with facilities or equipment furnished by either party or either party's customer; 3) any claim, loss, or damage claimed by a customer of either party arising from services provided by the other party under this Agreement; or 4) all other claims arising out of an act or omission of the other party in the course of using services provided pursuant to this Agreement. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. The Party providing services hereunder, its affiliates and its parent company, shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the Party receiving services hereunder 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 or invasion of privacy arising from the content of the receiving company's own communications, or (2) any claim, loss or damage claimed by the customer of the Party receiving services arising from such company's use or reliance on the providing company's services, actions, duties, or obligations arising out of this Agreement.

H. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, claims for damages by Carrier or Carrier's clients or any other person or entity resulting from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of BellSouth shall not be subject to such limitation of liability.

I. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement claims for damages by BellSouth or any other person or entity resulting from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of Carrier shall not be subject to such limitation of liability.

J. Neither party assumes liability for the accuracy of the data provided to it by the other party.

K. No license under patents (other than the limited license to use) is granted by either party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel, with respect to any service offered pursuant to this Agreement.

L. Each party's failure to provide or maintain services offered pursuant to this Agreement shall be excused by labor difficulties, governmental orders, civil commotion, criminal actions taken against them, acts of God and other circumstances beyond their reasonable control.

M. 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.

N. The obligations of the parties contained within this section shall survive the expiration of this Agreement.

XVI. Modification of Agreement

A. BellSouth shall, during the term of this Agreement, make available at Carrier's option, pursuant to 47 USC § 252 and the FCC rules and regulations regarding such availability, to Carrier any rate, interconnection, service, or network element provided under any other available 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.

B. If Carrier 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 Carrier to notify BellSouth of said change and request that an amendment to this Agreement, if necessary, be executed to reflect said change.

C. 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.

D. 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).

E. In the event that any effective legislative, regulatory, judicial or other legal action materially affects any material terms of this Agreement, or the ability of Carrier or BellSouth to perform any material terms of this Agreement, Carrier 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 XX.

XVII. Taxes and Fees

A. Definition: For purposes of this section, the terms "taxes" and "fees" shall include but not be 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) which are imposed, or sought to be imposed, on or with respect to the services furnished hereunder or measured by the charges or payments therefor.

B. Taxes And Fees Imposed Directly On Either Providing Party Or Purchasing Party.

1. Taxes and fees imposed on the providing party, which are neither permitted nor required to be passed on by the providing party to its customer, shall be borne and paid by the providing party.

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.

C. Taxes And Fees Imposed On Purchasing Party But Collected And Remitted By Providing Party.

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.

2. To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and 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.

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 shall have the right, at its own expense, to contest the same in good faith, in its own name or on the providing party's behalf. 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 governmental authority.

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.

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.

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.

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 governmental authority; such notice to be provided 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.

8. The Purchasing Party shall have the right, at its own expense, to claim a refund or credit, in its own name or on the Providing Party's behalf, of any such tax or fee that it determines to have paid in error, and the Purchasing Party shall be entitled to any recovery thereof.

D. Taxes And Fees Imposed On Providing Party But Passed On To Purchasing Party.

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.

2. To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and 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.

3. If the purchasing party disagrees with the providing party's determination as to the application or basis of any such tax or fee, the Parties shall consult with respect to the imposition and billing of such tax or fee and with respect to whether to contest the imposition 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 or fees; provided, however, that any such contest undertaken at the request of the purchasing party shall be at the purchasing party's expense.

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.

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.

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.

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 governmental 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.

E. **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.

XVIII. Treatment of Proprietary and Confidential Information

A. It may be necessary for BellSouth and Carrier, each as the "Discloser," to provide to the other Party, as "Recipient," certain proprietary and confidential information (including trade secret information) including but not limited to technical, financial, marketing, staffing and business plans and information, strategic information, proposals, request for proposals, specifications, drawings, maps, prices, costs, costing methodologies, procedures, processes, business systems, software programs, techniques, customer account data, call detail records and like information (collectively the "Information"). All such Information conveyed in writing or other tangible form shall be clearly marked with a confidential or proprietary legend. Information conveyed orally by the Discloser to Recipient shall be designated as proprietary and confidential at the time of such oral conveyance, shall be reduced to writing by the Discloser within forty-five (45) days thereafter, and shall be clearly marked with a confidential or proprietary legend.

B. Use and Protection of Information. Recipient agrees to protect such Information of the Discloser provided to Recipient from whatever source from distribution, disclosure or dissemination to anyone except employees of Recipient with a need to know such Information solely in conjunction with Recipient's analysis of the Information and for no other purpose except as authorized herein or as otherwise authorized in writing by the Discloser. Recipient will not make any copies of the Information inspected by it.

C. Exceptions. Recipient will not have an obligation to protect any portion of the Information which:

(a) is made publicly available by the Discloser or lawfully by a nonparty to this Agreement; (b) is lawfully obtained by Recipient from any source other than Discloser; (c) is previously known to Recipient without an obligation to keep it confidential; or (d) is released from the terms of this Agreement by Discloser upon written notice to Recipient.

D. Recipient agrees to use the Information solely for the purposes of negotiations pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 251 or in performing its obligations under this Agreement and for no other entity or purpose, except as may be otherwise agreed to in writing by the Parties. Nothing herein shall prohibit Recipient from

providing information requested by the Federal Communications Commission or a state regulatory agency with jurisdiction over this matter, or to support a request for arbitration or an allegation of failure to negotiate in good faith.

E. Recipient agrees not to publish or use the Information for any advertising, sales promotions, press releases, or publicity matters that refer either directly or indirectly to the Information or to the Discloser or any of its affiliates.

F. The disclosure of Information neither grants nor implies any license to the Recipient under any trademark, patent, copyright, or application which is now or may hereafter be owned by the Discloser.

G. Survival of Confidentiality Obligations. The Parties' rights and obligations under this Section 10 shall survive and continue in effect until two (2) years after the expiration or termination date of this Agreement with regard to all Information exchanged during the term of this Agreement. Thereafter, the Parties' rights and obligations hereunder survive and continue in effect with respect to any Information that is a trade secret under applicable law.

XIX. Resolution of Disputes

Except as otherwise stated in this Agreement, if any dispute arises as to the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement or as to the proper implementation of this Agreement, the parties will initially refer the issue to the appropriate company representatives. If the issue is not resolved within 30 days, either party may petition the Commission for a resolution of the dispute. However, each party reserves the right to seek judicial review of any ruling made by the Commission concerning this Agreement.

XX. Waivers

Any failure or delay by either party to insist upon the strict performance by the other party of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement, 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.

XXI. Assignment

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 of the Party without the consent of the other Party; provided, however, that the assigning Party shall notify the other Party in writing of such assignment thirty (30) days prior to the Effective Date thereof. The Parties shall amend this Agreement to reflect such assignments and shall

work cooperatively to implement any changes required due to such assignment. 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 or delegation hereof shall relieve the assignor of its obligations under this Agreement in the event that the assignee fails to perform such obligations.

XXII. Amendment

This Agreement may not be amended in any way except upon prior written consent of the parties.

XXIII. Severability

In the event that any provision of this Agreement shall be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, it shall be severed from the Agreement and the remainder of this Agreement shall remain valid and enforceable and shall continue in full force and effect; provided however, that if any severed provisions of this Agreement are essential to any party's ability to continue to perform its material obligations hereunder, the parties shall immediately begin negotiations of new provisions to replace the severed provisions.

XXIV. Survival

Any liabilities or obligations of a party for acts or omissions prior to the cancellation or termination of this Agreement, any obligation of a party under the provisions regarding indemnification, confidential information, limitations of liability and any other provisions of this Agreement which, by their terms, are contemplated to survive (or be performed after) termination of this Agreement, shall survive expiration or termination thereof.

XXV. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the state in which the serving point of interconnection is located, without regard to its conflict of laws principles, and the Communications Act of 1934 as amended by the Act.

XXVI. 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.

XXVII. 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, Carrier shall be responsible for publishing the required notice and the publication and/or notice costs shall be borne by Carrier.

XXVIII. Notices

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

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
675 W. Peachtree St. N.E.
Suite 4300
Atlanta, Georgia 30375
Attn: Legal Dept. "Wireless" Attorney

ALLTEL Communications, Inc.
One Allied Drive
Mailstop: B4F4N
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202
Attn: Director - CMRS
Interconnection Services

Copy to:
Legal Department
ALLTEL Communications, Inc.
One Allied Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

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

B. 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; and by overnight mail, the day after being sent.

C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, BellSouth may provide Carrier notice via Internet posting of changes to business processes and policies, notices of new service offerings, and changes to service offerings not requiring an amendment to this Agreement and any other information of general applicability.

XXIX. 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.

XXX. 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.

XXXI. 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. In the event of any conflict between the term(s) of this Agreement and those of an applicable tariff, the terms of this Agreement shall control.

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

By: 

Randy J. Ham
Name

Managing Director -
Wireless Interconnection

Title

Date

12/31/01

ALLTEL Communications, Inc.

By: 

Stephen B. Rawell
Name

Sr. Vice President
Title

Date

12-21-01

Attachment A

The entities covered by this agreement are:

ALLTEL Communications, Inc.
ALLTEL Wireless Holdings, LLC
Radiofone, Inc.
ALLTEL Cellular Associates of South Carolina Limited Partnership

Attachment B-1

CMRS Local Interconnection Rates **(All rates are Per Minute of Use)**

Effective Date through December 14, 2001

All BellSouth States

Type 1 (End Office Switched)	\$.0015
Type 2A (Tandem Switched)	\$.0015
Type 2B Dedicated End Office)	\$.0015

December 15, 2001 through June 14, 2003

Type 1 (End Office Switched)	\$.0010
Type 2A (Tandem Switched)	\$.0010
Type 2B Dedicated End Office)	\$.0010

June 15, 2003 through June 14, 2004

(If such dates are applicable during the term of this Agreement)

Type 1 (End Office Switched)	\$.0007
Type 2A (Tandem Switched)	\$.0007
Type 2B Dedicated End Office)	\$.0007

Attachment B-1

Type 1, Type 2A, & 2B Mobile To Land Trunk Usage (All Rates are Per Voice Grade Trunk)

Mobile originated IntraMTA traffic over BellSouth CMRS Type 1, Type 2A, and CMRS Type 2B trunks, which terminate at Company Tandems (Local or Access) and/or Company End Offices, without recording capability, may be billed in either of two ways. CMRS providers may choose to either be billed a surrogate usage rate, on a per voice grade trunk basis, for mobile originated traffic completed over one-way outward or two way trunks or may choose to provide traffic data in a company prescribed format to be used for billing purposes. CMRS provided traffic data will be billed at the rates prescribe above in this attachment. If the CMRS chooses to provide traffic data, then the detail level provided must be in accordance with Company requirements. Traffic data must be provided no more that 30 days in arrears from the close of the normal billing cycle. If the traffic data is not received in the Company prescribed format in the specified time period, the surrogate usage rate will be applied. Surrogate Usage for IntraMTA mobile originated traffic, which terminates in BST's local service area, shall be billed at a per voice grade trunk level rate as follows:

	<u>Type 1</u>	<u>TYPE 2A</u>	<u>Type 2B</u>
All BellSouth States			
Effective Date thru December 14, 2001	\$19.50	\$19.50	\$19.50
December 15, 2001 Thru June 14, 2003	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00
June 15, 2003 Thru June 14, 2004 (If such dates are applicable during the term of this Agreement)	\$9.10	\$9.10	\$9.10