

**CASE**

**NUMBER:**

99.062

INDEX FOR CASE: 99-062  
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
Interconnection Agreements  
WITH NATIONSLINK COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

KY. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
AS OF : 04/09/99

PAGE 1

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF THE INTERCONNECTION  
NEGOTIATED BY BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND  
NATIONSLINK COMMUNICATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 251, 252 AND  
271 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

SEQ NBR	ENTRY DATE	REMARKS
0001	02/19/99	Application.
0002	02/19/99	Acknowledgement letter.
0003	04/09/99	Final Order approving the negotiated agreement between BellSouth & Nationslink.



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
730 SCHENKEL LANE  
POST OFFICE BOX 615  
FRANKFORT, KY. 40602  
(502) 564-3940

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

RE: Case No. 99-062  
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

I, Stephanie Bell, Secretary of the Public Service Commission, hereby certify that the enclosed attested copy of the Commission's Order in the above case was served upon the following by U.S. Mail on April 9, 1999.

See attached parties of record.

Stephanie Bell  
Secretary of the Commission

SB/hv  
Enclosure

Creighton E. Mershon  
General Counsel - Kentucky  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
P. O. Box 32410  
Louisville, KY. 40232

CLEC Account Team  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
9th Floor  
600 North 19th Street  
Birmingham, AL. 35203

General Attorney - COU  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
Suite 4300  
675 West Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA. 30375

Michael Woodruff  
President  
Nationslink Communications  
3804 Sedgefield Drive  
Valdosta, GA. 31605

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPROVAL OF THE )  
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT )  
NEGOTIATED BY BELLSOUTH )  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND ) CASE NO. 99-062  
NATIONSLINK COMMUNICATIONS )  
PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 251 AND )  
252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS )  
ACT OF 1996 )

O R D E R

On February 19, 1999, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and Nationslink Communications ("Nationslink") submitted to the Commission their negotiated agreement for interconnection of their networks, the unbundling of specific network elements, and the resale of BellSouth's services. The agreement was negotiated pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("1996 Act"), 47 U.S.C. Sections 251 and 252. Section 252(e) of the 1996 Act requires the parties to an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation to submit the agreement for approval to the Commission.

The Commission has reviewed the agreement and finds that no portion of the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement. The Commission also finds that the implementation of this agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

Nationslink must comply with all relevant Commission mandates for serving in this Commonwealth.

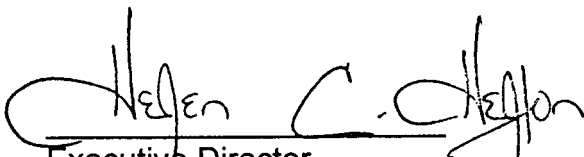
The Commission, having been otherwise sufficiently advised, HEREBY ORDERS  
that:

1. The negotiated agreement between BellSouth and Nationslink is approved.
2. Nationslink shall file a tariff for local service prior to providing local service giving 30 days' notice to the Commission and shall comply with all Commission regulations and orders as directed.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 9th day of April, 1999.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

730 SCHENKEL LANE  
POST OFFICE BOX 615  
FRANKFORT, KY. 40602  
(502) 564-3940

February 19, 1999

To: All parties of record

RE: Case No. 99-062  
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
(Interconnection Agreements) WITH NATIONSLINK COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of initial application in the above case. The application was date-stamped received February 19, 1999 and has been assigned Case No. 99-062. In all future correspondence or filings in connection with this case, please reference the above case number.

If you need further assistance, please contact my staff at 502/564-3940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Bell".

Stephanie Bell  
Secretary of the Commission

SB/jc

Creighton E. Mershon  
General Counsel - Kentucky  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
P. O. Box 32410  
Louisville, KY. 40232

CLEC Account Team  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
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600 North 19th Street  
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Michael Woodruff  
President  
Nationslink Communications  
3804 Sedgefield Drive  
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BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
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Louisville, Kentucky 40232  
or

502 582-8219  
Fax 502 582-1573  
Internet  
Creighton.E.Mershon@bridge.bellsouth.com

Creighton E. Mershon, Sr.  
General Counsel - Kentucky

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
601 West Chestnut Street, Room 407  
Louisville, Kentucky 40203

February 17, 1999

RECEIVED

FEB 19 1999

PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

Helen C. Helton  
Executive Director  
Public Service Commission  
730 Schenkel Lane  
P. O. Box 615  
Frankfort, KY 40602

*Case 99-062*

Re: Approval of the Interconnection Agreement Negotiated by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") and Nationslink Communications pursuant to Sections 251, 252 and 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

Dear Helen:

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, BellSouth and Nationslink Communications are submitting to the Kentucky Public Service Commission their negotiated agreement for the interconnection of their networks, the unbundling of specific network elements, and the resale of BellSouth's telecommunications services to Nationslink Communications. The Agreement was negotiated pursuant to sections 251, 252 and 271 of the Act.

Six copies of the agreement and eight copies of the transmittal letter are filed. The two extra copies of the letter are provided for Matt Rhody and Becky Dotson.

Please add the following to the service list for this matter: Creighton E. Mershon, Sr., BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., P. O. Box 32410, Louisville, KY 40232; BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., CLEC Account Team, 9th Floor, 600 N. 19th Street, Birmingham, AL 35203; and Nationslink Communications, ATTN: Michael Woodruff, 3804 Sedgefield Drive, Valdosta, GA 31605.

Pursuant to section 252(e) of the Act, the Commission is charged with approving or rejecting the negotiated agreement between BellSouth and Nationslink Communications within 90 days of its submission. The Commission may only reject such an agreement if it finds that the agreement or any portion of the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement or the implementation of the agreement or any portion of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. Both parties represent that neither of these reasons exist as to the agreement they have negotiated and that the Commission should approve their agreement.

Sincerely,

Creighton E. Mershon, Sr.

Enclosure

151570

## AGREEMENT

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., ("BellSouth"), a Georgia corporation, and NATIONSLINK COMMUNICATIONS ("NATIONSLINK"), a Georgia corporation, and shall be deemed effective as of January 29, 1999. This agreement may refer to either BellSouth or NATIONSLINK 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, NATIONSLINK is an alternative local exchange telecommunications company ("CLEC") authorized to provide telecommunications services in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to resell BellSouth's telecommunications services and/or interconnect their facilities, purchase unbundled elements, and exchange traffic specifically for the purposes of fulfilling their obligations pursuant to sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act").

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

1. **Purpose**

The Parties agree that the rates, terms and conditions contained within this Agreement, including all Attachments, comply and conform with each Parties' obligations under sections 251 and 252 of the Act. The resale, access and interconnection obligations contained herein enable NATIONSLINK to provide competing telephone exchange service to residential and business subscribers within the territory of BellSouth. The Parties agree that NATIONSLINK will not be considered to have offered telecommunications services to the public in any state within BellSouth's region until such time as it has ordered services for resale or interconnection facilities for the purposes of providing business and/or residential local exchange service to customers.

**2. Term of the Agreement**

- 2.1 The term of this Agreement shall be two years, beginning January 29, 1999.
- 2.2 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 resale and/or local interconnection to be effective beginning on the expiration date of this Agreement ("Subsequent Agreement"). The Parties further agree that any such Subsequent Agreement shall be for a term of no less than two (2) years unless the Parties agree otherwise.
- 2.3 If, within one hundred and thirty-five (135) days of commencing the negotiation referred to in Section 2.2, above, the Parties are unable to satisfactorily negotiate new resale and/or local interconnection terms, conditions and prices, either Party may petition the Commission to establish appropriate local interconnection and/or resale 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 and/or resale 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 and/or resale 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. Until the Subsequent Agreement becomes effective, the Parties shall continue to exchange traffic pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

**3. Ordering Procedures**

- 3.1 NATIONSLINK shall provide BellSouth its Carrier Identification Code (CIC), Operating Company Number (OCN), Group Access Code (GAC) and Access Customer Name and Address (ACNA) code as applicable prior to placing its first order.
- 3.2 Detailed procedures for ordering and provisioning BellSouth services are set forth in BellSouth's Local Interconnection and Facility Based Ordering Guide and Resale Ordering Guide, as appropriate.
- 3.3 BellSouth has developed electronic systems for placing most resale and some UNE orders. BellSouth has also developed electronic systems for accessing data needed to place orders including valid address, available

services and features, available telephone numbers, due date estimation on pre-order and calculation on firm order, and customer service records where applicable. Charge for Operational Support Systems (OSS) shall be as set forth in this agreement in Exhibit A of Attachment 1 and/or in Attachment 11, as applicable.

**4. Parity**

The services and service provisioning that BellSouth provides NATIONSLINK for resale will be at least equal in quality to that provided to BellSouth, or any BellSouth subsidiary, affiliate or end user. In connection with resale, BellSouth will provide NATIONSLINK with pre-ordering, ordering, maintenance and trouble reporting, and daily usage data functionality that will enable NATIONSLINK to provide equivalent levels of customer service to their local exchange customers as BellSouth provides to its own end users. BellSouth shall also provide NATIONSLINK with unbundled network elements, and access to those elements, that is at least equal in quality to that which BellSouth provides BellSouth, or any BellSouth subsidiary, affiliate or other CLEC. BellSouth will provide number portability to NATIONSLINK and their customers with minimum impairment of functionality, quality, reliability and convenience.

**5. White Pages Listings**

BellSouth shall provide NATIONSLINK and their customers access to white pages directory listings under the following terms:

- 5.1 Listings. BellSouth or its agent will include NATIONSLINK residential and business customer listings in the appropriate White Pages (residential and business) or alphabetical directories. Directory listings will make no distinction between NATIONSLINK and BellSouth subscribers.
- 5.2 Rates. Subscriber primary listing information in the White Pages shall be provided at no charge to NATIONSLINK or its subscribers provided that NATIONSLINK provides subscriber listing information to BellSouth at no charge.
- 5.3 Procedures for Submitting NATIONSLINK Subscriber Information. BellSouth will provide to NATIONSLINK a magnetic tape or computer disk containing the proper format for submitting subscriber listings. NATIONSLINK will be required to provide BellSouth with directory listings and daily updates to those listings, including new, changed, and deleted listings, in an industry-accepted format. These procedures are detailed in BellSouth's Local Interconnection and Facility Based Ordering Guide.

- 5.4 Unlisted Subscribers. NATIONSLINK will be required to provide to BellSouth the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all NATIONSLINK customers that wish to be omitted from directories.
- 5.5 Inclusion of NATIONSLINK Customers in Directory Assistance Database. BellSouth will include and maintain NATIONSLINK subscriber listings in BellSouth's directory assistance databases at no charge. BellSouth and NATIONSLINK will formulate appropriate procedures regarding lead time, timeliness, format and content of listing information.
- 5.6 Listing Information Confidentiality. BellSouth will accord NATIONSLINK's directory listing information the same level of confidentiality that BellSouth accords its own directory listing information, and BellSouth shall limit access to NATIONSLINK's customer proprietary confidential directory information to those BellSouth employees who are involved in the preparation of listings.
- 5.7 Optional Listings. Additional listings and optional listings will be offered by BellSouth at tariffed rates as set forth in the General Subscriber Services Tariff.
- 5.8 Delivery. BellSouth or its agent shall deliver White Pages directories to NATIONSLINK subscribers at no charge.

**6. Bona Fide Request/New Business Request Process for Futher Unbundling**

BellSouth shall, upon request of NATIONSLINK, provide to NATIONSLINK access to its unbundled elements at any technically feasible point for the provision of NATIONSLINK's telecommunications service where such access is necessary and failure to provide access would impair the ability of NATIONSLINK to provide services that it seeks to offer. Any request by NATIONSLINK for access to an unbundled element that is not already available shall be treated as an unbundled element Bona Fide Request/New Business Request, and shall be submitted to BellSouth pursuant to the Bona Fide Request/New Business Request process set forth in Attachment 9.

**7. Liability and Indemnification**

- 7.1 BellSouth Liability. BellSouth shall take financial responsibility for its own actions in causing, or its lack of action in preventing, unbillable or uncollectible NATIONSLINK revenues.
- 7.2 Liability for Acts or Omissions of Third Parties. Neither BellSouth nor NATIONSLINK shall be liable for any act or omission of another

telecommunications company providing a portion of the services provided under this Agreement.

7.3 Limitation of Liability.

7.3.1 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.

7.3.2 Limitations in Tariffs. 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. To the extent that a Party elects not to place in its tariffs or contracts such limitations of liability, and the other Party incurs a Loss as a result thereof, such Party shall indemnify and reimburse the other Party for that portion of the Loss that would have been limited had the first Party included in its tariffs and contracts the limitations of liability that such other Party included in its own tariffs at the time of such Loss.

7.3.3 Neither BellSouth nor NATIONSLINK shall be liable for damages to the other's terminal location, POI or other company's customers' premises resulting from the furnishing of a service, including, but not limited to, the installation and removal of equipment or associated wiring, except to the extent caused by a company's negligence or willful misconduct or by a company's failure to properly ground a local loop after disconnection.

7.3.4 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.

- 7.4 Indemnification for Certain Claims. BellSouth and NATIONSLINK providing services, their affiliates and their parent company, shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by each other 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, invasion of privacy or copyright infringement arising from the content of the receiving company's own communications, or (2) any claim, loss or damage claimed by the other company's customer arising from one company's use or reliance on the other company's services, actions, duties, or obligations arising out of this Agreement.
- 7.5 No liability for Certain Inaccurate Data. Neither BellSouth nor NATIONSLINK assumes any liability for the accuracy of data provided by one Party to the other and each Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the other for any claim, action, cause of action, damage, or injury that might result from the supply of inaccurate data in conjunction with the provision of any service provided pursuant to this Agreement.
- 7.6 Disclaimer. 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.
8. Intellectual Property Rights and Indemnification
- 8.1 No License. No patent, copyright, trademark or other proprietary right is licensed, granted or otherwise transferred by this Agreement. NATIONSLINK is strictly prohibited from any use, including but not limited to in sales, in marketing or advertising of telecommunications services, of any BellSouth name, service mark or trademark.
- 8.2 Ownership of Intellectual Property. Any intellectual property which originates from or is developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive ownership of that Party. Except for a limited license to use patents or copyrights to the extent necessary for the Parties to use any facilities or equipment (including software) or to receive any service solely as provided under this Agreement, no license in patent, copyright, trademark or trade secret, or other proprietary or intellectual property right now or hereafter owned, controlled or licensable by a Party, is granted to the other Party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel. It is the responsibility of each Party to ensure at no additional cost to the other Party that it has obtained any necessary licenses in relation to intellectual property of third

Parties used in its network that may be required to enable the other Party to use any facilities or equipment (including software), to receive any service, or to perform its respective obligations under this Agreement.

- 8.3 Indemnification. The Party providing a service pursuant to this Agreement will defend the Party receiving such service or data provided as a result of such service against claims of infringement arising solely from the use by the receiving Party of such service and will indemnify the receiving Party for any damages awarded based solely on such claims in accordance with Section 7 of this Agreement.
- 8.4 Claim of Infringement. In the event that use of any facilities or equipment (including software), becomes, or in reasonable judgment of the Party who owns the affected network is likely to become, the subject of a claim, action, suit, or proceeding based on intellectual property infringement, then said Party shall promptly and at its sole expense, but subject to the limitations of liability set forth below:
- 8.4.1 modify or replace the applicable facilities or equipment (including software) while maintaining form and function, or
- 8.4.2 obtain a license sufficient to allow such use to continue.
- 8.4.3 In the event 8.4.1 or 8.4.2 are commercially unreasonable, then said Party may, terminate, upon reasonable notice, this contract with respect to use of, or services provided through use of, the affected facilities or equipment (including software), but solely to the extent required to avoid the infringement claim.
- 8.5 Exception to Obligations. Neither Party's obligations under this Section shall apply to the extent the infringement is caused by: (i) modification of the facilities or equipment (including software) by the indemnitee; (ii) use by the indemnitee of the facilities or equipment (including software) in combination with equipment or facilities (including software) not provided or authorized by the indemnitor provided the facilities or equipment (including software) would not be infringing if used alone; (iii) conformance to specifications of the indemnitee which would necessarily result in infringement; or (iv) continued use by the indemnitee of the affected facilities or equipment (including software) after being placed on notice to discontinue use as set forth herein.
- 8.6 Exclusive Remedy. The foregoing shall constitute the Parties' sole and exclusive remedies and obligations with respect to a third party claim of intellectual property infringement arising out of the conduct of business under this agreement.



9. **Treatment of Proprietary and Confidential Information**

9.1 **Confidential Information.** It may be necessary for BellSouth and NATIONSLINK to provide each other with certain confidential information, including trade secret information, including but not limited to, technical and business plans, technical information, proposals, specifications, drawings, procedures, customer account data, call detail records and like information (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Information"). All Information shall be in writing or other tangible form and clearly marked with a confidential, private or proprietary legend and that the Information will be returned to the owner within a reasonable time. The Information shall not be copied or reproduced in any form. BellSouth and NATIONSLINK shall receive such Information and not disclose such Information. BellSouth and NATIONSLINK shall protect the Information received from distribution, disclosure or dissemination to anyone except employees of BellSouth and NATIONSLINK with a need to know such Information and which employees agree to be bound by the terms of this Section. BellSouth and NATIONSLINK will use the same standard of care to protect Information received as they would use to protect their own confidential and proprietary Information.

9.2 **Exception to Obligation.** Notwithstanding the foregoing, there will be no obligation on BellSouth or NATIONSLINK to protect any portion of the Information that is: (1) made publicly available by the owner of the Information or lawfully disclosed by a Party other than BellSouth or NATIONSLINK; (2) lawfully obtained from any source other than the owner of the Information; or (3) previously known to the receiving Party without an obligation to keep it confidential.

10. **Assignments**

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 company of the Party without the consent of the other Party. 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 of delegation hereof shall relieve the assignor of its obligations under this Agreement in the event that the assignee fails to perform such obligations.

11. **Resolution of Disputes**

Except as otherwise stated in this Agreement, the Parties agree that if any dispute arises as to the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement or as to the proper implementation of this Agreement, either Party may

petition the Commission for a resolution of the dispute. However, each Party reserves any rights it may have to seek judicial review of any ruling made by the Commission concerning this Agreement.

**12. Taxes**

12.1 Definition. For purposes of this Section, the terms "taxes" and "fees" shall include but not 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) imposed, or sought to be imposed, on or with respect to the services furnished hereunder or measured by the charges or payments therefore, excluding any taxes levied on income.

12.2 Taxes and Fees Imposed Directly On Either Seller or Purchaser.

12.2.1 Taxes and fees imposed on the providing Party, which are not permitted or required to be passed on by the providing Party to its customer, shall be borne and paid by the providing Party.

12.2.2 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.

12.3 Taxes and Fees Imposed on Purchaser But Collected And Remitted By Seller.

12.3.1 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.

12.3.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and/or 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.

12.3.3 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 may contest the same in good faith, at its own expense. 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 taxing authority.

- 12.3.4 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.
- 12.3.5 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.
- 12.3.6 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.
- 12.3.7 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 taxing 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.
- 12.4 Taxes and Fees Imposed on Seller But Passed On To Purchaser.
- 12.4.1 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.
- 12.4.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any such taxes and/or 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.

- 12.4.3 If the purchasing Party disagrees with the providing Party's determination as to the application or basis for any such tax or fee, the Parties shall consult with respect to the imposition and billing 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 and fees; provided, however, that any such contest undertaken at the request of the purchasing Party shall be at the purchasing Party's expense.
- 12.4.4 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.
- 12.4.5 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.
- 12.4.6 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 reasonable 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.
- 12.4.7 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 taxing 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.
- 12.5 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.

13. Force Majeure

In the event performance of this Agreement, or any obligation hereunder, is either directly or indirectly prevented, restricted, or interfered with by reason of fire, flood, earthquake or like acts of God, wars, revolution, civil commotion, explosion, acts of public enemy, embargo, acts of the government in its sovereign capacity, labor difficulties, including without limitation, strikes, slowdowns, picketing, or boycotts, unavailability of equipment from vendor, changes requested by Customer, or any other circumstances beyond the reasonable control and without the fault or negligence of the Party affected, the Party affected, upon giving prompt notice to the other Party, shall be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such prevention, restriction, or interference (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-to-day basis until the delay, restriction or interference has ceased); provided however, that the Party so affected shall use diligent efforts to avoid or remove such causes of non-performance and both Parties shall proceed whenever such causes are removed or cease.

**14. Year 2000 Compliance**

Each party warrants that it has implemented a program the goal of which is to ensure that all software, hardware and related materials (collectively called "Systems") delivered, connected with BellSouth or supplied in the furtherance of the terms and conditions specified in this Agreement: (i) will record, store, process and display calendar dates falling on or after January 1, 2000, in the same manner, and with the same functionality as such software records, stores, processes and calendar dates falling on or before December 31, 1999; and (ii) shall include without limitation date data century recognition, calculations that accommodate same century and multicentury formulas and date values, and date data interface values that reflect the century.

**15. Modification of Agreement**

15.1 BellSouth shall make available to NATIONSLINK any interconnection, service, or network element provided under any other agreement filed and approved pursuant to 47 USC § 252; provided however the parties shall adopt such other agreement in its entirety. The adopted agreement shall apply to the same states as such other agreement and for the identical term.

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

- 15.3 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.
- 15.4 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).
- 15.5 In the event that any final and nonappealable legislative, regulatory, judicial or other legal action materially affects any material terms of this Agreement, or the ability of NATIONSLINK or BellSouth to perform any material terms of this Agreement, NATIONSLINK 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 11.
- 15.6 If any provision of this Agreement, or the application of such provision to either Party or circumstance, shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Agreement, or the application of any such provision to the Parties or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be effective thereby, provided that the Parties shall attempt to reformulate such invalid provision to give effect to such portions thereof as may be valid without defeating the intent of such provision.

**16. Waivers**

A failure or delay of either Party to enforce any of the provisions hereof, to exercise any option which is herein provided, or to require performance of any of the provisions hereof shall in no way be construed to be a waiver of such provisions or options, 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.

**17. Governing Law**

This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the State of Georgia, without regard to its conflict of laws principles.

**18. 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.

**19. Notices**

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

**BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**

CLEC Account Team  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
600 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

and

General Attorney - COU  
Suite 4300  
675 W. Peachtree St.  
Atlanta, GA 30375

**NATIONSLINK COMMUNICATIONS**

3804 Sedgefield Drive  
Valdosta, GA 31605  
Attn: Michael Woodruff  
(912) 245-1099

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

19.2 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.

19.3 BellSouth shall provide NATIONSLINK 45-day advance notice via Internet posting of price changes and of changes to the terms and conditions of services available for resale. To the extent that revisions occur between the time BellSouth notifies NATIONSLINK of changes under this Agreement and the time the changes are scheduled to be implemented,

BellSouth will immediately notify NATIONSLINK of such revisions consistent with its internal notification process. NATIONSLINK may not hold BellSouth responsible for any cost incurred as a result of such revisions, unless such costs are incurred as a result of BellSouth's intentional misconduct. NATIONSLINK may not utilize any notice given under this subsection concerning a service to market resold offerings of that service in advance of BellSouth.

**20. Rule of Construction**

No rule of construction requiring interpretation against the drafting Party hereof shall apply in the interpretation of this Agreement.

**21. 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.

**22. 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.

**23. Implementation of Agreement**

Within 60 days of the execution of this Agreement, the parties will adopt a schedule for the implementation of the Agreement. The schedule shall state with specificity time frames for submission of including but not limited to, network design, interconnection points, collocation arrangement requests, pre-sales testing and full operational time frames for the business and residential markets. An implementation template to be used for the implementation schedule is contained in Attachment 14 of this Agreement.

**24. 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, said costs shall be borne by NATIONSLINK.

**25. 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.

**This agreement may include attachments with provisions for the following services:**

- Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs)
- Local Interconnection
- Resale
- Collocation

**The following services are included as options for purchase by NATIONSLINK. NATIONSLINK shall elect said services by written request to its Account Manager if applicable:**

- Optional Daily Usage File (ODUF)
- Enhanced Optional Daily Usage File (EODUF)
- Access Daily Usage File (ADUF)
- Line Information Database (LIDB) Storage
- Centralized Message Distribution Service (CMDS)
- Calling Name (CNAM)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement the day and year above first written.

**BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Jerry Hendrix  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Director  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

2/4/99  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Nationslink Communications**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Michael Woodruff  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

President  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

1/27/99  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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INTENTIONALLY**

## Definitions

**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.

**Centralized Message Distribution System** is the BellCore administered national system, based in Kansas City, Missouri, used to exchange Exchange Message Interface (EMI) formatted data among host companies.

**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.

**Daily Usage File** is the compilation of messages or copies of messages in standard Exchange Message Interface (EMI) format exchanged from BellSouth to an CLEC.

Exchange Message Interface is the nationally administered standard format for the exchange of data among the Exchange Carriers within the telecommunications industry.

**Intercompany Settlements (ICS)** is the revenue associated with charges billed by a company other than the company in whose service area such charges were incurred. ICS on a national level includes third number and credit card calls and is administered by BellCore's Credit Card and Third Number Settlement System (CATS). Included is traffic that originates in one Regional Bell Operating Company's (RBOC) territory and bills in another RBOC's territory.

**Intermediary function** is defined as the delivery of traffic from NATIONSLINK; a CLEC other than NATIONSLINK or another telecommunications carrier through the network of BellSouth or NATIONSLINK to an end user of NATIONSLINK; a CLEC other than NATIONSLINK or another telecommunications carrier.

**Local Interconnection** is defined as 1) the delivery of local traffic to be terminated on each Party's local network so that end users of either 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; 2) the LEC unbundled network features, functions, and capabilities set forth in this Agreement; and 3) Service Provider Number Portability sometimes referred to as temporary telephone number portability to be implemented pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

**Local Traffic** is defined as any telephone call that originates in one exchange and terminates in either the same exchange, or a corresponding Extended Area Service ("EAS"). The terms Exchange and EAS exchanges are defined and specified in Section A3 of BellSouth's General Subscriber Service Tariff. Until the Commission, the FCC or a court of competent jurisdiction determines, in a final and non-appealable

order ("Order"), whether Enhanced Service Provider ("ESP") and Information Service Provider ("ISP") traffic is within the definition of Local Traffic, such traffic will be held for payment until the jurisdiction of such traffic is determined. The Parties will maintain billing records identifying all such Enhanced Service Provider and Information Service Provider traffic and will adjust, if necessary, their mutual compensation billing for such local traffic termination consistent with the final Commission, FCC or court decision. The period of adjustment shall be from the effective date of this Agreement to the date the order of the Commission, the FCC or the court becomes final and nonappealable.

**Message Distribution** is routing determination and subsequent delivery of message data from one company to another. Also included is the interface function with CMDS, where appropriate.

**Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing ("MECAB")** means the document prepared by the Billing Committee of the Ordering and Billing Forum ("OBF:), which functions under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee of the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions ("ATIS") and by Bellcore as Special Report SR-BDS-000983, Containing the recommended guidelines for the billing of Exchange Service access provided by two or more LECs and/or CLECs or by one LEC in two or more states within a single LATA.

**Non-Intercompany Settlement System (NICS)** is the BellCore system that calculates non-intercompany settlements amounts due from one company to another within the same RBOC region. It includes credit card, third number and collect messages.

**Percent of Interstate Usage (PIU)** is defined as a factor to be applied to terminating access services minutes of use to obtain those minutes that should be rated as interstate access services minutes of use. The numerator includes all interstate "non-intermediary" minutes of use, including interstate minutes of use that are forwarded due to service provider number portability less any interstate minutes of use for Terminating Party Pays services, such as 800 Services. The denominator includes all "non-intermediary", local, interstate, intrastate, toll and access minutes of use adjusted for service provider number portability less all minutes attributable to terminating Party pays services.

**Percent Local Usage (PLU)** is defined as a factor to be applied to intrastate terminating minutes of use. The numerator shall include all "non-intermediary" local minutes of use adjusted for those minutes of use that only apply local due to Service Provider Number Portability. The denominator is the total intrastate minutes of use including local, intrastate toll, and access, adjusted for Service Provider Number Portability less intrastate terminating Party pays minutes of use.

**Revenue Accounting Office (RAO) Status Company** is a local exchange company/alternate local exchange company that has been assigned a unique RAO

code. Message data exchanged among RAO status companies is grouped (i.e. packed) according to From/To/Bill RAO combinations.

**Service Control Points ("SCPs")** are defined as databases that store information and have the ability to manipulate data required to offer particular services.

**Signal Transfer Points ("STPs")** are signaling message switches that interconnect Signaling Links to route signaling messages between switches and databases. STPs enable the exchange of Signaling System 7 ("SS7") messages between switching elements, database elements and STPs. STPs provide access to various BellSouth and third party network elements such as local switching and databases.

**Signaling links** are dedicated transmission paths carrying signaling messages between carrier switches and signaling networks. Signal Link Transport is a set of two or four dedicated 56 kbps transmission paths between NATIONSLINK designated Signaling Points of Interconnection that provide a diverse transmission path and cross connect to a BellSouth Signal Transfer Point.

**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.).

**Attachment 1**

**Resale**

## RESALE

### 1 Discount Rates

The rates pursuant by which Nationslink is to purchase services from BellSouth for resale shall be at a discount rate off of the retail rate for the telecommunications service. The discount rates shall be as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. Such discount shall reflect the costs avoided by BellSouth when selling a service for wholesale purposes.

### 2 Definition of Terms

- 2.1 CUSTOMER OF RECORD means the entity responsible for placing application for service; requesting additions, rearrangements, maintenance or discontinuance of service; payment in full of charges incurred such as non-recurring, monthly recurring, toll, directory assistance, etc.
- 2.2 DEPOSIT means assurance provided by a customer in the form of cash, surety bond or bank letter of credit to be held by the Company.
- 2.3 END USER means the ultimate user of the telecommunications services.
- 2.4 END USER CUSTOMER LOCATION means the physical location of the premises where an end user makes use of the telecommunications services.
- 2.5 NEW SERVICES means functions, features or capabilities that are not currently offered by BellSouth. This includes packaging of existing services or combining a new function, feature or capability with an existing service.
- 2.6 OTHER/COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE COMPANY (OLEC/CLEC) means a telephone company certificated by the public service commissions of the Company's franchised area to provide local exchange service within the Company's franchised area.
- 2.7 RESALE means an activity wherein a certificated CLEC, such as Nationslink subscribes to the telecommunications services of the Company and then reoffers those telecommunications services to the public (with or without "adding value").
- 2.8 RESALE SERVICE AREA means the area, as defined in a public service commission approved certificate of operation, within which an CLEC, such as Nationslink, may offer resold local exchange telecommunications service.

### 3 General Provisions

- 3.1 Nationslink may resell the tariffed local exchange and toll telecommunications services of BellSouth contained in the General Subscriber Service Tariff and Private Line Service Tariff subject to the terms, and conditions specifically set forth herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the exclusions and limitations on services available for resale will be as set forth in Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

BellSouth shall make available telecommunications services for resale at the rates set forth in Exhibit A to this agreement and subject to the exclusions and limitations set forth in Exhibit B to this agreement. BellSouth does not however waive its rights to appeal or otherwise challenge any decision regarding resale that resulted in the discount rates contained in Exhibit A or the exclusions and limitations contained in Exhibit B. BellSouth reserves the right to pursue any and all legal and/or equitable remedies, including appeals of any decisions. If such appeals or challenges result in changes in the discount rates or exclusions and limitations, the parties agree that appropriate modifications to this Agreement will be made promptly to make its terms consistent with the outcome of the appeal.

- 3.2 Nationslink may purchase resale services from BellSouth for their own use in operating their business. The resale discount will apply to those services under the following conditions:
  - 3.2.1 Nationslink must resell services to other end users.
  - 3.2.2 Nationslink must order services through resale interfaces, i. e., the Local Carrier Service Center (LCSC) and/or appropriate Resale Account Teams pursuant to Section 3 of the General Terms and Conditions.
  - 3.2.3 Nationslink cannot be an alternative local exchange telecommunications company for the single purpose of selling to themselves.
- 3.3 The provision of services by the Company to Nationslink does not constitute a joint undertaking for the furnishing of any service.
- 3.4 Nationslink will be the customer of record for all services purchased from BellSouth. Except as specified herein, the Company will take orders from, bill and expect payment from Nationslink for all services.
- 3.5 Nationslink will be the Company's single point of contact for all services purchased pursuant to this Agreement. The Company shall have no contact with the end user except to the extent provided for herein.
- 3.6 The Company will continue to bill the end user for any services that the end user specifies it wishes to receive directly from the Company.
- 3.7 The Company maintains the right to serve directly any end user within the service area of Nationslink. The Company will continue to directly market its own telecommunications products and services and in doing so may establish independent relationships with end users of Nationslink.
- 3.8 Neither Party shall interfere with the right of any person or entity to obtain service directly from the other Party.
- 3.9 Current telephone numbers may normally be retained by the end user. However, telephone numbers are the property of the Company and are assigned to the service furnished. Nationslink has no property right to the telephone number or any other call number designation associated with services furnished by the Company, and no right to the continuance of service through any particular central office. The Company reserves the right to change such numbers, or the central office designation associated with such numbers, or both, whenever the Company deems it necessary to do so in the conduct of its business.
- 3.10 For the purpose of the resale of BellSouth's telecommunications services by Nationslink, BellSouth will provide Nationslink with an on line access to telephone numbers for reservation on



a first come first serve basis. Such reservations of telephone numbers, on a pre-ordering basis shall be for a period of nine (9) days. Nationslink acknowledges that there may be instances where there is a shortage of telephone numbers in a particular Common Language Location Identifier Code (CLLIC) and in such instances BellSouth may request that Nationslink cancel its reservations of numbers. Nationslink shall comply with such request.

Further, upon Nationslink's request, and for the purpose of the resale of BellSouth's telecommunications services by Nationslink, BellSouth will reserve up to 100 telephone numbers per CLLIC, for Nationslink's sole use. Such telephone number reservations shall be valid for ninety (90) days from the reservation date. Nationslink acknowledges that there may be instances where there is a shortage of telephone numbers in a particular CLLIC and in such instances BellSouth shall use its best efforts to reserve for a ninety (90) day period a sufficient quantity of Nationslink's reasonable need in that particular CLLIC.

- 3.11 The Company may provide any service or facility for which a charge is not established herein, as long as it is offered on the same terms to Nationslink.
- 3.12 Service is furnished subject to the condition that it will not be used for any unlawful purpose.
- 3.13 Service will be discontinued if any law enforcement agency advises that the service being used is in violation of the law.
- 3.14 The Company can refuse service when it has grounds to believe that service will be used in violation of the law.
- 3.15 The Company accepts no responsibility to any person for any unlawful act committed by Nationslink or its end users as part of providing service to Nationslink for purposes of resale or otherwise.
- 3.16 The Company will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies with subpoenas and court orders for assistance with the Company's customers. Law enforcement agency subpoenas and court orders regarding end users of Nationslink will be directed to Nationslink. The Company will bill Nationslink for implementing any requests by law enforcement agencies regarding Nationslink end users.
- 3.17 The characteristics and methods of operation of any circuits, facilities or equipment provided by any person or entity other than the Company shall not:
  - 3.17.1 Interfere with or impair service over any facilities of the Company, its affiliates, or its connecting and concurring carriers involved in its service;
  - 3.17.2 Cause damage to the Company's plant;
  - 3.17.3 Impair the privacy of any communications; or
  - 3.17.4 Create hazards to any BellSouth employees or the public.
- 3.18 Nationslink assumes the responsibility of notifying the Company regarding less than standard operations with respect to services provided by Nationslink.
- 3.19 Facilities and/or equipment utilized by BellSouth to provide service to Nationslink remain the property of BellSouth.

- 3.20 White page directory listings will be provided in accordance with regulations set forth in Section A6 of the General Subscriber Services Tariff and will be available for resale.
- 3.21 BellSouth provides electronic access to customer record information. Access is provided through the Local Exchange Navigation System (LENS) and the Telecommunications Access Gateway (TAG). Customer Record Information includes but is not limited to, customer specific information in CRIS and RSAG. Nationslink agrees not to view, copy, or otherwise obtain access to the customer record information of any customer without that customer's permission, and further agrees that Nationslink will obtain access to customer record information only in strict compliance with applicable laws, rules, or regulations of the State in which the service is provided.
- 3.22 All costs incurred by BellSouth to develop and implement operational interfaces shall be recovered from Nationslink who utilize the services. Charges for use of Operational Support Systems (OSS) shall be as set forth in Exhibit A of this attachment.
- 3.23 Where available to BellSouth's end users, BellSouth shall provide the following telecommunications services at a discount to allow for voice mail services:
- Station Message Desk Interface - Enhanced ("SMDI-E")
  - Station Message Desk Interface ("SMDI") Message Waiting Indicator ("MWI") stutter dialtone and message waiting light feature capabilities
  - Call Forward on Busy/Don't Answer ("CF-B/DA")
  - Call Forward on Busy ("CF/B")
  - Call Forward Don't Answer ("CF/DA")
- Further, BellSouth messaging services set forth in BellSouth's Messaging Service Information Package shall be made available for resale without the wholesale discount.
- 3.24 BellSouth's Inside Wire Maintenance Service Plans may be made available for resale at rates, terms and conditions as set forth by BellSouth and without the wholesale discount.
- 3.25 All costs incurred by BellSouth for providing services requested by Reseller that are not covered in the BellSouth tariffs shall be recovered from the Reseller(s) who utilize those services.
- 3.26 Recovery of charges associated with implementing Number Portability through a monthly charges assessed to end users has been authorized by the FCC. This end user line charge will be billed to Nationslinks of BellSouth's telecommunications services and will be as filed in FCC No. 1, Section 6. This charge will not be discounted.

**4 BellSouth's Provision of Services to Nationslink**

- 4.1 Nationslink agrees that its resale of BellSouth services shall be as follows:
- 4.1.1 The resale of telecommunications services shall be limited to users and uses conforming to the class of service restrictions.
- 4.1.2 To the extent Nationslink is a telecommunications carrier that serves greater than 5 percent of the Nation's presubscribed access lines, Nationslink shall not jointly market its interLATA services with the telecommunications services purchased from BellSouth

pursuant to this Agreement in any of the states covered under this Agreement. For the purposes of this subsection, to jointly market means any advertisement, marketing effort or billing in which the telecommunications services purchased from BellSouth for purposes of resale to customers and interLATA services offered by Nationslink are packaged, tied, bundled, discounted or offered together in any way to the end user. Such efforts include, but are not limited to, sales referrals, resale arrangements, sales agencies or billing agreements. This subsection shall be void and of no effect for a particular state covered under this Agreement as of February 8, 1999 or on the date BellSouth is authorized to offer interLATA services in that state, whichever is earlier.

- 4.1.3 Hotel and Hospital PBX services are the only telecommunications services available for resale to Hotel/Motel and Hospital end users, respectively. Similarly, Access Line Service for Customer Provided Coin Telephones is the only local service available for resale to Independent Payphone Provider (IPP) customers. Shared Tenant Service customers can only be sold those local exchange access services available in the Company's A23 Shared Tenant Service Tariff in the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, and in A27 in the states of Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.
- 4.1.4 Nationslink is prohibited from furnishing both flat and measured rate service on the same business premises to the same subscribers (end users) as stated in A2 of the Company's Tariff except for backup service as indicated in the applicable state tariff Section A3.
- 4.1.5 If telephone service is established and it is subsequently determined that the class of service restriction has been violated, Nationslink will be notified and billing for that service will be immediately changed to the appropriate class of service. Service charges for changes between class of service, back billing, and interest as described in this subsection shall apply at the Company's sole discretion. Interest at a rate as set forth in Section A2 of the General Subscriber Service Tariff and Section B2 of the Private Line Service Tariff for the applicable state, compounded daily for the number of days from the back billing date up to and including the date that Nationslink actually makes the payment to the Company may be assessed.
- 4.1.6 The Company reserves the right to periodically audit services purchased by Nationslink to establish authenticity of use. Such audit shall not occur more than once in a calendar year. Nationslink shall make any and all records and data available to the Company or the Company's auditors on a reasonable basis. The Company shall bear the cost of said audit.
- 4.2 Resold services can only be used in the same manner as specified in the Company's Tariffs. Resold services are subject to the same terms and conditions as are specified for such services when furnished to an individual end user of the Company in the appropriate section of the Company's Tariffs. Specific tariff features, e.g. a usage allowance per month, shall not be aggregated across multiple resold services. Resold services cannot be used to aggregate traffic from more than one end user customer except as specified in Section A23 in the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, and in A27 in the states of Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee of the Company's Tariff referring to Shared Tenant Service.
- 4.3 Nationslink may resell services only within the specific resale service area as defined in its certificate.
- 4.4 Telephone numbers transmitted via any resold service feature are intended solely for the use of the end user of the feature. Resale of this information is prohibited.

**5 Maintenance of Services**

- 5.1 Nationslink will adopt and adhere to the standards contained in the applicable CLEC Work Center Procedures Agreement regarding maintenance and installation of service.
- 5.2 Services resold under the Company's Tariffs and facilities and equipment provided by the Company shall be maintained by the Company.
- 5.3 Nationslink or its end users may not rearrange, move, disconnect, remove or attempt to repair any facilities owned by the Company, other than by connection or disconnection to any interface means used, except with the written consent of the Company.
- 5.4 Nationslink accepts responsibility to notify the Company of situations that arise that may result in a service problem.
- 5.5 Nationslink will be the Company's single point of contact for all repair calls on behalf of Nationslink's end users. The parties agree to provide one another with toll-free contact numbers for such purposes.
- 5.6 Nationslink will contact the appropriate repair centers in accordance with procedures established by the Company.
- 5.7 For all repair requests, Nationslink accepts responsibility for adhering to the Company's prescreening guidelines prior to referring the trouble to the Company.
- 5.8 The Company will bill Nationslink for handling troubles that are found not to be in the Company's network pursuant to its standard time and material charges. The standard time and material charges will be no more than what BellSouth charges to its retail customers for the same services.
- 5.9 The Company reserves the right to contact Nationslink's customers, if deemed necessary, for maintenance purposes.

**6 Establishment of Service**

- 6.1 After receiving certification as a local exchange company from the appropriate regulatory agency, Nationslink will provide the appropriate Company service center the necessary documentation to enable the Company to establish a master account for Nationslink. Such documentation shall include the Application for Master Account, proof of authority to provide telecommunications services, an Operating Company Number ("OCN") assigned by the National Exchange Carriers Association ("NECA") and a tax exemption certificate, if applicable. When necessary deposit requirements are met, the Company will begin taking orders for the resale of service.
- 6.2 Service orders will be in a standard format designated by the Company.
- 6.3 When notification is received from Nationslink that a current customer of the Company will subscribe to Nationslink's service, standard service order intervals for the appropriate class of service will apply.
- 6.4 The Company will not require end user confirmation prior to establishing service for Nationslink's end user customer. Nationslink must, however, be able to demonstrate end user authorization upon request.

- 6.5 Nationslink will be the single point of contact with the Company for all subsequent ordering activity resulting in additions or changes to resold services except that the Company will accept a request directly from the end user for conversion of the end user's service from Nationslink to the Company or will accept a request from another CLEC for conversion of the end user's service from Nationslink to the other LEC. The Company will notify Nationslink that such a request has been processed.
- 6.6 If the Company determines that an unauthorized change in local service to Nationslink has occurred, the Company will reestablish service with the appropriate local service provider and will assess Nationslink as the CLEC initiating the unauthorized change, the unauthorized change charge described in F.C.C. Tariff No. 1, Section 13 or applicable state tariff. Appropriate nonrecurring charges, as set forth in Section A4. of the General Subscriber Service Tariff, will also be assessed to Nationslink. These charges can be adjusted if Nationslink provides satisfactory proof of authorization.
- 6.7 In order to safeguard its interest, the Company reserves the right to secure the account with a suitable form of security deposit, unless satisfactory credit has already been established.
- 6.7.1 Such security deposit shall take the form of an irrevocable *Letter of Credit* or other forms of security acceptable to the Company. Any such security deposit may be held during the continuance of the service as security for the payment of any and all amounts accruing for the service.
- 6.7.2 If a security deposit is required, such security deposit shall be made prior to the inauguration of service.
- 6.7.3 Such security deposit may not exceed two months' estimated billing.
- 6.7.4 The fact that a security deposit has been made in no way relieves Nationslink from complying with the Company's regulations as to advance payments and the prompt payment of bills on presentation nor does it constitute a waiver or modification of the regular practices of the Company providing for the discontinuance of service for non-payment of any sums due the Company.
- 6.7.5 The Company reserves the right to increase the security deposit requirements when, in its sole judgment, circumstances so warrant and/or gross monthly billing has increased beyond the level initially used to determine the security deposit.
- 6.7.6 In the event that Nationslink defaults on its account, service to Nationslink will be terminated and any security deposits held will be applied to its account.
- 6.7.7 Interest on a security deposit shall accrue and be refunded in accordance with the terms in the appropriate BellSouth tariff.

**7 Payment And Billing Arrangements**

- 7.1 Prior to submitting orders to the Company for local service, a master account must be established for Nationslink. The Nationslink is required to provide the following before a master account is established: proof of PSC/PUC certification, the Application for Master Account, an Operating Company Number ("OCN") assigned by the National Exchange Carriers Association ("NECA") and a tax exemption certificate, if applicable.
- 7.2 The Company shall bill Nationslink on a current basis all applicable charges and credits.

- 7.3 Payment of all charges will be the responsibility of Nationslink. Nationslink shall make payment to the Company for all services billed. The Company is not responsible for payments not received by Nationslink from Nationslink's customer. The Company will not become involved in billing disputes that may arise between Nationslink and its customer. Payments made to the Company as payment on account will be credited to an accounts receivable master account and not to an end user's account.
- 7.4 The Company will render bills each month on established bill days for each of Nationslink's accounts.
- 7.5 The Company will bill Nationslink, in advance charges for all services to be provided during the ensuing billing period except charges associated with service usage, which charges will be billed in arrears. Charges will be calculated on an individual end user account level, including, if applicable, any charge for usage or usage allowances. BellSouth will also bill all charges including but not limited to 911 and E911 charges, telecommunications relay charges, and franchise fees, to Nationslink.
- 7.6 The payment will be due by the next bill date (i.e., same date in the following month as the bill date) and is payable in immediately available funds. Payment is considered to have been made when received by the Company.
- 7.6.1 If the payment due date falls on a Sunday or on a Holiday which is observed on a Monday, the payment due date shall be the first non-Holiday day following such Sunday or Holiday. If the payment due date falls on a Saturday or on a Holiday which is observed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, the payment due date shall be the last non-Holiday day preceding such Saturday or Holiday. If payment is not received by the payment due date, a late payment penalty, as set forth in I. following, shall apply.
- 7.6.2 If Nationslink requests multiple billing media or additional copies of bills, the Company will provide these at an appropriate charge to NATIONSLINK.
- 7.6.3 Billing Disputes
- 7.6.3.1 Each Party agrees to notify the other Party 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 Bill Date on which such disputed charges appear. Resolution of the dispute is expected to occur at the first level of management resulting in a recommendation for settlement of the dispute and closure of a specific billing period. If the issues are not resolved within the allotted time frame, the following resolution procedure will begin:
- 7.6.3.2 If the dispute is not resolved within sixty (60) days of the Bill Date, the dispute will be escalated to the second level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution. If the dispute is not resolved within ninety (90) days of the Bill Date, the dispute will be escalated to the third level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution
- 7.6.3.3 If the dispute is not resolved within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the Bill Date, the dispute will be escalated to the fourth level of management for each of the respective Parties for resolution.
- 7.6.3.4 If a Party disputes a charge and does not pay such charge by the payment due date, such charges shall be subject to late payment charges as set forth in the

Late Payment Charges provision of this Attachment. If a Party disputes charges and the dispute is resolved in favor of such Party, the other Party shall credit the bill of the disputing Party for the amount of the disputed charges along with any late payment charges assessed no later than the second Bill Date after the resolution of the dispute. Accordingly, if a Party disputes charges and the dispute is resolved in favor of the other Party, the disputing Party shall pay the other Party the amount of the disputed charges and any associated late payment charges assessed no later than the second bill payment due date after the resolution of the dispute. BellSouth shall only assess interest on previously assessed late payment charges in a state where it has authority pursuant to its tariffs.

- 7.7 Upon proof of tax exempt certification from Nationslink, the total amount billed to Nationslink will not include any taxes due from the end user to reflect the tax exempt certification and local tax laws. Nationslink will be solely responsible for the computation, tracking, reporting, and payment of taxes applicable to Nationslink's end user.
- 7.8 If any portion of the payment is received by the Company after the payment due date as set forth preceding, or if any portion of the payment is received by the Company in funds that are not immediately available to the Company, then a late payment penalty shall be due to the Company. The late payment penalty shall be the portion of the payment not received by the payment due date times a late factor. The late factor shall be as set forth in Section A2 of the General Subscriber Services Tariff and Section B2 of the Private Line Service Tariff.
- 7.9 Any switched access charges associated with interexchange carrier access to the resold local exchange lines will be billed by, and due to, the Company. No additional charges are to be assessed to Nationslink
- 7.10 The Company will not perform billing and collection services for Nationslink as a result of the execution of this Agreement. All requests for billing services should be referred to the appropriate entity or operational group within the Company.
- 7.11 Pursuant to 47 CFR Section 51.617, the Company will bill Nationslink end user common line charges identical to the end user common line charges the Company bills its end users.
- 7.12 In general, the Company will not become involved in disputes between Nationslink and Nationslink's end user customers over resold services. If a dispute does arise that cannot be settled without the involvement of the Company, Nationslink shall contact the designated Service Center for resolution. The Company will make every effort to assist in the resolution of the dispute and will work with Nationslink to resolve the matter in as timely a manner as possible. Nationslink may be required to submit documentation to substantiate the claim.

## 8 Discontinuance of Service

- 8.1 The procedures for discontinuing service to an end user are as follows:
- 8.1.1 Where possible, the Company will deny service to Nationslink's end user on behalf of, and at the request of, Nationslink. Upon restoration of the end user's service, restoral charges will apply and will be the responsibility of Nationslink.
- 8.1.2 At the request of Nationslink, the Company will disconnect a Nationslink end user customer.

- 8.1.3 All requests by Nationslink for denial or disconnection of an end user for nonpayment must be in writing.
  - 8.1.4 Nationslink will be made solely responsible for notifying the end user of the proposed disconnection of the service.
  - 8.1.5 The Company will continue to process calls made to the Annoyance Call Center and will advise Nationslink when it is determined that annoyance calls are originated from one of their end user's locations. The Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by Nationslink and/or the end user against any claim, loss or damage arising from providing this information to Nationslink. It is the responsibility of Nationslink to take the corrective action necessary with its customers who make annoying calls. Failure to do so will result in the Company's disconnecting the end user's service.
  - 8.1.6 BellSouth may disconnect and reuse facilities when the facility is in a denied state and BellSouth has received an order to establish new service or transfer of service from a customer or a customer's CLEC at the same address served by the denied facility.
- 8.2 The procedures for discontinuing service to Nationslink are as follows:
- 8.2.1 The Company reserves the right to suspend or terminate service for nonpayment or in the event of prohibited, unlawful or improper use of the facilities or service, abuse of the facilities, or any other violation or noncompliance by Nationslink of the rules and regulations of the Company's Tariffs.
  - 8.2.2 If payment of account is not received by the bill day in the month after the original bill day, BellSouth may provide written notice to Nationslink, that additional applications for service will be refused and that any pending orders for service will not be completed if payment is not received by the fifteenth day following the date of the notice. In addition BellSouth may, at the same time, give thirty days notice to the person designated by Nationslink to receive notices of noncompliance, and discontinue the provision of existing services to Nationslink at any time thereafter.
  - 8.2.3 In the case of such discontinuance, all billed charges, as well as applicable termination charges, shall become due.
  - 8.2.4 If BellSouth does not discontinue the provision of the services involved on the date specified in the thirty days notice and Nationslink's noncompliance continues, nothing contained herein shall preclude BellSouth's right to discontinue the provision of the services to Nationslink without further notice.
  - 8.2.5 If payment is not received or arrangements made for payment by the date given in the written notification, Nationslink's services will be discontinued. Upon discontinuance of service on a Nationslink's account, service to Nationslink's end users will be denied. The Company will also reestablish service at the request of the end user or Nationslink upon payment of the appropriate connection fee and subject to the Company's normal application procedures. Nationslink is solely responsible for notifying the end user of the proposed disconnection of the service.
  - 8.2.6 If within fifteen days after an end user's service has been denied no contact has been made in reference to restoring service, the end user's service will be disconnected.



**APPLICABLE DISCOUNTS**

The telecommunications services available for purchase by Nationslink for the purposes of resale to Nationslink end users shall be available at the following discount off of the retail rate.

<b>STATE</b>	<b>DISCOUNT*</b>	
	<b>RESIDENCE</b>	<b>BUSINESS</b>
ALABAMA	16.3%	16.3%
FLORIDA	21.83%	16.81%
GEORGIA	20.3%	17.3%
KENTUCKY	16.79%	15.54%
LOUISIANA	20.72%	20.72%
MISSISSIPPI	15.75%	15.75%
NORTH CAROLINA	21.5%	17.6%
SOUTH CAROLINA	14.8%	14.8%
TENNESSEE**	16%	16%

- When a CLEC provides Resale service in a cross boundary area (areas that are part of the local serving area of another state's exchange) the rates, regulations and discounts for the tariffing state will apply. Billing will be from the serving state.

\*\* In Tennessee, if CLEC provides its own operator services and directory services, the discount shall be 21.56%. CLEC must provide written notification to BellSouth within 30 days prior to providing its own operator services and directory services to qualify for the higher discount rate of 21.56%.

**OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS (OSS RATES)**

	<b>Electronic</b> Per LSR received from the CLEC by one of the OSS interactive interfaces	<b>Manual</b> Per LSR received from the CLEC by means other than one of the OSS interactive interfaces
<b>OSS Order Charge</b>	\$7.45	\$19.99

In addition to the OSS charges, applicable discounted service order and related discounted charges apply per the tariff.

Type of Service	AL		FL		GA		KY		LA	
	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?
1 Grandfathered Services (Note 1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 Contract Service Arrangements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3 Promotions - > 90 Days(Note 2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 Promotions - < 90 Days (Note 2)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
5 Lifeline/Link Up Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Note 4	Note 4	Yes	Yes
6 911/E911 Services (See Note7)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
7 N11 Services (See Note 7)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
8 AdWatch <sup>SM</sup> Svc (See Note 6)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
9 MemoryCall <sup>®</sup> Service	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
10 Mobile Services	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
11 Federal Subscriber Line Chrges	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
12 Non-Recurring Charges	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13 End User Line Charge – Number Porability	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Type of Service	MS		NC		SC		TN	
	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?	Resale?	Discount?
1 Grandfathered Services (Note 1)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 Contract Service Arrangements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
3 Promotions - > 90 Days(Note 2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Note 3
4 Promotions - < 90 Days (Note 2)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
5 Lifeline/Link Up Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Note 4
6 911/E911 Services (See Note7)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
7 N11 Services (See Note 7)	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8 AdWatch <sup>SM</sup> Svc (See Note 6)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
9 MemoryCall <sup>®</sup> Service	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
10 Mobile Services	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
11 Federal Subscriber Line Chrges	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
12 Non-Recurring Charges	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
13 End User Line Charge – Number Portability	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

**Applicable Notes:**

- 1 **Grandfathered services** can be resold only to existing subscribers of the grandfathered service.
- 2 Where available for resale, **promotions** will be made available only to end users who would have qualified for the promotion had it been provided by BellSouth directly.
- 3 In Tennessee, long-term **promotions** (offered for more than ninety (90) days) may be obtained at one of the following rates:
  - (a) the stated tariff rate, less the wholesale discount;
  - (b) the promotional rate (the promotional rate offered by BellSouth will not be discounted further by the wholesale discount rate)

4. **Lifeline/Link Up** services may be offered only to those subscribers who meet the criteria that BellSouth currently applies to subscribers of these services. In Kentucky, the Nationslink is responsible for funding its own Lifeline and Link Up benefit. In Tennessee, Nationslink shall purchase BellSouth's Message Rate Service at the stated tariff rate, less the wholesale discount. Nationslink must further discount the wholesale Message Rate Service to Lifeline customers with a discount which is no less than the minimum discount that BellSouth now provides. Nationslink is responsible for recovering the Subscriber Line Charge from the National Exchange Carriers Association interstate toll settlement pool just as BellSouth does today. The maximum rate that Nationslink may charge for Lifeline Service shall be capped at the flat retail rate offered by BellSouth.
- 5 Some of BellSouth's local exchange and toll telecommunications services are not available in certain central offices and areas.
- 6 AdWatch<sup>SM</sup> Service is tariffed as BellSouth<sup>®</sup> AIN Virtual Number Call Detail Service.
- 7 Exclusions for N11/911/E911 are also applicable to equipment associated with the service.

**LINE INFORMATION DATA BASE (LIDB)  
STORAGE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement, effective as of January 29, 1999, is entered into by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BST"), a Georgia corporation, and Nationslink Communications, Inc. ("Local Exchange Company"), a Georgia corporation, and their fully authorized officers.

WHEREAS, in consideration of the mutual covenants, agreements and obligations set forth below, the parties hereby agree as follows:

**I. SCOPE**

A. This Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions pursuant to which BST agrees to store in its LIDB certain information at the request of the Local Exchange Company and pursuant to which BST, its LIDB customers and Local Exchange Carrier shall have access to such information. Local Exchange Carrier understands that BST provides access to information in its LIDB to various telecommunications service providers pursuant to applicable tariffs and agrees that information stored at the request of Local Exchange Carrier, pursuant to this Agreement, shall be available to those telecommunications service providers. The terms and conditions contained in the attached Addendum No. 1 are hereby made a part of this Agreement as if fully incorporated herein.

B. LIDB is accessed for the following purposes:

1. Billed Number Screening
2. Calling Card Validation
3. Fraud Control

C. BST will provide seven days per week, 24-hours per day, fraud control and detection services. These services include, but are not limited to, such features as sorting Calling Card Fraud detection according to domestic or international calls in order to assist the pinpointing of possible theft or fraudulent use of Calling Card numbers; monitoring bill-to-third number and collect calls made to numbers in BST's LIDB, provided such information is included in the LIDB query, and establishing Account Specific Thresholds, at BST's sole discretion, when necessary. Local Exchange Company understands and agrees BST will administer all data stored in the LIDB, including the data provided by Local Exchange Company pursuant to this Agreement, in the same manner as BST's data for BST's end user customers. BST shall not be responsible to Local Exchange Company for any lost revenue which may result from BST's administration of the LIDB pursuant to its established practices and procedures as they exist and as they may be changed by BST in its sole discretion from time to time.

Local Exchange Company understands that BST currently has in effect numerous billing and collection agreements with various interexchange carriers and billing clearing houses. Local Exchange Company further understands that these billing and collection customers of BST query BST's LIDB to determine whether to accept various billing options from end users.

Additionally, Local Exchange Company understands that presently BST has no method to differentiate between BST's own billing and line data in the LIDB and such data which it includes in the LIDB on Local Exchange Company's behalf pursuant to this Agreement.

Therefore, until such time as BST can and does implement in its LIDB and its supporting systems the means to differentiate Local Exchange Company's data from BST's data and the parties to this Agreement execute appropriate amendments hereto, the following terms and conditions shall apply:

(a) The Local Exchange Company agrees that it will accept responsibility for telecommunications services billed by BST for its billing and collection customers for Local Exchange Customer's end user accounts which are resident in LIDB pursuant to this Agreement. Local Exchange Company authorizes BST to place such charges on Local Exchange Company's bill from BST and agrees that it shall pay all such charges. Charges for which Local Exchange Company hereby takes responsibility include, but are not limited to, collect and third number calls.

(b) Charges for such services shall appear on a separate BST bill page identified with the name of the entity for which BST is billing the charge.

(c) Local Exchange Company shall have the responsibility to render a billing statement to its end users for these charges, but Local Exchange Company's obligation to pay BST for the charges billed shall be independent of whether Local Exchange Company is able or not to collect from the Local Exchange Company's end users.

(d) BST shall not become involved in any disputes between Local Exchange Company and the entities for which BST performs billing and collection. BellSouth will not issue adjustments for charges billed on behalf of an entity to Local Exchange Company. It shall be the responsibility of the Local Exchange Company and the other entity to negotiate and arrange for any appropriate adjustments.

## **II. TERM**

This Agreement will be effective as of January 29, 1999, and will continue in effect for one year, and thereafter may be continued until terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party.

## **III. FEES FOR SERVICE AND TAXES**

A. The Local Exchange Company will not be charged a fee for storage services provided by BST to the Local Exchange Company, as described in Section I of this Agreement.

B. Sales, use and all other taxes (excluding taxes on BST's income) determined by BST or any taxing authority to be due to any federal, state or local taxing jurisdiction with respect to the provision of the service set forth herein will be paid by the Local Exchange Company. The Local Exchange Company shall have the right to have BST contest with the imposing jurisdiction, at the Local Exchange Company's expense, any such taxes that the Local Exchange Company deems are improperly levied.

## **IV. INDEMNIFICATION**

To the extent not prohibited by law, each party will indemnify the other and hold the other harmless against any loss, cost, claim, injury, or liability relating to or arising out of negligence or willful misconduct by the indemnifying party or its agents or contractors in connection with the indemnifying party's provision of services, provided, however, that any indemnity for any loss, cost, claim, injury or liability arising out of or relating to errors or omissions in the provision of services under this Agreement shall be limited as otherwise specified in this Agreement. The indemnifying party under this Section agrees to defend any suit brought against the other party for any such loss, cost, claim, injury or liability. The indemnified

party agrees to notify the other party promptly, in writing, of any written claims, lawsuits, or demands for which the other party is responsible under this Section and to cooperate in every reasonable way to facilitate defense or settlement of claims. The indemnifying party shall not be liable under this Section for settlement by the indemnified party of any claim, lawsuit, or demand unless the defense of the claim, lawsuit, or demand has been tendered to it in writing and the indemnifying party has unreasonably failed to assume such defense.

#### **V. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

Neither party shall be liable to the other party for any lost profits or revenues or for any indirect, incidental or consequential damages incurred by the other party arising from this Agreement or the services performed or not performed hereunder, regardless of the cause of such loss or damage.

#### **VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

A. It is understood and agreed to by the parties that BST may provide similar services to other companies.

B. All terms, conditions and operations under this Agreement shall be performed in accordance with, and subject to, all applicable local, state or federal legal and regulatory tariffs, rulings, and other requirements of the federal courts, the U. S. Department of Justice and state and federal regulatory agencies. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to cause either party to violate any such legal or regulatory requirement and either party's obligation to perform shall be subject to all such requirements.

C. The Local Exchange Company agrees to submit to BST all advertising, sales promotion, press releases, and other publicity matters relating to this Agreement wherein BST's corporate or trade names, logos, trademarks or service marks or those of BST's affiliated



companies are mentioned or language from which the connection of said names or trademarks therewith may be inferred or implied; and the Local Exchange Company further agrees not to publish or use advertising, sales promotions, press releases, or publicity matters without BST's prior written approval.

D. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Local Exchange Company and BST which supersedes all prior agreements or contracts, oral or written representations, statements, negotiations, understandings, proposals and undertakings with respect to the subject matter hereof.

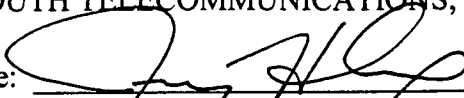
E. Except as expressly provided in this Agreement, if any part of this Agreement is held or construed to be invalid or unenforceable, the validity of any other Section of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect to the extent permissible or appropriate in furtherance of the intent of this Agreement.

F. Neither party shall be held liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement for any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence, such as acts of God, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, war, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, strikes, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions, inability to secure products or services of other persons or transportation facilities, or acts or omissions of transportation common carriers.

G. This Agreement shall be deemed to be a contract made under the laws of the State of Georgia, and the construction, interpretation and performance of this Agreement and all transactions hereunder shall be governed by the domestic law of such State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their fully authorized officers.

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Signature: 

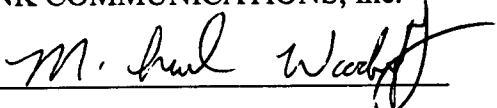
Printed Name: Jerry Hendrix

Title: Director

Date: 2/4/99

Address: 675 West Peachtree St., N.E.  
Room 34S91  
Atlanta, GA 30375

NATIONSLINK COMMUNICATIONS, Inc.

Signature: 

Printed Name: Michael Woodruff

Title: President

Date: 1/27/99

Address: 3804 Sedgefield Drive  
Valdosta, GA 31605

*(Resale)*

**ADDENDUM NO. 1  
TO LINE INFORMATION DATA BASE (LIDB)  
STORAGE AGREEMENT**

This Addendum No. 1 to the Line Information Data Base Storage Agreement dated January 29, 1999, between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BST"), and Nationslink Communications, Inc. ("Local Exchange Company"), effective the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 1999.

**I. GENERAL**

This Addendum sets forth the terms and conditions for Local Exchange Company's provision of billing number information to BST for inclusion in BST's LIDB. BST will store in its LIDB the billing number information provided by Local Exchange Company, and BST will provide responses to on-line, call-by-call queries to this information for purposes specified in Section I.B. of the Agreement.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

A. Billing number - a number used by BST for the purpose of identifying an account liable for charges. This number may be a line or a special billing number.

B. Line number - a ten digit number assigned by BST that identifies a telephone line associated with a resold local exchange service, or with a SPNP arrangement.

C. Special billing number - a ten digit number that identifies a billing account established by BST in connection with a resold local exchange service or with a SPNP arrangement.

D. Calling Card number - a billing number plus PIN number assigned by BST.

E. PIN number - a four digit security code assigned by BST which is added to a billing number to compose a fourteen digit calling card number.

F. Toll billing exception indicator - associated with a billing number to indicate that it is considered invalid for billing of collect calls or third number calls or both, by the Local Exchange Company.

G. Billed Number Screening - refers to the activity of determining whether a toll billing exception indicator is present for a particular billing number.

H. Calling Card Validation - refers to the activity of determining whether a particular calling card number exists as stated or otherwise provided by a caller.

I. Billing number information - information about billing number or Calling Card number as assigned by BST and toll billing exception indicator provided to BST by the Local Exchange Company.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES**

A. BST will include billing number information associated with resold exchange lines or SPNP arrangements in its LIDB. The Local Exchange Company will request any toll billing exceptions via the Local Service Request (LSR) form used to order resold exchange lines, or the SPNP service request form used to order SPNP arrangements.

B. Under normal operating conditions, BST shall include the billing number information in its LIDB upon completion of the service order establishing either the resold local exchange service or the SPNP arrangement, provided that BST shall not be held responsible for any delay or failure in performance to the extent such delay or failure is caused by circumstances or conditions beyond BST's reasonable control. BST will store in its LIDB an unlimited volume

of the working telephone numbers associated with either the resold local exchange lines or the SPNP arrangements. For resold local exchange lines or for SPNP arrangements, BST will issue line-based calling cards only in the name of Local Exchange Company. BST will not issue line-based calling cards in the name of Local Exchange Company's individual end users. In the event that Local Exchange Company wants to include calling card numbers assigned by the Local Exchange Company in the BST LIDB, a separate agreement is required.

C. BST will provide responses to on-line, call-by-call queries to the stored information for the specific purposes listed in the next paragraph.

D. BST is authorized to use the billing number information to perform the following functions for authorized users on an on-line basis:

1. Validate a 14 digit Calling Card number where the first 10 digits are a line number or special billing number assigned by BST, and where the last four digits (PIN) are a security code assigned by BST.

2. Determine whether the Local Exchange Company has identified the billing number as one which should not be billed for collect or third number calls, or both.

**IV. COMPLIANCE**

Unless expressly authorized in writing by the Local Exchange Company, all billing number information provided pursuant to this Addendum shall be used for no purposes other than those set forth in this Addendum.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Addendum to be executed by their fully authorized officers.

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Signature: 

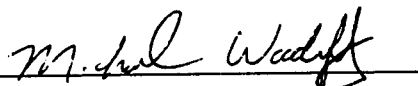
Printed Name: Jerry Hendrix

Title: Director

Date: 2/4/99

Address: 675 West Peachtree St., N.E.  
Room 34S91  
Atlanta, GA 30375

NATIONSLINK COMMUNICATIONS, Inc.

Signature: 

Printed Name: Michael Woodruff

Title: President

Date: 1/27/99

Address: 3804 Sedgefield Drive  
Valdosta, GA 31605

# Optional Daily Usage File Agreement

## SECTION 1. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

- 1.01 This agreement shall apply to the service of the Optional Daily Usage File (ODUF) as provided by BellSouth to Reseller, ("NATIONSLINK"). The specifications, terms and conditions for the provisions of this service are outlined in the Exhibit A to this Agreement.

## SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

### 2.01

- A. Compensation is the amount of money due from NATIONSLINK to BellSouth for services provided under this Agreement.
- B. Optional Daily Usage File (ODUF) is the compilation of messages or copies of messages in standard Exchange Message Interface (EMI) format exchanged from BellSouth to NATIONSLINK.
- C. Exchange Message Interface is the nationally administered standard format for the exchange of data within the telecommunications industry.
- D. Message Distribution is routing determination and subsequent delivery of message data from one company to another.

## SECTION 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

- 3.01 ODUF service provided to NATIONSLINK by BellSouth will be in accordance with the methods and practices regularly adopted and applied by BellSouth to its own operations during the term of this agreement, including such revisions as may be made from time to time by BellSouth.
- 3.02 NATIONSLINK shall furnish all relevant information required by BellSouth for the provision of the Optional Daily Usage File.

## SECTION 4. COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.01 Applicable compensation amounts will be billed by BellSouth to NATIONSLINK on a monthly basis in arrears. Amounts due from NATIONSLINK to BellSouth (excluding adjustments) are payable within 30 days of the date of the billing statement.

## SECTION 5. ASSOCIATED EXHIBIT

5.01 Listed below is the exhibit associated with this Agreement, incorporated herein by this reference.

Exhibit A      Optional Daily Usage File (ODUF)

5.02 From time to time by written agreement of the parties, new exhibits may be substituted for the attached Exhibit A, superseding and canceling the Exhibit(s) then in effect.

## SECTION 6. TERM OF AGREEMENT

6.01 This Agreement and its attachment(s) are effective August 24, 1998 and will continue in force until terminated, with or without cause, by thirty (30) days prior notice in writing from either party to the other. This Agreement may be amended from time to time upon written agreement of the parties.

## SECTION 7. NOTICES

7.01 Any notices required by or concerning this Agreement shall be sent via facsimile and overnight courier to the Parties at the addresses shown below:

Nationslink Communications, Inc.  
3804 Sedgefield Drive  
Valdosta, GA 31605  
Mr. Michael Woodruff

CLEC Account Manager  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
600 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

7.02 Each Party shall inform the other of any changes in the above addresses.



Executed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1999.

WITNESS:

Raymond L. Woodruff

WITNESS:

D. L. Hill

NATIONSLINK COMMUNICATIONS

Michael Woodruff  
(Title) *President*

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC

Jerry Hendrix  
(Title) Director - Jerry Hendrix

## Exhibit A Optional Daily Usage File

### 1. Scope of the Exhibit

- 1.1 Upon written request from NATIONSLINK, BellSouth will provide the Optional Daily Usage File service to NATIONSLINK pursuant to the rates, terms and conditions set forth in this exhibit.

### 2. General Information

- 2.1 NATIONSLINK shall furnish all relevant information required by BellSouth for the provision of the Optional Daily Usage File.
- 2.2 The Optional Daily Usage File will contain billable messages, that were carried over the BellSouth Network and processed in the CRIS Billing System, but billing to a NATIONSLINK customer. The Optional Daily Usage Feed also includes operator handled calls originating from NATIONSLINK subscriber lines and purchasing Operator Services from BellSouth. Charges for delivery of the Optional Daily Usage File will appear on NATIONSLINK's monthly bills. Charges for the ODUF will be as follows:

	ODUF Recording - Per Message (unbundled Op. Serv. msgs only)	ODUF Message Processing - Per Message	ODUF Magnetic Tape Distribution, Per Tape	ODUF CONNECT Direct Distribution Per Message
Alabama	\$0.008	\$0.004	\$54.95	\$0.001
Florida	\$0.008	\$0.004	\$54.95	\$0.001
Georgia	\$0.008	\$0.004	\$54.95	\$0.001
Kentucky*	\$0.0008611	\$0.0032357	\$55.68	\$0.0000365
Louisiana*	\$0.00019	\$0.00240	\$47.30	\$0.00003
Mississippi	\$0.008	\$0.004	\$54.95	\$0.001
N. Carolina	\$0.008	\$0.004	\$54.95	\$0.001
S. Carolina	\$0.008	\$0.004	\$54.95	\$0.001
Tennessee	\$0.008	\$0.004	\$54.95	\$0.001

\* Rates ordered by the respective state Commissions.

- 2.3 All messages provided with the Optional Daily Usage File will be in the standard Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Standards (ATIS) EMI record format.

- 2.4 Messages that error in the billing system of NATIONSLINK will be the responsibility of NATIONSLINK. If, however, NATIONSLINK should encounter significant volumes of errored messages that prevent processing by NATIONSLINK within its systems, BellSouth will work with NATIONSLINK to determine the source of the errors and the appropriate resolution.

### **3. Usage to Be Transmitted**

- 3.1 The following messages recorded by BellSouth will be transmitted to NATIONSLINK:

- message recording for per use/per activation type services (examples: Three Way Calling, Verify, Interrupt, Call Return, ETC.)
- measured billable Local
- Directory Assistance messages
- IntraLata Toll
- WATS & 800 Service

- 3.2 Rated Incollects (originated in BellSouth and from other companies) can also be on ODUF. Rated Incollects will be intermingled with BellSouth recorded rated and unrated usage. Rated Incollects will not be packed separately.

- 3.3 BellSouth will perform duplicate record checks on records processed to the Optional Daily Usage File. Any duplicate messages detected will be dropped and not sent to NATIONSLINK.

- 3.4 In the event that NATIONSLINK detects a duplicate on the Optional Daily Usage File they receive from BellSouth, NATIONSLINK will drop the duplicate message (CLEC will not return the duplicate to BellSouth).

### **4. File Characteristics and Transmission Method**

- 4.1 The Optional Daily Usage Feed will be distributed to NATIONSLINK via an agreed upon medium. The preferred transport method is CONNECT:Direct although Magnetic Tape is a substitutable option. The Daily Usage File will be a variable block format (2476) with a LRECL of 2472. The data on the Daily Usage File will be in a non-compacted EMI format (175 byte format plus modules). It will be created on a daily basis (Monday – Friday except holidays).

Details such as dataset name and delivery schedule will be addressed during negotiations of the distribution medium.

- 4.2 Data circuits (private line or dial-up) may be required between BellSouth and NATIONSLINK for the purpose of data transmission. Where a dedicated line is required, NATIONSLINK will be responsible for ordering the circuit, overseeing its installation and coordinating the installation with BellSouth. NATIONSLINK will also be responsible for any charges associated with this line. Equipment required on the BellSouth end to attach the line to the mainframe computer and to transmit successfully ongoing will be negotiated on a case by case basis. Where a dial-up facility is required, dial circuits will be installed in the BellSouth data center by BellSouth and the associated charges assessed to NATIONSLINK. Additionally, all message toll charges associated with the use of the dial circuit by NATIONSLINK will be the responsibility of NATIONSLINK. Associated equipment on the BellSouth end, including a modem, will be negotiated on a case by case basis between the parties. All equipment, including modems and software, that is required on NATIONSLINK end for the purpose of data transmission will be the responsibility of NATIONSLINK.

## **5. Packing Specifications**

- 5.1 A pack will contain a minimum of one message record or a maximum of 99,999 message records plus a pack header record and a pack trailer record. One transmission can contain a maximum of 99 packs and a minimum of one pack.
- 5.2 The Operating Company Number (OCN), From Revenue Accounting Office (RAO), and Invoice Number will control the invoice sequencing. The From RAO will be used to identify to NATIONSLINK which BellSouth RAO is sending the message. BellSouth and NATIONSLINK will use the invoice sequencing to control data exchange. BellSouth will be notified of sequence failures identified by NATIONSLINK and resend the data as appropriate.

Note: The data will be packed using an ATIS EMI 202401 Pack Header and a 202402 Pack Trailer.

## **6. Pack Rejection**

- 6.1 NATIONSLINK will notify BellSouth within one business day of rejected packs (via the mutually agreed medium). Packs could be rejected because of pack sequencing discrepancies or a critical edit failure on the Pack Header or Pack Trailer records (i.e. out-of-balance condition on grand totals, invalid data populated). NATIONSLINK will not be required to return the actual rejected data to BellSouth. Rejected packs will be corrected and/or retransmitted to NATIONSLINK by BellSouth.

**7. Control Data**

NATIONSLINK will send one confirmation record per pack that is received from BellSouth. This confirmation record will indicate NATIONSLINK received the pack and the acceptance or rejection of the pack. Pack status Code(s) will be populated using standard ATIS EMI codes for packs that were rejected by NATIONSLINK for reasons stated in the above section.

**8. Testing**

- 8.1 BellSouth shall send test file(s) to NATIONSLINK for the Optional Daily Usage File. The parties agree to review and discuss the file's content and/or format. For testing of usage results, BellSouth shall request that NATIONSLINK set up a production (LIVE) file. The live test may consist of the NATIONSLINK's employees making test calls for the types of services that NATIONSLINK wants to see on the ODUF. These test calls are logged by NATIONSLINK, and the logs are provided to BellSouth. The logs will be used to verify the files.