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October 29, 2009

# VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND HAND DELIVERY

Chairman Sara Kyle c/o Ms. Sharla Dillon Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243

filed electronically in docket office on 10/29/09

RE: <u>Joint Application of Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc., Ardmore Communications, LLC, and Synergy Technology Partners, Inc. Regarding Transfer of Control, Docket No. 09-00103</u>

## Dear Chairman Kyle:

Enclosed please find an original and five (5) copies of Expedited Petition of Synergy Technology Partners, Inc. Regarding Financing Approval. Petitioner has also transmitted this submission electronically to the Authority. Please stamp a copy of this Petition as "filed" and return it to me by way of our courier.

Should you have any questions concerning any of the enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours.

**ENCLOSURES** 

cc: R. Dale Grimes, Esq.

Erin Massey Everitt, Esq.

Mr. Terry Wales

Mr. Trevor Bonstetter

Mr. Levoy Knowles

## **BEFORE THE**

#### TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

IN RE:	)	
	)	
Joint Application of Ardmore	)	Docket No. 09-00103
Telephone Company, Inc., Ardmore	)	
Communications, LLC, and Synergy	)	
Technology Partners, Inc. Regarding	)	
Transfer of Control of Ardmore	)	
Telephone Company, Inc.	)	
•	)	
	)	

# EXPEDITED PETITION OF SYNERGY TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS, INC. REGARDING FINANCING APPROVAL

Synergy Technology Partners, Inc. (the "Petitioner" or "Synergy"), through its undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Petition Regarding Financing Approval (the "Petition") pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-109, as applied by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or "Authority"). On October 26, 2009, the Authority approved the transfer of control of Ardmore Telephone Company Incorporated ("Ardmore") to Synergy in the Amended Joint Application of Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc., Ardmore Communications, LLC and Synergy Technology Partners, Inc. Regarding Transfer of Control, *Docket No. 09-00103* (the "Application"). In respect of and in a good faith effort to comply with Tennessee law, Petitioner, to the extent required, respectfully seeks requisite approval on behalf of Ardmore to consummate the financing transactions described hereunder and for authority to do all things related thereto.

In the event the Petitioner does not receive approval from the Authority by the close of business, Friday, October 30, 2009, the transaction between Ardmore and Synergy, as approved by the Authority and described under Section IV hereof, may be unable to close in the timing anticipated by the parties, causing additional expense, potentially jeopardizing the transaction and undermining the public interest and benefits to customers set forth in the Application and this Petition. Thus, the Petitioner requests that the Chairman, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104(c)(8), assign this Petition to a hearing officer on the date filed to be considered on the merits by close of business, Friday, October 30, 2009. Regrettably, circumstances beyond Petitioner's control resulted in the submission of this request at this late stage.

In support of the Petition, the Petitioner respectfully shows that:

T.

#### THE PARTIES

As presented in the Application, Synergy is a subsidiary of West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, Inc. ("West Kentucky") and Ben Lomand Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Ben Lomand"), that has been approved by the Authority to acquire and control Ardmore as a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary, with Ardmore retaining its corporate identity.

Ardmore, a Tennessee competing telecommunications services provider, is a public utility corporation organized under the laws of the State of Tennessee on August 6, 1955. Ardmore currently provides a complete suite of communications services to

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> To the extent Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104(c)(8) does not grant the Chairman the authority to assign this Petition to a hearing officer, the Petitioner respectfully requests that the Authority convene a special telephonic conference by the close of business on the date this Petition is filed in order to appoint a hearing officer to consider this Petition on the merits by close of business, Friday, October 30, 2009.

residential consumers and businesses, included local, long distance and internet services. Ardmore has incumbent local exchange carrier ("ILEC") operations in Giles and Lincoln Counties in Tennessee and Limestone and Madison Counties in Alabama. Of Ardmore's approximately 8,420 local access lines, 2,577 offer service to subscribers in Tennessee. All central offices are digital, connected with 150 miles of fiber optic cable. Its 32 employees remain dedicated to providing the rural areas of both states with the latest telephone technology and advanced service.

Ardmore holds the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity under which telephone services are provided in Tennessee utilizing the network discussed above. Its corporate office is at P.O. Box 549, Ardmore, Tennessee 38449.

II.

#### **DESIGNATED CONTACTS**

The names, addresses and telephone and fax numbers of designated contacts in connection with this matter are:

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Melvin J. Malone
(mmalone@millermartin.com)
Lance P. Bridgesmith
(lpbridgesmith@millermartin.com)
Clinton C. Cromwell
(ccromwell@millermartin.com)
Miller & Martin PLLC
1200 One Nashville Place
150 Fourth Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2970 (telephone)

Attorneys for the Petitioner

Levoy Knowles Chairman of the Board

Synergy Technology Partners, Inc. 311 North Chancery Street McMinnville, Tennessee 37110 (931) 668-4131 (telephone)<sup>2</sup>

#### III.

#### STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-109, the Authority has asserted jurisdiction over all financing transactions entered into by Tennessee public utilities under its jurisdiction.<sup>3</sup>

#### IV.

#### BACKGROUND OF THE ARDMORE ACQUISITION

On June 19, 2009, Ardmore, Ben Lomand, West Kentucky and Synergy entered into a stock purchase agreement, a copy of which was previously provided to the Authority in the Application, for Synergy to acquire 100% of the capital stock of Ardmore (the "Purchase Agreement"). Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement, Synergy will acquire Ardmore as a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary, with Ardmore retaining its corporate identity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The designated contacts for Ardmore are set forth in Amended Joint Application of Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc., Ardmore Communications, LLC and Synergy Technology Partners, Inc. Regarding Transfer of Control, TRA Docket No. 09-00103.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Order Approving Transfers of Authority and Financing Transactions, In Re: Joint Application of ITC^DeltaCom, Inc., Southern Digital Network, Inc., d/b/a FDN Communications, Inc. and Network Telephone Corporation For Approval Of The Acquisition of FDN And NT By ITC^DeltaCom, Inc. And For Consent To The Indirect Transfer Of Control of (1) Interstate Fibernet, Inc., (2) Business Telecom, Inc. d/b/a BTI, And (3) ITC^DeltaCom Communications, Inc. d/b/a ITC^DeltaCom And d/b/a Grapevine, TRA Docket No. 04-00287, p. 2 (June 21, 2005) ("[P]ublic utilities must obtain Authority approval for any indebtedness payable more than one (1) year from its issuance."). Hence, this Petition For Financing Approval is not submitted voluntarily with the understanding that approval is not required. Notwithstanding Tennessee Attorney General's Opinion No. 99-119, Tenn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 99-119 (May, 14, 1999), and a 1939 Tennessee Attorney General's Opinion, Tenn. Op. Atty. Gen. (Sept. 2, 1939), based upon recent Authority orders the Petitioners respectfully submit the Petition for approval because the Authority appears to have asserted authority to review and approve all financing transactions entered into by Tennessee public utilities under its jurisdiction.

Under the Purchase Agreement, the purchase price for Ardmore is approximately \$15.5 million. This includes a payment of approximately \$7.3 million in cash to Ardmore's shareholders, plus the repayment of approximately \$8.2 million in debt.

As presented in the Application, the Ardmore acquisition provides numerous benefits, including the following:

- This is a strategic acquisition that combines companies with similar business models and philosophies. Specifically, it will combine Ardmore and, through Synergy, Ben Lomand and West Kentucky, which are all well-respected telecommunications companies with strong customer-centric histories in rural areas. Additionally, it will ensure that Ardmore, Ben Lomand and West Kentucky's customers are provided high-quality communications services in an efficient and reliable manner.
- The acquisition and the resulting organizational structure will create strengthened financial stability and stream-lined operations over a larger pool of customers.
- The acquisition helps ensure that Ardmore will have the access to capital necessary to continue to provide reliable services to its customers.

V.

# **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED FINANCING**

In connection with Synergy's acquisition of Ardmore, Synergy has sought and arranged for financing from CoBank, ACB ("CoBank"). In reliance on the action taken

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previously on the Application, and in a good faith attempt to comply with the intent and spirit of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-109, the Petitioner seeks approval from the Authority for Ardmore to participate, along with Synergy, in a loan transaction whereby Synergy and Ardmore intend to enter into a Master Loan Agreement among Synergy, Ardmore and CoBank (the "Master Loan Agreement"), a draft of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit "A-1"** and is being filed **UNDER SEAL AS CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.** Additionally, the Petitioner is filing drafts of the related Alabama Mortgage as **Exhibit "A-2"** and the Pledge and Security Agreement as **Exhibit "A-3"**, each of which is also filed **UNDER SEAL AS CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION**. The Master Loan Agreement includes the following two (2) credit facilities:

- 5-year Revolving Credit Facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility"); and
- 10-year Term Loan (the "<u>Term Loan</u>"; collectively, the Revolving Credit Facility and the Term Loan are hereinafter referred to as the "<u>Credit Facilities</u>").

The Revolving Credit Facility will be in the amount of \$1 million. The original principal amount of the Term Loan will be \$11.5 million. The lender under the Credit Facilities is CoBank (the "Lender"). Synergy and Ardmore will be co-borrowers under the Credit Facilities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> For the purposes of this filing, confidential or proprietary information shall mean, among other things, documents and information in whatever form deemed in good faith by Petitioner to contain or constitute trade secrets, confidential commercial information, confidential research, development, financial statements, usage reports or other commercially sensitive information.

- (a) Revolving Credit Facility. The Revolving Credit Facility will be in the amount of \$1 million. This facility will mature on the fifth anniversary of the funding date. The interest rate under this facility will be at the variable rate established by CoBank on the first business day of each week. Amounts repaid under the Revolving Credit Facility may be re-borrowed.
- (b) Term Loan. The aggregate principal amount of the Term Loan will be \$11.5 million. This facility will mature on the tenth anniversary of the funding date and will amortize in equal quarterly installments in the amount of \$175,000, with the balance payable on the maturity date of the facility. The interest rate on the Term Loan will be, at the option of the borrower, the weekly quoted variable rate as set forth under the Revolving Credit Facility or a quoted fixed rate as determined by CoBank.
- (c) <u>Collateral</u>. The Revolving Credit Facility and the Term Loan will be secured by substantially all of the assets of Synergy and Ardmore, including but not limited to (a) a perfected first priority pledge of all the capital stock of Ardmore and (b) a perfected first priority security interest in, and mortgages on, substantially all tangible and intangible assets of Synergy and Ardmore, including but not limited to accounts receivable, inventory, equipment, general intangibles, investment property, intellectual property, real property, rights-of-way, cash, deposit and securities accounts, claims, mobile accounts, commercial tort claims, letter of credit rights, intercompany notes and proceeds of the foregoing (the "<u>Liens</u>"). The Liens will be evidenced by the Pledge and Security Agreement and the Alabama Mortgage in favor of the Lender.
- (d) <u>Terms of the Master Loan Agreement</u>. The Master Loan Agreement contains customary provisions regarding commitment fees; mandatory prepayments and

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voluntary prepayments; representations and warranties; affirmative, negative and financial covenants; events of defaults; and indemnification.

- (e) Terms of the Pledge and Security Agreement and the Alabama Mortgage.

  The Pledge and Security Agreement and the Alabama Mortgage each contain customary provisions regarding the Liens, representations and warranties, affirmative, negative and financial covenants, events of default and indemnification.
- (f) <u>Use of Proceeds</u>. The proceeds from the Credit Facilities are expected to be used as follows:
  - (i) To pay the stock purchase cash consideration to be received by the stockholders of Ardmore approximately \$7.4 million;
  - (ii) To repay all the existing secured debt of Ardmore approximately \$8.1 million; and
  - (v) To provide future liquidity in the form of a \$1 million Revolving Credit Facility.

The transaction is scheduled to close on October 30, 2009.

#### VI.

# ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To aid the Authority in its review, various background information and acknowledgements are set forth below:

A. <u>Financial Statements and Related Financial Information</u>: Attached hereto as <u>Exhibit "B"</u> are the audited financial statements of Ardmore as of and for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007 which are being filed <u>UNDER</u>

SEAL AS CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.<sup>5</sup> Synergy is a newly formed corporation that will be a holding company for the Ardmore stock. Certain additional financial information pertaining to Petitioner and Ardmore in connection with the proposed financing is also Attached hereto as **Exhibit "C"** and is being filed **UNDER** SEAL AS CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.

- B. <u>Statement of Desired Issues</u>: Synergy and Ardmore intend to enter into the Master Loan Agreement as described in Section V above. Obligations under the Master Loan Agreement will bear interest as described in Section V above. As set forth in Section V herein, in connection with the Master Loan Agreement, Synergy and Ardmore intend to enter into the Alabama Mortgage and Pledge and Security Agreement described in Section V above, respectively.
- C. <u>Use of Proceeds from Desired Issues</u>: Net proceeds derived from the proposed transactions will be used for the purposes set forth in Section V hereof.
- D. <u>Property to be Acquired; How Service is to be improved</u>: At this time, Ardmore does not have any plans to undertake any material acquisition of property in Tennessee. The proceeds from the proposed transactions, however, will benefit Ardmore by allowing for, among other things, financial flexibility, overall enhancements to business operations and improvements in service capabilities.
- E. <u>Copies of All Contracts to be Filed</u>: Copies of the transaction documents relating to the Credit Facilities are attached hereto in <u>Exhibit "A"</u>.
- F. <u>Consolidation or Merger</u>: The financing transactions are not the result of a merger or consolidation. The financing transactions are, however, related to the above-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Petitioner has received express authorization from Ardmore to submit Ardmore-specific financial and related information in connection with this Petition.

described acquisition of Ardmore by Synergy.

- G. <u>Law Must be Complied With</u>: Petitioners shall comply with all applicable Tennessee laws and the Rules and Regulations of the Authority.
- H. <u>All Proceeds Must be Used for Purposes Approved</u>: The proceeds derived from the proposed transaction will be used for the lawful purposes described herein.
- I. <u>No Federal Approvals Required</u>: No federal agency approval is required with respect to the financing transactions set forth herein.
- J. <u>No Voluntary Requests for Approval in Other States</u>: The Petitioner has not sought any voluntary (non-required) regulatory approval in any state.

#### VII.

### APPROVAL IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The Authority's approval of this Petition serves the public interest in many respects. From the proceeds of the Credit Facilities, Ardmore through Synergy will be in a position to refinance and pay in full all of its outstanding long-term debt.

The proposed Credit Facilities should provide Synergy with substantial liquidity to further implement its business plans for Ardmore and make capital investments in Ardmore's networks and facilities. In addition, the proceeds of the Credit Facilities, together with Synergy's existing cash, which will be infused by Ben Lomand and West Kentucky, will provide Ardmore and Synergy with a greater cash "cushion" to further enhance their balance sheets and operations.

By facilitating the Ardmore acquisition, the proposed financing will benefit

Tennessee consumers in the following ways:

- The combined efficiencies should reduce the overall financial risk of the business.
- The accretive cash flow of the acquisition should allow for continued investment in new technology.
- The increased scale from the acquisition should provide greater negotiating leverage with suppliers and, consequently, lower operating costs.

The Petitioner believes that the aggregate benefits which will flow from the Credit Facilities will enable them to continue to improve its business operations and service capabilities for the benefit of its customers. The requested financing authority will strengthen Ardmore's ability to compete in local exchange service markets by providing access to greater financial resources. These resources will allow Ardmore to respond to competitive pressures in the evolving telecommunications market and to continue to provide consumers with full facilities-based competitive choice. In summary, the Petitioner respectfully believes that Authority approval of this Petition will foster the Authority's long-stated goal of encouraging full facilities-based competition in the telecommunications market and is, therefore, in the public interest. Regrettably, circumstances beyond Petitioner's control resulted in the submission of this request at this late stage.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner respectfully request the Authority to issue an order (and has attached a draft order for the Authority's review as set forth in **Exhibit**"D" attached hereto):

- (i) approving this Petition and Ardmore's participation as a coborrower with Synergy under the Credit Facilities in favor of the Lender and its successors and assigns (including without limitation the execution, delivery and performance of the Alabama Mortgage and the Pledge and Security Agreement) and the creation and perfection of the liens on the collateral owned by Ardmore in favor of the Lender and its successors and assigns, in the manner and for the purpose contemplated in the Master Loan Agreement; and
- (ii) approving the consummation of all transactions undertaken, and the execution of all related documents, in connection with the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted October 29, 2009.

Miller & Martin PLLC

Melvin J. Malone (B.P.R. # 13874)

Lance P. Bridgesmith (B.P.R. # 19987)

Clinton C. Cromwell (B.P.R. # 27171)

Miller & Martin PLLC

1200 One Nashville Place

150 Fourth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee 37219

(615) 244-2970 (telephone)

Attorneys for Synergy

## EXHIBIT "A"

# CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

## TRANSACTION DOCUMENTS

The following documents are attached as:

Exhibit "A-1" – Draft Master Loan Agreement

Exhibit "A-2" – Draft Alabama Mortgage

Exhibit "A-3" – Draft Pledge and Security Agreement

# FILED UNDER SEAL AS CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

# EXHIBIT "B"

# CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

ARDMORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(attached)

# FILED UNDER SEAL AS CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

# EXHIBIT "C"

# CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(attached)

# FILED UNDER SEAL AS CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

# EXHIBIT "D"

DRAFT ORDER

(attached)

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#### BEFORE THE

#### TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

IN RE:	)
Joint Application of Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc., Ardmore Communications, LLC, and Synergy Technology Partners, Inc. Regarding Transfer of Control of Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc.	Docket No. 09-00103  ) ) ) ) ) ) ) )
ORDER APPROVING FI	INANCING TRANSACTIONS
This matter came before Chairm	an Sara Kyle, Director, and Director
of the Tennessee Regulatory A	uthority (the "Authority" or "TRA"), the voting
Panel assigned to this docket, at a spec	cial telephonic Authority Conference held on
October 30, 2009, for consideration of the	e Petition of Synergy Technology Partners, Inc.
Regarding Financing Approval (the "Pe	tition") for an order, pursuant to Tenn. Code
Ann. § 65-4-109, approving the financing	transactions set forth in the Petition.

# **THE PETITION**

Ardmore Telephone Company Incorporated ("Ardmore") is a Tennessee certificated incumbent local exchange carrier ("ILEC"). Ardmore provides local, long distance telephone and internet services in Giles and Lincoln Counties in Tennessee and Limestone and Madison Counties in Alabama.

In the *Petition*, filed on October 29, 2009, Synergy Technology Partners, Inc. (the "Petitioner" or "Synergy") requested approval for Ardmore to participate, along with

Synergy, in a loan transaction in which Synergy and Ardmore intend to enter into a Master Loan Agreement, Alabama Mortgage and Pledge and Security Agreement. (collectively the "Credit Agreements").

The Credit Agreements include two Credit Facilities consisting of: (1) a 5-year Revolving Credit Facility and (2) a 10-year Term Loan. The total amount of the transaction is \$12,500,000. The Revolving Credit Facility is in the amount of \$1 million, and the Term Loan is in the amount of \$11.5 million.

The co-borrowers under the Credit Facilities are Synergy and Ardmore. The lender under the Credit Facilities is CoBank, ACB ("CoBank"). Pursuant to the terms of the Credit Agreements, upon execution (which will not occur until after this Order is issued), the assets of Ardmore will be subject to liens and security interests under the Credit Facilities.

According to the *Petition*, the proceeds from the Credit Facilities will be used as follows:

- To pay the stock purchase cash consideration to be received by the stockholders of Ardmore approximately \$7.3 million;
- To repay all the existing secured debt of Ardmore –
   approximately \$8.2 million; and
- To provide future liquidity in the form of a \$1 million
   Revolving Credit Facility.

## STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-109 provides as follows:

No public utility shall issue any stocks, stock certificates, bonds, debentures, or other evidences of indebtedness payable in more than one (1) year from the date thereof, until it shall have first obtained authority

from the [TRA] for such proposed issue. It shall be the duty of the [TRA] after hearing to approve any such proposed issue maturing more than one (1) year from the date thereof upon being satisfied that the proposed issue, sale and delivery is to be made in accordance with law and the purpose of such be approved by the [TRA].

Based upon the Authority's actions in Amended Joint Application of Ardmore Telephone Company, Inc., Ardmore Communications, LLC and Synergy Technology Partners, Inc. Regarding Transfer of Control, *TRA Docket No. 09-00103*, and upon careful consideration of the Petition and the information provided therein, the Hearing Officer approves the Petition and finds as follows:

- 1. The proposed transactions are subject to approval pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-109;
- 2. The proposed transactions will effect the assets of Ardmore;
- 3. Petitioner has not alleged that approval of these transactions is required by any federal agency;
- 4. Tennessee has a legitimate interest in monitoring the integrity of the competitive marketplace, which includes obtaining information on the financial transactions and fitness of certificated telecommunications carriers;
- 5. The burden of compliance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-109 is minimal, as such compliance should be perfunctory given the telecommunications industry's movement to a competitive environment;
- 6. The transactions are being made in accordance with the laws enforceable by the TRA; and
- 7. The purpose of the transactions is in the public interest because, based on the assertions of the Petitioner, the transactions will strengthen Petitioner and

Ardmore's financial standing to enable them to better serve the citizens of Tennessee.

#### IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- 1. As requested in the *Petition*, Ardmore is authorized to participate as a co-borrower under the Credit Facilities in favor of the Lender and its successors and assigns (including without limitation the execution, delivery and performance of the Master Loan Agreement, Alabama Mortgage and the Pledge and Security Agreement) and the creation and perfection of the liens on the collateral owned by Ardmore in favor of the Lender and its successors and assigns, in the manner and for the purpose contemplated in the Credit Agreements;
- 2. Ardmore is authorized to consummate all transactions undertaken, and to execute all related documents, as requested in the *Petition*; and
- 3. The authorization and approval given hereby shall not be used by any party, including, but not limited to, any lending party, for the purpose of inferring that an analysis or assessment of the risk involved has been performed. Nothing contained herein creates or is intended to create any liability on the part of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, the State of Tennessee, or any political subdivision thereof for the transactions approved herein.

, Hearing Officer

### VERIFICATION

STATE OF TENNESSEE ) COUNTY OF Waren )

- I, Levoy Knowles, being duly sworn, deposes and states as follows:
- 1. I am the Chairman of the Board and Secretary of Synergy.
- 2. I have reviewed the foregoing Petition and the documents filed therewith, and the contents thereof are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Levoy Knowles

Chairman of the Board and Secretary Synergy Technology Partners, Inc.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of October, 2009.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 8-19-2013

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 29, 2009, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

[ [X] [ [X]	Facsimile Overnight	Terry Wales General Manager Ardmore Telephone Company Incorporated P.O. Box 549 Ardmore, Tennessee 38449
[   [   [   [   X]	Facsimile Overnight	R. Dale Grimes, Esq. Erin M. Everrit, Esq. Bass Berry & Sims PLC 315 Deaderick Street, Suite 2700 Nashville, Tennessee 37238-3001
[ [ [ [ [X	] Hand ] Mail ] Facsimile ] Overnight K] Electronically	Melvin J. Malone, Esq. Lance P. Bridgesmith, Esq. Clint C. Cromwell, Esq. Miller & Martin PLLC 1200 One Nashville Place 150 Fourth Avenue North Nashvllle, Tennessee 37219

Lance P Bridgesmith/Esq.
Miller & Martin, PLLC