

**Performance Assurance Plan Amendment  
to the Interconnection Agreement between  
Qwest Corporation  
and  
Advanced TelCom Group  
for the State of Washington**

This Amendment ("Amendment") is to the Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation (f/k/a U S WEST Communications, Inc.) ("Qwest"), a Colorado corporation, and Advanced TelCom, Inc. dba Advanced TelCom Group ("CLEC"), a Delaware corporation.

**RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into an Interconnection Agreement, for service in the State of Washington, that was approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission on December 9, 1998, as referenced in Docket No. UT-980390 ("Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to amend the Agreement under the terms and conditions contained herein.

**AGREEMENT**

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual terms, covenants and conditions contained in this Amendment and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

**Amendment Terms**

**Service Performance**

The Performance Assurance Plan ("PAP") as approved by the Commission and the Performance Indicator Definitions ("PIDs") included as Exhibit B to the Commission approved Statement of Generally Acceptable Terms and Conditions ("SGAT") are hereby incorporated into this Amendment as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Modifications to PIDs that apply to the PAP shall be made in accordance with Section 16.0 of the PAP. Changes made pursuant to Section 16.0 shall apply to and modify this Amendment, subject to and in accordance with terms therein and any applicable subsequent judicial review.

Consistent with Section 13.0 of the PAP, CLEC elects the PAP as a part of its Interconnection Agreement with Qwest. Therefore, all references in the Agreement to performance standards and measurements and accompanying payment mechanisms (including, but not limited to, Direct Measures of Quality (DMOQ) and Supplier Performance Quality Management System) are superceded by this Amendment.

**Force Majeure and Dispute Resolution**

Pursuant to Sections 13.3 and 18.0 of the PAP, Sections 5.7 (Force Majeure) and 5.18 (Dispute Resolution), of the SGATs, respectively, (attached hereto as Attachments 3 and 4 to this Amendment) are hereby incorporated into the Amendment for the sole purpose of implementing the PAP.

### **Implementation Date**

If the FCC has granted Section 271 authorization for the State, the PAP will be implemented on the date the Amendment is executed by both parties. If the FCC has not granted Section 271 authorization for the State as of the date the Amendment is executed by both parties, the PAP will be implemented on the date the FCC grants Section 271 approval for the State. In the initial month of implementation, payments to CLEC under the PAP will be pro-rated to reflect the applicable percentage of the monthly payment.

### **CLEC Information**

CLEC agrees that for amounts owed under the PAP that are not credited to CLEC's bill as allowed by the PAP, payments shall be made by the use of electronic fund transfers, or check, if the option of electronic fund transfer is not available. CLEC agrees that monthly performance reports shall be delivered via a password-protected website. In order to implement these provisions, CLEC shall provide specific information in response to the Performance Assurance Plan Amendment Questionnaire. To accommodate this need, CLEC shall generate an updated Performance Assurance Plan Amendment Questionnaire within 30 days.

### **Amendments; Waivers**

Except as modified herein, the provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. The provisions of this Amendment, including the provisions of this sentence, may not be amended, modified or supplemented, and waivers or consents to departures from the provisions of this Amendment may not be given without the written consent thereto by both Parties' authorized representative. No waiver by any Party of any default, misrepresentation, or breach of warranty or covenant hereunder, whether intentional or not, will be deemed to extend to any prior or subsequent default, misrepresentation, or breach of warranty or covenant hereunder or affect in any way any rights arising by virtue of any prior or subsequent such occurrence.

### **Entire Agreement**

The Agreement as amended (including the documents referred to herein) constitutes the full and entire understanding and agreement between the Parties with regard to the subjects of the Agreement as amended and supersedes any prior understandings, agreements, or representations by or between the Parties, written or oral, to the extent they relate in any way to the subjects of the Agreement as amended.

The Parties intending to be legally bound have executed this Amendment as of the dates set forth below, in multiple counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**Advanced TelCom Group**

**Qwest Corporation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Printed/Typed

L. T. Christensen  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Printed/Typed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Director – Interconnection Agreements  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

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Attachment 1  
WASHINGTON Performance Assurance Plan Amendment

**See Attached Exhibit K from the Washington SGAT.**

Attachment 2  
WASHINGTON Performance Assurance Plan Amendment

**See Attached Exhibit B from the Washington SGAT.**

## **5.7 Force Majeure**

5.7.1 Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Amendment from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, work stoppages, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, or unusually severe weather conditions (collectively, a Force Majeure Event). Inability to secure products or services of other Persons or transportation facilities or acts or omissions of transportation Carriers shall be considered Force Majeure Events to the extent any delay or failure in performance caused by these circumstances is beyond the Party's control and without that Party's fault or negligence. The Party affected by a Force Majeure Event shall give prompt notice to the other Party, shall be excused from performance of its obligations hereunder on a Day to Day basis to the extent those obligations are prevented by the Force Majeure Event, and shall use reasonable efforts to remove or mitigate the Force Majeure Event. In the event of a labor dispute or strike the Parties agree to provide service to each other at a level equivalent to the level they provide themselves.

## 5.18 Dispute Resolution

5.18.1 If any claim, controversy or dispute between the Parties, their agents, employees, officers, directors or affiliated agents should arise, and the Parties do not resolve it in the ordinary course of their dealings (the "Dispute"), then it shall be resolved in accordance with this Section. Each notice of default, unless cured within the applicable cure period, shall be resolved in accordance herewith. Dispute resolution under the procedures provided in this Section 5.18 shall be the preferred, but not the exclusive, remedy for all disputes between Qwest and CLEC arising out of this Amendment or its breach. Each Party reserves its rights to resort to the Commission or to a court, agency, or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction. Nothing in this Section 5.18 shall limit the right of either Qwest or CLEC, upon meeting the requisite showing, to obtain provisional remedies (including injunctive relief) from a court before, during or after the pendency of any arbitration proceeding brought pursuant to this Section 5.18. However, once a decision is reached by the Arbitrator, such decision shall supersede any provisional remedy.

5.18.2 At the written request of either Party (the Resolution Request), and prior to any other formal dispute resolution proceedings, each Party shall within seven (7) calendar Days after such Resolution Request designate a vice-presidential level employee or a representative with authority to make commitments to review, meet, and negotiate, in good faith, to resolve the Dispute. The Parties intend that these negotiations be conducted by non-lawyer, business representatives, and the locations, format, frequency, duration, and conclusions of these discussions shall be at the discretion of the representatives. By mutual agreement, the representatives may use other procedures, such as mediation, to assist in these negotiations. The discussions and correspondence among the representatives for the purposes of these negotiations shall be treated as Confidential Information developed for purposes of settlement, and shall be exempt from discovery and production, and shall not be admissible in any subsequent arbitration or other proceedings without the concurrence of both of the Parties.

5.18.3 If the vice-presidential level representatives or the designated representative with authority to make commitments have not reached a resolution of the Dispute within fifteen (15) calendar Days after the Resolution Request (or such longer period as agreed to in writing by the Parties), or if either Party fails to designate such vice-presidential level representative or their representative with authority to make commitments within seven (7) calendar Days after the date of the Resolution Request, then either Party may request that the Dispute be settled by arbitration. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Party may request that the Dispute be settled by arbitration two (2) calendar Days after the Resolution Request pursuant to the terms of Section 5.18.3.1. In any case, the arbitration proceeding shall be conducted by a single arbitrator, knowledgeable about the Telecommunications industry unless the Dispute involves amounts exceeding five million (\$5,000,000) in which case the proceeding shall be conducted by a panel of three (3) arbitrators, knowledgeable about the Telecommunications industry. The arbitration proceedings shall be conducted under the then-current rules for commercial disputes of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or J.A.M.S./Endispute, at the election of the Party that initiates dispute resolution under this Section 5.18. Such rules and procedures shall apply notwithstanding any part of such rules that may limit their availability for resolution of a Dispute. The Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, not state law, shall govern the arbitrability of the Dispute. The arbitrator shall not have authority to award punitive damages. The arbitrator's award shall be final and binding and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Each Party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees, and shall share equally in the

fees and expenses of the arbitrator. The arbitration proceedings shall occur in the Denver metropolitan area or in another mutually agreeable location. It is acknowledged that the Parties, by mutual, written agreement, may change any of these arbitration practices for a particular, some, or all Dispute(s). The Party which sends the Resolution Request must notify the Secretary of the Commission of the arbitration proceeding within forty-eight (48) hours of the determination to arbitrate.

5.18.3.1 All expedited procedures prescribed by the AAA or J.A.M.S./Endispute rules, as the case may be, shall apply to Disputes affecting the ability of a Party to provide uninterrupted, high quality services to its End User Customers, or as otherwise called for in this Amendment. A Party may seek expedited resolution of a Dispute if the vice-presidential level representative, or other representative with authority to make commitments, have not reached a resolution of the Dispute within two (2) calendar Days after the Resolution Request. In the event the Parties do not agree that a service affecting Dispute exists, the Dispute resolution shall commence under the expedited process set forth in this Section 5.18.3.1, however, the first matter to be addressed by the Arbitrator shall be the applicability of such process to such Dispute.

5.18.3.2 There shall be no discovery except for the exchange of documents deemed necessary by the Arbitrator to an understanding and determination of the Dispute. Qwest and CLEC shall attempt, in good faith, to agree on a plan for such document discovery. Should they fail to agree, either Qwest or CLEC may request a joint meeting or conference call with the Arbitrator. The Arbitrator shall resolve any Disputes between Qwest and CLEC, and such resolution with respect to the need, scope, manner, and timing of discovery shall be final and binding.

5.18.3.3 Arbitrator's Decision.

5.18.3.3.1 The Arbitrator's decision and award shall be in writing and shall state concisely the reasons for the award, including the Arbitrator's findings of fact and conclusions of law.

5.18.3.3.2 An interlocutory decision and award of the Arbitrator granting or denying an application for preliminary injunctive relief may be challenged in a forum of competent jurisdiction immediately, but no later than ten (10) business days after the appellant's receipt of the decision challenged. During the pendency of any such challenge, any injunction ordered by the Arbitrator shall remain in effect, but the enjoined Party may make an application to the Arbitrator for appropriate security for the payment of such costs and damages as may be incurred or suffered by it if it is found to have been wrongfully enjoined, if such security has not previously been ordered. If the authority of competent jurisdiction determines that it will review a decision granting or denying an application for preliminary injunctive relief, such review shall be conducted on an expedited basis.

5.18.3.4 To the extent that any information or materials disclosed in the course of an



Attachment 4  
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arbitration proceeding contain proprietary, trade secret or Confidential Information of either Party, it shall be safeguarded in accordance with the Nondisclosure Section of the Agreement, or if the Parties mutually agree, such other appropriate agreement for the protection of proprietary, trade secret or Confidential Information that the Parties negotiate. However, nothing in such negotiated agreement shall be construed to prevent either Party from disclosing the other Party's information to the Arbitrator in connection with or in anticipation of an arbitration proceeding, provided however that the Party seeking to disclose the information shall first provide fifteen (15) calendar Days notice to the disclosing Party so that that Party, with the cooperation of the other Party, may seek a protective order from the arbitrator. Except as the Parties otherwise agree, or as the Arbitrator for good cause orders, the arbitration proceedings, including hearings, briefs, orders, pleadings and discovery shall not be deemed confidential and may be disclosed at the discretion of either Party, unless it is subject to being safeguarded as proprietary, trade secret or Confidential Information, in which event the procedures for disclosure of such information shall apply.

5.18.4 Should it become necessary to resort to court proceedings to enforce a Party's compliance with the dispute resolution process set forth herein, and the court directs or otherwise requires compliance herewith, then all of the costs and expenses, including its reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the Party requesting such enforcement shall be reimbursed by the non-complying Party to the requesting Party.

5.18.5 No Dispute, regardless of the form of action, arising out of this Amendment, may be brought by either Party more than two (2) years after the cause of action accrues.

5.18.6 Nothing in this Section is intended to divest or limit the jurisdiction and authority of the Commission or the FCC as provided by state and federal law.

5.18.7 In the event of a conflict between this Amendment and the rules prescribed by the AAA or J.A.M.S./Endispute, this Amendment shall be controlling.

5.18.8 This Section does not apply to any claim, controversy or Dispute between the Parties, their agents, employees, officers, directors or affiliated agents concerning the misappropriation of use of intellectual property rights of a Party, including, but not limited to, the use of the trademark, tradename, trade dress or service mark of a Party.