

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

April 14, 2026

IN RE:)	
)	
IPC SYSTEMS INC. APPLICATION FOR)	DOCKET NO.
CERTIFICATE TO PROVIDE OPERATOR)	25-00078
SERVICES AND/OR RESELL)	
TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES IN)	
TENNESSEE)	

**INITIAL ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

This matter came before the Administrative Judge of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (the “Commission” or “TPUC”) at a Hearing held on March 24, 2026, to consider the *Application for Certificate to Provide Operator Services and/or Resell Telecommunications Services in Tennessee* (“*Application*”) filed by IPC Systems, Inc. (“IPC,” “Applicant,” or “Company”) on September 25, 2025. In its *Application*, IPC seeks a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (“CCN”) for authority to provide competing local exchange telecommunications services on a resold basis within the State of Tennessee.

I. LEGAL STANDARD

IPC’s *Application* was made in accordance with and is considered in light of the criteria for granting a CCN as set forth in Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-201 which provides, in pertinent part:

(a) No public utility shall establish or begin the construction of, or operate any line, plant, or system, or route in or into a municipality or other territory already receiving a like service from another public utility, or establish service therein, without first having obtained from the commission, after written application and hearing, a certificate that the present or future public convenience and necessity require or will require such construction, establishment, and operation, and no person or corporation not at the time a public utility shall commence the construction of any plant, line, system, or route to be operated as a public utility, or the operation of which would constitute the same, or the owner or operator thereof, a public utility as defined by law,

without having first obtained, in like manner, a similar certificate

* * *

(c) (1) After notice to the incumbent local exchange telephone company and other interested parties and following a hearing, the commission shall grant a certificate of convenience and necessity to a competing telecommunications service provider if after examining the evidence presented, the authority finds:

(A) The applicant has demonstrated that it will adhere to all applicable commission policies, rules and orders; and

(B) The applicant possesses sufficient managerial, financial and technical abilities to provide the applied for services.

* * *

Furthermore, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-112, a competing telecommunications provider is required to file with the Commission a small and minority-owned telecommunications business participation plan which provides the provider's plan for purchasing goods and services from small and minority-owned telecommunications businesses and information on programs that might provide technical assistance to such businesses.

II. HEARING ON THE MERITS

In accordance with the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-204, a public notice of the Hearing in this matter was issued by the Administrative Judge on March 13, 2026, setting the case for Hearing on March 24, 2026. No one sought intervention prior to or during the Hearing. Jonathon Hogg, Senior Vice President and Chief Risk Officer for IPC, appeared at the Hearing.

Mr. Hogg participated in the Hearing and summarized his pre-filed testimony and noted a couple of revisions related to a corporate headquarter change and a recent personnel change. Mr. Hogg testified that the Company would comply with all applicable laws, and TPUC rules, policies, and orders and stated that it is in the public interest to grant the *Application*. He also provided a summary of the Company's financial, technical, and managerial qualifications.

The Administrative Judge opened the floor for public comment, but no member of the public sought recognition to comment. Upon conclusion of the presentation of its proof, the Administrative Judge granted IPC's *Application* based upon the findings of fact and conclusions of law stated herein.

III. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. IPC'S QUALIFICATIONS

1. IPC is a Delaware corporation and is authorized to do business in the State of Tennessee.

2. The Company's principal office is located at One State Street Plaza, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10004.¹ The Company's telephone number is 888-286-2343.

3. The *Application* and information in the record indicate that IPC has the requisite technical and managerial ability to provide competitive local exchange telecommunications services within the State of Tennessee. Specifically, IPC's management team possesses extensive business, technical, operational, and regulatory experience in the communications industry.

4. IPC has the necessary capital and financial ability to provide the services it proposes to offer.

5. IPC has represented that it will adhere to all applicable statutes, policies, rules, and orders of the Commission.

B. PROPOSED SERVICES

Applicant IPC and its wholly-owned subsidiary, IPC Network Services, Inc. ("IPC Network Services"), provide specialized technology solutions and associated maintenance to financial institutions and global enterprises. The Company's products and services include non-telecom components (e.g., hardware and software), as well as resold point-to-point private line or IP-based

¹ During his testimony at the Hearing, Mr. Hogg corrected the Company address to reflect a change in IPC's headquarters. See Transcript of Proceedings, Docket No. 25-00078, p. 7 (March 24, 2026).

point-to-point connectivity, which customers use to access financial markets. Both entities serve only business customers.²

Private line services are currently provided by IPC's subsidiary, IPC Network Services, which holds authority to operate as a provider of regulated telecommunications services in Tennessee.³ All private line services are provided on a resold basis and do not enable calls to or from the Public Switched Telephone Network.⁴

C. PERMITTING COMPETITION TO SERVE THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

IPC's *Application* and its proposed services would inure to the benefit of the present and future public convenience by increasing the level of competition in the telecommunications services markets in the State. Increased competition will benefit subscribers and enhance the utility and security of the subscriber networks based on IPC's extensive experience in delivering innovative, in-demand services to enterprise customers in the financial services industry.⁵

D. SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS PARTICIPATION PLAN AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

IPC filed a satisfactory small and minority-owned telecommunications business participation plan, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-112 and the Commission's Rules.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The *Application for Certificate to Provide Operator Services and/or Resell Telecommunications Services in Tennessee* filed by IPC Systems, Inc. is approved.
2. Any party aggrieved by the Administrative Judge's decision in this matter may file a petition for reconsideration within 15 days from the date of this Order.

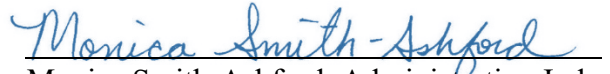
² Jonathon Hogg, Pre-Filed Direct Testimony, p. 2; *Application*, Attachment 12 (September 25, 2025).

³ See *In Re: Application Of IPC Network Services, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Resell Telecommunications Services*, Docket No. 07-00190, *Order Granting Authority to Resell Local and Interexchange Long Distance Services in Tennessee* (November 2, 2007).

⁴ Jonathon Hogg, Pre-Filed Direct Testimony, p. 4; *Application*, Attachment 12 (September 25, 2025).

⁵ *Id.*

3. This Initial Order shall become a Final Order of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, if no petition for reconsideration or appeal of this Order is filed prior to the expiration of the 15-day appeal period.



Monica Smith-Ashford, Administrative Judge