

**AMENDMENT  
TO THE  
COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT - WHOLESALE LOCAL PLATFORM  
BETWEEN  
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
D/B/A AT&T ALABAMA, AT&T FLORIDA, AT&T GEORGIA,  
AT&T KENTUCKY, AT&T LOUISIANA, AT&T MISSISSIPPI,  
AT&T NORTH CAROLINA, AT&T SOUTH CAROLINA,  
AND AT&T TENNESSEE  
AND  
BUSINESS TELECOM, INC.**

This Amendment (the "Amendment") amends the Market Based Rate Agreement (MBR) by and between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a AT&T Alabama, AT&T Florida, AT&T Georgia, AT&T Kentucky, AT&T Louisiana, AT&T Mississippi, AT&T North Carolina, AT&T South Carolina, and AT&T Tennessee (hereafter referred to as "AT&T") and Business Telecom, Inc. ("BTI" also referred to as "CUSTOMER"). AT&T and CUSTOMER are hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party".

**WHEREAS**, AT&T and CUSTOMER are Parties to a certain MBR – Wholesale Local Platform™ having an effective date of September 11, 2006, as may have been amended, pursuant to which AT&T provides Wholesale Local Platform™ ("WLP Agreement"); and

**WHEREAS**, AT&T and CUSTOMER have agreed to amend the WLP Agreement as set forth herein.

**WHEREAS**, both Parties are willing to agree to this Amendment only on the basis that the entirety of this Amendment being an indivisible whole.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the promises and mutual agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

## **1.0 Changes to the MBR Agreement**

- 1.1 The Parties agree to delete the Term of the Agreement language in Section 3 of the General Terms & Conditions in its entirety and replace it with the Term of the Agreement language below:
- 3.1 Except as otherwise provided herein, the term of this Agreement (the "Term") shall commence upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and shall expire on June 30, 2009 (the "Expiration Date"). This Agreement shall automatically terminate on the first day following the Expiration Date, unless both Parties otherwise agree to extend the terms in writing via an amendment to this Agreement. Otherwise, upon the Expiration Date of this Agreement, neither Party shall have any further obligation under this Agreement, except as otherwise set forth in this Section 3 and pursuant to Section 25 (Survival), provided, however, that this Agreement shall remain in effect after the Expiration Date, (June 30, 2009), until all services have been transitioned or disconnected as set forth in Section 3.6 below.

- 3.2 In the event that CUSTOMER should wish to pursue a successor Agreement with AT&T to have in place upon the Expiration Date of this Agreement, CUSTOMER must provide AT&T with a written request to negotiate no later than sixty (60) days prior to the Expiration Date of this Agreement. Upon AT&T's receipt of CUSTOMER's request to negotiate, the Parties shall commence good faith negotiations for a successor Agreement for the services and/or products provided under this Agreement that AT&T continues to offer. For avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Agreement obligates AT&T after the Expiration Date to continue to offer or provide any services and/or product that were provided under this Agreement. If the Parties have not executed a new Agreement within five (5) days prior to the Expiration Date of this Agreement, negotiations for a new Agreement shall cease unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties, and the Parties shall develop a transition plan pursuant to Section 3.6 below; *provided however*, that the failure to develop a transition plan shall not constitute a breach of this Agreement. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon a transition plan, AT&T shall transition the services to "Resale Services" pursuant to the parties' various interconnection agreements, including the assessment of any applicable "switch as-is conversion rate" found therein.
- 3.3 The rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until the earlier of: (i) the effective date of the successor agreement, if any; or (ii) the Termination Date set forth in Section 3.1 above. In the event that services exist after the Expiration Date, the rates and terms for such services (for the period from the Expiration Date until such services are actually transitioned or disconnected) shall be the rates and terms for services in effect as of the Expiration Date, except such rates may be raised or lowered by AT&T upon sixty (60) days Notice, which Notice shall not be provided before May 1, 2009. Subject to AT&T's right to disconnect set forth in Sections 3.5 and 3.6, in the event of termination of this Agreement pursuant to Section 3, the Parties shall cooperate in good faith to effect an orderly transition of CUSTOMER's End Users before services are terminated. If and when all services are disconnected hereunder pursuant to a transition plan, except as otherwise set forth in this Section 3 and pursuant to Section 25 (Survival), this Agreement will terminate.
- 3.4 Except as set forth in Attachment 3, if either Party breaches or defaults on any of the terms, conditions, or covenants of this Agreement, the other Party shall give the breaching Party written notice of such breach or default. If such breach or default continues for ten (10) days after such written notice, then all monies owed on all outstanding invoices shall become due, and in addition to all other rights and remedies of law or equity or otherwise, the non-breaching Party may terminate this Agreement without any charge, obligation, or liability whatsoever for such breach, except for payment for Services already received and accepted.
- 3.5 In addition to as otherwise set forth in this Agreement, AT&T reserves the right, after Notice to Customer, to suspend or terminate Service in the event of prohibited, unlawful or use of AT&T facilities or service by Customer, or abuse of AT&T facilities.
- 3.6 Upon termination of this Agreement, the rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement shall continue to apply for all Services until the date such Services are actually transitioned from this Agreement, or the date that AT&T specifies for the completion of the transition, whichever is earlier, (the "Transition Period"). CUSTOMER shall not be entitled to place any orders for the

purchase of Services or make any changes to the Services other than transitioning the Services from this Agreement during the Transition Period.

## **2.0 Amendment Effective Date**

2.1 This Amendment is effective upon the date of the last signature.

## **3.0 Additional Terms and Conditions**

3.1 EXCEPT AS MODIFIED HEREIN, ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE WLP AGREEMENT SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

3.2 This Amendment is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms and, in the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

3.3 To the extent there is a conflict or inconsistency between the provisions of this Amendment and the WLP Agreement (including all of its accompanying Appendices, Schedules and Exhibits but ignoring this Amendment), the provisions of this Amendment shall control and apply but only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

3.4 The headings of certain sections of this Amendment 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 Amendment.

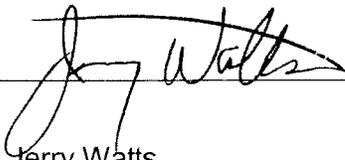
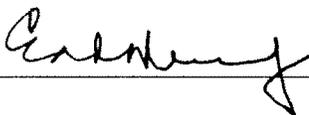
3.5 Each Person whose signature appears below represents and warrants that he or she has authority to bind the Party on whose behalf he or she has executed this Agreement.

3.6 Except as specifically modified by this Agreement with respect to their mutual obligations herein, neither Party relinquishes, and each Party instead fully reserves, any and all legal rights that it had, has and may have to assert any position with respect to any of the matters set forth herein before any state or federal administrative, legislative, judicial or other legal body.

3.7 AT&T will file a copy of the fully executed Amendment with the FCC under 47 U.S.C. § 211.

Business Telecom, Inc.

BellSouth Telecommunications Inc, d/b/a AT&T  
Alabama, d/b/a AT&T Florida, d/b/a AT&T Georgia,  
d/b/a AT&T Kentucky, d/b/a AT&T Louisiana, d/b/a  
AT&T Mississippi, d/b/a AT&T North Carolina, d/b/a  
AT&T South Carolina, d/b/a AT&T Tennessee; by  
AT&T Operations, Inc., its authorized agent

By:  By:   
Name: Jerry Watts Name: Eddie A. Reed, Jr.  
Title: VP – Government & Industry Affairs Title: Director-Interconnection Agreements  
Date: January 8, 2009 Date: 2-17-09

	Resale OCN	OVERALL OCN	OCN
ALABAMA	<u>7794</u>	<u>7795</u>	<u>5883</u>
FLORIDA	<u>7794</u>	<u>7795</u>	<u>8689</u>
GEORGIA	<u>7794</u>	<u>7795</u>	<u>7797</u>
KENTUCKY	<u>7794</u>	<u>7795</u>	<u>3831</u>
LOUISIANA	<u>7794</u>	<u>7795</u>	<u>5884</u>
MISSISSIPPI	<u>7794</u>	<u>7795</u>	<u>5885</u>
NORTH CAROLINA	<u>7794</u>	<u>7795</u>	<u>7796</u>
SOUTH CAROLINA	<u>7794</u>	<u>7795</u>	<u>8688</u>
TENNESSEE	<u>7794</u>	<u>7795</u>	<u>4265</u>
ACNA	<u>DLT</u>		