

**INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN**

**TCG SEATTLE**

**AND**

**U S WEST  
COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**DECEMBER 16, 1996**

**December 16, 1996**

16. "DSX Panel" is a cross-connect bay/panel used for the termination of equipment and facilities operating at digital rates.
17. "DS-1" is a digital signal rate of 1.544 Megabits Per Second ("Mbps").
18. "DS-3" is a digital signal rate of 44.736 Mbps.
19. "EICT" or "Expanded Interconnection Channel Termination" refers to the connection between the collocation point of termination ("POT Bay") and the unbundled Network Element or interconnection point to a switched or dedicated arrangement or service in USWC's network.
20. "Electronic File Transfer" refers to any system/process which utilizes an electronic format and protocol to send/receive data files.
21. "Exchange Message Record" or "EMR" is the standard used for exchange of telecommunications message information among LECs for billable, non-billable, sample, settlement and study data. EMR format is contained in BR-010-200-010 CRIS Exchange Message Record, a Bellcore document which defines industry standards for exchange message records.
22. "Exchange Service" means a service offered to end users which provides the end user with a telephonic connection to the public switched telecommunications network, and which enables such end user to generally place calls to, or receive calls from, other stations on the public switched telecommunications network. Exchange Service includes but may not be limited to basic residence and business line service, PBX trunk line service, pay phone line service, Centrex line service and ISDN line services. Exchange Service does not include Private Line, Switched and Special Access services.
23. "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission.
24. "Interconnection" means the connection of separate pieces of equipment, transmission facilities, etc., between or among networks.
25. "Interexchange Carrier" or "IXC" means a provider of interexchange telecommunications services.
26. "Interim Number Portability" or "INP" means the delivery of SPNP capabilities through the use of switch-based call routing. INP arrangements cannot support certain CLASS features.

an end office switch which serves as the hardware termination for the customer's exchange service on that switch and generates dial tone and provides the customer a pathway into the public switched telecommunications network. Each Port is typically associated with one (or more) telephone number(s) which serves as the customer's network address.

49. "Rate Center" means the specific geographic point and corresponding geographic area which have been identified by a given LEC as being associated with a particular NPA-NXX code which has been assigned to the LEC for its provision of Exchange Services.
50. "Rating Point" is the V&H coordinates associated with a particular telephone number for rating purposes.
51. "Routing Point" means a location which a LEC has designated on its own network as the homing (routing) point for traffic inbound to Exchange Services provided by the LEC which bear a certain NPA-NXX designation. The Routing Point is employed to calculate mileage measurements for the distance-sensitive transport element charges of Switched Access services. The Routing Point need not be the same as the Rating Point, nor must it be located within the rate center area, but must be in the same LATA as the NPA-NXX.
52. "Service Control Point" or "SCP" is the node in the CCS network to which informational requests for service handling, such as routing, are directed and processed. The SCP is a real time database system that, based on a query from a Service Switching Point ("SSP"), performs subscriber or application-specific service logic and then sends instructions back to the SSP on how to continue call processing.
53. "Service Provider Number Portability" or "SPNP" means the ability of users of telecommunications services to retain existing telephone numbers when switching from one LEC to another but remaining in the same geographic area.
54. "Signal Transfer Point" or "STP" performs a packet switching function that routes signaling messages among SSPs, SCPs, Signaling Points ("SPs"), and other STPs in order to set up calls and to query databases for advanced services.
55. "Switched Access" service means an offering of facilities for the purpose of the origination or termination of traffic from or to Exchange Service customers in a given area pursuant to a Switched Access tariff. Switched Access services include: Feature Group A, Feature Group B, Feature Group D, Toll Free Service,

and 900 access. Switched Access does not include traffic exchanged between LECs for purpose of local exchange interconnection.

56. "T-1/DS1 (4-Wire) Capable Loops" are Loops that will support full duplex transmission of isochronous serial data at 1.544 Mbps.
57. "Tariff" means and includes tariffs, price lists, catalog pages, and similar documents filed with the FCC or the Commission that designate rates, terms and conditions for the offering of services.
58. "Toll Free Service" means service provided with any dialing sequence that invokes toll-free (i.e., 800-like) service processing. Toll Free Service includes calls to the Toll Free Service 800/888 NPA SAC codes.
59. "Trunk-Side" refers to a Central Office switch connection that is capable of, and has been programmed to treat the circuit as, connecting to another switching entity, for example, another Central Office switch. Trunk-Side connections offer those transmission and signaling features appropriate for the connection of switching entities, and cannot be used for the direct connection of ordinary telephone station sets.
60. "Virtual Collocation" means a collocation arrangement in which the collocator's facilities are terminated into a Wire Center of a LEC and are connected to LEC facilities that are provided and maintained by the LEC on behalf of the collocator for the primary purpose of interconnecting the collocator's facilities to the facilities of the LEC.
61. "Wholesale Prices" are prices determined based on retail rates charged to subscribers for the telecommunications service requested, excluding the portion thereof attributable to any marketing, billing, collection, and other costs that will be avoided by the LEC, and including any additional costs that will be incurred to provide wholesale services to telecommunications providers.
62. "Wire Center" denotes a building or space within a building which serves as an aggregation point on a given carrier's network, where transmission facilities and circuits are connected or switched. Wire Center can also denote a building in which one or more Central Offices, used for the provision of Exchange Services and access services, are located. However, for purposes of collocation, Wire Center shall mean those points eligible for such connections as specified in the FCC Docket No. 91-141, and rules adopted pursuant thereto.

3. is rightfully received from a third person having no direct or indirect secrecy or confidentiality obligation to the disclosing Party with respect to such information; or
  4. is independently developed by an employee, agent, or contractor of the receiving Party which individual is not involved in any manner with the provision of services pursuant to the Agreement and does not have any direct or indirect access to the Proprietary Information; or
  5. is disclosed to a third person by the disclosing Party without similar restrictions on such third person's rights; or
  6. is approved for release by written authorization of the disclosing Party; or
  7. is required to be made public by the receiving Party pursuant to applicable law or regulation provided that the receiving Party shall give sufficient notice of the requirement to the disclosing Party to enable the disclosing Party to seek protective orders.
- E. Effective Date Of This Section. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Proprietary Information provisions of this Agreement shall apply to all information furnished by either Party to the other in furtherance of the purpose of this Agreement, even if furnished before the date of this Agreement.

#### **XXVII. EXECUTION IN DUPLICATE**

This Agreement may be executed in duplicate copies, and, upon said execution, shall be treated as an executed document.

#### **XXVIII. MOST FAVORABLE TERMS AND TREATMENT**

The Parties agree that the provisions of Section 252(i) of TA 1996 shall apply, including state and federal interpretive regulations in effect from time to time.