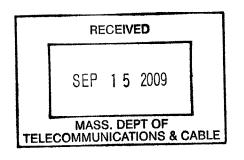
Alexander W. Moore Associate General Counsel





185 Franklin Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, MA 02110-1585

Phone 617 743-2265 Fax 617 737-0648 alexander.w.moore@verizon.com

September 15, 2009

Catrice C. Williams, Secretary Department of Telecommunications and Cable Two South Station, Floor 4 Boston, MA 02110

Re:

Interconnection Agreement between Verizon Massachusetts

and Entelegent Communications Solutions

Dear Secretary Williams:

In accordance with § 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act"), Verizon Massachusetts is herewith filing an Interconnection Agreement between Verizon Massachusetts and Entelegent Communications Solutions governing interconnection arrangements in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This Agreement is being submitted for Department approval under § \$252(e)(1) and (e)(2) of the Act. Section 252(e)(4) of the Act provides that, if a state agency does not act to approve or reject an agreement reached by negotiation within 90 days following the filing, it shall be deemed approved.

This Agreement is substantially similar to an Agreement the Department has previously approved between Verizon Massachusetts and Access Integrated Networks, Inc. d/b/a Birch Communications.

Questions that the Department or interested persons may have regarding the filing should be directed to me or to Entelegent's representative. The address and telephone number of Entelegent's representative is:

Dave Gibson, Vice President-Operations Entelegent Communications Solutions 3800 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 310 Charlotte, NC 28273

Tel: (704) 323-7464

Respectfully submitted,

allexander W. neonecems

Alexander W. Moore

Michael Isenberg, Director



# AGREEMENT

# by and between

# ENTELEGENT COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTIONS

and

# VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC., D/B/A VERIZON MASSACHUSETTS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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#### **AGREEMENT**

#### **PREFACE**

This Agreement ("Agreement") shall be deemed effective as of September 8, 2009 (the "Effective Date"), between Entelegent Communications Solutions ("ENT"), a corporation organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina, with offices at 3800 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 310, Charlotte, NC 28273 and Verizon New England Inc., d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts ("Verizon"), a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York with offices at 185 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110 (Verizon and ENT may be referred to hereinafter, each, individually as a "Party", and, collectively, as the "Parties").

#### **GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

In consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Agreement, and intending to be legally bound, pursuant to Section 252 of the Act, Verizon and ENT hereby agree as follows:

## 1. The Agreement

- 1.1 This Agreement includes: (a) the Principal Document; (b) the Tariffs of each Party applicable to the Services that are offered for sale by it in the Principal Document (which Tariffs are incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement by reference); and, (c) an Order by a Party that has been accepted by the other Party.
- 1.2 Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Principal Document (including, but not limited to, the Pricing Attachment), conflicts among provisions in the Principal Document, Tariffs, and an Order by a Party that has been accepted by the other Party, shall be resolved in accordance with the following order of precedence, where the document identified in subsection "(a)" shall have the highest precedence: (a) the Principal Document; (b) the Tariffs; and, (c) an Order by a Party that has been accepted by the other Party. The fact that a provision appears in the Principal Document but not in a Tariff, or in a Tariff but not in the Principal Document, shall not be interpreted as, or deemed grounds for finding, a conflict for the purposes of this Section 1.2.
- This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties on the 1.3 subject matter hereof, and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous agreement, understanding, or representation, on the subject matter hereof, provided, however, notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement or otherwise, this Agreement is an amendment, extension and restatement of the Parties' prior interconnection and resale agreement(s), if any, and, as such, this Agreement is not intended to be, nor shall it be construed to create, a novation or accord and satisfaction with respect to any prior interconnection or resale agreements and, accordingly, all monetary obligations of the Parties to one another under any prior interconnection or resale agreements shall remain in full force and effect and shall constitute monetary obligations of the Parties under this Agreement (provided, however, that nothing contained in this Agreement shall convert any claim or debt that would otherwise constitute a prepetition claim or debt in a bankruptcy case into a postpetition claim or debt). In connection with the foregoing, Verizon expressly reserves all of its rights under the Bankruptcy Code and Applicable Law to seek or oppose any relief in respect of the assumption, assumption and assignment, or rejection of any interconnection or resale agreements between Verizon and ENT.

1.4 Except as otherwise provided in the Principal Document, the Principal Document may not be waived or modified except by a written document that is signed by the Parties. Subject to the requirements of Applicable Law, a Party shall have the right to add, modify, or withdraw, its Tariff(s) at any time, without the consent of, or notice to, the other Party.

#### 2. Term and Termination

- 2.1 This Agreement shall be effective as of the Effective Date and, unless cancelled or terminated earlier in accordance with the terms hereof, shall continue in effect until September 7, 2011 (the "Initial Term"). Thereafter, this Agreement shall continue in force and effect unless and until cancelled or terminated as provided in this Agreement.
- 2.2 Either ENT or Verizon may terminate this Agreement effective upon the expiration of the Initial Term or effective upon any date after expiration of the Initial Term by providing written notice of termination at least ninety (90) days in advance of the date of termination.
- 2.3 If either ENT or Verizon provides notice of termination pursuant to Section 2.2 and on or before the proposed date of termination either ENT or Verizon has requested negotiation of a new interconnection agreement, unless this Agreement is cancelled or terminated earlier in accordance with the terms hereof (including, but not limited to, pursuant to Section 12), this Agreement shall remain in effect until the earlier of: (a) the effective date of a new interconnection agreement between ENT and Verizon; or, (b) the date one (1) year after the proposed date of termination.
- 2.4 If either ENT or Verizon provides notice of termination pursuant to Section 2.2 and by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the proposed date of termination neither ENT nor Verizon has requested negotiation of a new interconnection agreement, (a) this Agreement will terminate at 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the proposed date of termination, and (b) the Services being provided under this Agreement at the time of termination will be terminated, except to the extent that the Purchasing Party has requested that such Services continue to be provided pursuant to an applicable Tariff or Statement of Generally Available Terms (SGAT).

#### 3. Glossary and Attachments

The Glossary and the following Attachments are a part of this Agreement:

Additional Services Attachment

Interconnection Attachment

Resale Attachment

**Network Elements Attachment** 

Collocation Attachment

911 Attachment

**Pricing Attachment** 

# 4. Applicable Law

4.1 The construction, interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by (a) the laws of the United States of America and (b) the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, without regard to its conflicts of laws rules. All

- disputes relating to this Agreement shall be resolved through the application of such laws.
- 4.2 Each Party shall remain in compliance with Applicable Law in the course of performing this Agreement.
- 4.3 Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance by it that results from requirements of Applicable Law, or acts or failures to act of any governmental entity or official.
- 4.4 Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party in writing of any governmental action that limits, suspends, cancels, withdraws, or otherwise materially affects, the notifying Party's ability to perform its obligations under this Agreement.
- 4.5 If any provision of this Agreement shall be invalid or unenforceable under Applicable Law, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision of this Agreement, and this Agreement shall be construed as if it did not contain such invalid or unenforceable provision; provided, that if the invalid or unenforceable provision is a material provision of this Agreement, or the invalidity or unenforceability materially affects the rights or obligations of a Party hereunder or the ability of a Party to perform any material provision of this Agreement, the Parties shall promptly renegotiate in good faith and amend in writing this Agreement in order to make such mutually acceptable revisions to this Agreement as may be required in order to conform the Agreement to Applicable Law.
- If any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other governmental decision, order, determination or action, or any change in Applicable Law, materially affects any material provision of this Agreement, the rights or obligations of a Party hereunder, or the ability of a Party to perform any material provision of this Agreement, the Parties shall promptly renegotiate in good faith and amend in writing this Agreement in order to make such mutually acceptable revisions to this Agreement as may be required in order to conform the Agreement to Applicable Law. If within thirty (30) days of the effective date of such decision, determination, action or change, the Parties are unable to agree in writing upon mutually acceptable revisions to this Agreement, either Party may pursue any remedies available to it under this Agreement, at law, in equity, or otherwise, including, but not limited to, instituting an appropriate proceeding before the Commission, the FCC, or a court of competent jurisdiction, without first pursuing dispute resolution in accordance with Section 14 of this Agreement.
  - 4.6.1 Notwithstanding Section 4.6 above, to the extent Verizon is required by a change in Applicable Law to provide to ENT a Service that is not offered under this Agreement to ENT, the terms, conditions and prices for such Service (including, but not limited to, the terms and conditions defining the Service and stating when and where the Service will be available and how it will be used, and terms, conditions and prices for pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, repair, maintenance and billing) shall be as provided in an applicable Verizon Tariff, or, in the absence of an applicable Verizon Tariff, as mutually agreed by the Parties in a written amendment to the Agreement that, upon the requirements of Section 252 of the Act. In no event shall Verizon be required to provide any such Service in the absence of such a Verizon Tariff or amendment.

4.7 Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, if, as a result of any legislative, judicial, regulatory or other governmental decision, order, determination or action, or any change in Applicable Law, Verizon is not required by Applicable Law to provide any Service, payment or benefit, otherwise required to be provided to ENT hereunder, then Verizon may discontinue the provision of any such Service, payment or benefit, and ENT shall reimburse Verizon for any payment previously made by Verizon to ENT that was not required by Applicable Law. Verizon will provide thirty (30) days prior written notice to ENT of any such discontinuance of a Service, unless a different notice period or different conditions are specified in this Agreement (including, but not limited to, in the Networks Element Attachment or an applicable Tariff) or Applicable Law for termination of such Service in which event such specified period and/or conditions shall apply. For the avoidance of any doubt, this Section 4.7 is self-effectuating and no amendment to this Agreement shall be required to implement it.

# 5. Assignment

Neither Party may assign this Agreement or any right or interest under this Agreement, nor delegate any obligation under this Agreement, without the prior written consent of the other Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed. Any attempted assignment or delegation in violation of this Section 5 shall be void and ineffective and constitute default of this Agreement.

## 6. Assurance of Payment

- 6.1 Upon request by Verizon, ENT shall, at any time and from time to time, provide to Verizon adequate assurance of payment of amounts due (or to become due) to Verizon hereunder.
- Assurance of payment of charges may be requested by Verizon if ENT (a) prior to the Effective Date, has failed to timely pay a bill rendered to ENT by Verizon or its Affiliates, (b) on or after the Effective Date, fails to timely pay a bill rendered to ENT by Verizon or its Affiliates, (c) in Verizon's reasonable judgment, at the Effective Date or at any time thereafter, is unable to demonstrate that it is creditworthy, or (d) admits its inability to pay its debts as such debts become due, has commenced a voluntary case (or has had a case commenced against it) under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or any other law relating to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, winding-up, composition or adjustment of debts or the like, has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors or is subject to a receivership or similar proceeding.
- 6.3 Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the assurance of payment shall consist of an unconditional, irrevocable standby letter of credit naming Verizon as the beneficiary thereof and otherwise in form and substance satisfactory to Verizon from a financial institution acceptable to Verizon. The letter of credit shall be in an amount equal to two (2) months anticipated charges (including, but not limited to, both recurring and non-recurring charges), as reasonably determined by Verizon, for the Services to be provided by Verizon to ENT in connection with this Agreement. If ENT meets the condition in subsection 6.2(d) above or has failed to timely pay two or more bills rendered by Verizon or a Verizon Affiliate in any twelve (12)-month period, Verizon may, at its option, demand (and ENT shall provide) additional assurance of payment, consisting of monthly advanced payments of estimated charges as reasonably determined by Verizon, with appropriate true-up against actual billed charges no more frequently than once per Calendar Quarter.

- 6.4 [Intentionally Left Blank].
- 6.5 [Intentionally Left Blank].
- 6.6 Verizon may (but is not obligated to) draw on the letter of credit upon notice to ENT in respect of any amounts to be paid by ENT hereunder that are not paid within thirty (30) days of the date that payment of such amounts is required by this Agreement.
- 6.7 If Verizon draws on the letter of credit, upon request by Verizon, ENT shall provide a replacement or supplemental letter of credit conforming to the requirements of Section 6.3.
- Notwithstanding anything else set forth in this Agreement, if Verizon makes a request for assurance of payment in accordance with the terms of this Section, then Verizon shall have no obligation thereafter to perform under this Agreement until such time as ENT has provided Verizon with such assurance of payment.
- The fact that a letter of credit is requested by Verizon hereunder shall in no way relieve ENT from compliance with the requirements of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, any applicable Tariffs) as to advance payments and payment for Services, nor constitute a waiver or modification of the terms herein pertaining to the discontinuance of Services for nonpayment of any amounts payment of which is required by this Agreement.

#### 7. Audits

- 7.1 Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, either Party ("Auditing Party") may audit the other Party's ("Audited Party") books, records, documents, facilities and systems for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of the Audited Party's bills. Such audits may be performed once in each Calendar Year; provided, however, that audits may be conducted more frequently (but no more frequently than once in each Calendar Quarter) if the immediately preceding audit found previously uncorrected net inaccuracies in billing in favor of the Audited Party having an aggregate value of at least \$1,000,000.
- 7.2 The audit shall be performed by independent certified public accountants selected and paid by the Auditing Party. The accountants shall be reasonably acceptable to the Audited Party. Prior to commencing the audit, the accountants shall execute an agreement with the Audited Party in a form reasonably acceptable to the Audited Party that protects the confidentiality of the information disclosed by the Audited Party to the accountants. The audit shall take place at a time and place agreed upon by the Parties; provided, that the Auditing Party may require that the audit commence no later than sixty (60) days after the Auditing Party has given notice of the audit to the Audited Party.
- 7.3 Each Party shall cooperate fully in any such audit, providing reasonable access to any and all employees, books, records, documents, facilities and systems, reasonably necessary to assess the accuracy of the Audited Party's bills.
- 7.4 Audits shall be performed at the Auditing Party's expense, provided that there shall be no charge for reasonable access to the Audited Party's employees, books, records, documents, facilities and systems necessary to assess the accuracy of the Audited Party's bills.

#### 8. Authorization