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

**September 24, 2026**

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| **IN RE:** | ) | |
| | ) | |
| **APPLICATION OF LTS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES (USA) INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE TO PROVIDE COMPETING LOCAL AND INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES** | ) | **DOCKET NO. 26-00052** |

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

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This matter came before the Administrative Judge of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (the "Commission" or "TPUC") at a Hearing held on September 15, 2026, to consider the *Application for Certificate to Provide Competing Local and Interexchange Telecommunications Services* filed by LTS Telecommunications Services (USA), Inc. ("LTS" or "Company") on June 29, 2026, and considered complete as of July 29, 2026.[1] In its *Application*, LTS seeks a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CCN") for authority to provide competing local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services within the State of Tennessee.

## I. LEGAL STANDARD

LTS'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,

[1] *See Notice of Complete Application* (July 29, 2026).

> 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 commission 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. § 65-4-201, a public notice of the Hearing in this matter was issued by the Administrative Judge on September 4, 2026, setting the case for Hearing on September 15, 2026. No one sought intervention prior to or during the Hearing. Michael Murray, Senior Vice President of Operations and US Infrastructure for LTS, appeared at the Hearing as the witness for LTS.

Mr. Murray participated in the Hearing and summarized his pre-filed testimony with no corrections, revisions, or amendments. Mr. Murray testified that the Company will 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 LTS's *Application* based upon the findings of fact and conclusions of law stated herein.

## III. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

### A. LTS'S QUALIFICATIONS

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

2. The Company's principal office is located at 6405 Mira Mesa Blvd., Suite 200, San Diego, California 92121. The Company's telephone number is: 877-859-1155.

3. The *Application* and information in the record indicate that LTS has the requisite technical and managerial ability to provide competitive local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services within the State of Tennessee. Specifically, LTS's management team is well-qualified and highly skilled with substantial expertise and experience in the telecommunications industry.[2]

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

[2] *Application,* p. 51, Exhibit L, Michael Murray, Pre-Filed Direct Testimony (July 29, 2026).

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

**B. PROPOSED SERVICES**

LTS requests authority to offer resold and facilities-based local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services, including point-to-point high-capacity services such as private line, Ethernet, and Wavelength.[3] According to the *Application*, LTS primarily focuses on serving large enterprise customers at competitive rates through individual case basis contracts.[4] The Company seeks authority to offer non-switched local exchange services (non-voice) statewide and intends to construct its own fiber-optic facilities. In addition, LTS anticipates providing key route and service maintenance on all of its constructed fiber facilities.[5] The Company states it does not intend to offer voice services at this time.[6]

According to the *Application*, LTS plans to elect market regulation in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-109 and will provide the services described in this Application on a de-tariffed basis. To the extent LTS provides switched voice services, it will submit a switched access tariff.[7]

**C. PERMITTING COMPETITION TO SERVE THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

LTS's *Application* and its proposed services promote the public interest by increasing the level of competition in the telecommunications services markets in the State. LTS maintains that its "participation in the Tennessee market would promote the public interest by providing high-

[3] *Application*, p. 3 (July 29, 2026).
[4] *Id*.
[5] *Id.*
[6] *Id.*
[7] *Id.* at 4-5.

quality service at competitive prices and by creating greater economic incentives for the development and improvement for all competing providers."[8]

**D. COMPLIANCE WITH COMMISSION RULE 1220-04-08-.04(1) AND Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 65-4-125(j), and 65-5-112.**

LTS filed all necessary documents and satisfied the provisions of Commission Rule 1220-04-08-.04(1). In compliance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-125(j), the Applicant has also filed a surety bond and a satisfactory Small and Minority-Owned Telecommunications Business Participation Plan in compliance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-112.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. The *Application for a Certificate to Provide Competing Local and Interexchange Telecommunications Services* filed by LTS Telecommunications Services (USA), 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.

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

Monica Smith-Ashford
Administrative Judge
By Commission Delegated Authority

cc: Interested Parties
Original in Docket File

[8] *Id.* at 53, Exhibit L, Michael Murray, Pre-Filed Direct Testimony (July 29, 2026).