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Blanca Bayó Director, Records and Reporting Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399

Docket No. 001411-TI

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Enclosed for filing in the above docket are the original and fifteen copies of an Amended Offer of Settlement.

Pursuant to discussions with Mr. Moses and Mr. Kennedy, paragraphs 6 and 7 of the offer of settlement have been revised to reflect more current information regarding the size of the flow-through issue with respect to MCIT's 1-800 service.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please call.

Very truly yours,

Richard D. Melson

APP CAF CMP RDM/mee COM Enclosures CTR

ECR cc: LEG

Mr. Rick Moses Mr. Ray Kennedy

OPC 201

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In re: Consideration of 1998 Access Charge Flow-Through Reductions by MCI WORLDCOM Communications, Inc.,) }
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MCI WORLDCOM Network Services, Inc.,) Docket No. 001141-Ti
TeleCom*USA, Inc., TTl National, Inc. and)
Biz-Tel Corp.) FILED OCTOBER <u>4</u> , 2000
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)
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AMENDED OFFER OF SETTLEMENT

This Amended Offer of Settlement is submitted to the Florida Public Service

Commission (the "Commission") by MCI WORLDCOM Communications, Inc., formerly
known as WorldCom Technologies, Inc. (collectively, "MCIW"); MCI WORLDCOM

Network Services, Inc. ("MWNS"), formerly known as MCI Telecommunications Corp.

("MCIT") and WorldCom Network Services, Inc. ("WNS"); TeleCom*USA, Inc. ("TUSA");

TTI National, Inc. ("TTI"); and Biz-Tel Corporation ("Biz-Tel") (collectively, the

"WorldCom Operating Companies") in order to settle fully any and all claims or disputes
relating to the matters described below.

WHEREAS, Section 364.163(6), Florida Statutes, required certain local exchange telecommunications companies to reduce their intrastate switched access rates on July 1, 1998 and October 1, 1998;

WHEREAS, Section 364.163(6), Florida Statutes, required any interexchange telecommunications company ("IXC") that received the benefit of the July and October 1998 access charge reductions to decrease its intrastate long distance rates by the amount necessary to return the benefits of that reduction to its customers (the "1998 Flow-Through Reductions");

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

WHEREAS, Section 364.163(9), Florida Statutes, grants the Commission continuing regulatory oversight to determine the correctness of any rate decrease and to make necessary adjustments to those rates;

WHEREAS, beginning in or about June 1999, the Commission Staff conducted a series of audits of the WorldCom Operating Companies to determine, inter alia, whether they implemented properly the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions for various of their products, and whether they billed customers in accordance with the tariffs filed with the Commission (the "Audits");

WHEREAS, between February 8, 2000 and July 5, 2000, the Commission Staff issued a series of audit reports, which, among other things, set forth the results and findings of the Audits of the WorldCom Operating Companies (collectively, the "Audit Reports");

WHEREAS, the WorldCom Operating Companies and the Commission Staff have negotiated a mutually agreeable resolution to all of the issues, claims or disputes arising from, or relating to, the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions, the Audits and the Audit Reports;

NOW, THEREFORE, the WorldCom Operating Companies provide the following explanation, and propose to take the following actions, to resolve finally and fully any and all issues, claims or disputes arising out of, or relating to, the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions, the Audits, and the Audit Reports:

A. <u>SUMMARY</u>

1. Refunds and Rate Reductions. As set forth in more detail below, the Worldcom Operating Companies will make a combination of refunds and prospective rate reductions totaling more than \$1,700,656.

B. WTI

- 2. <u>Background</u>. During 1998, WTI offered a service to business customers known as WorldOne. As a result of inadvertent oversight, no tarriffed rate changes (increases or decreases) for the WorldOne product were implemented into the billing system from October 1996 to May 1999. Consequently, an April 1998 rate increase, and the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions were not implemented into the billing system, and WTI billed <u>below</u> its tariffed rates from April 1998 to May 1999, and lost approximately \$2.3 million in revenue. Although they were billed less than they would have been had WTI implemented its tariff rate changes, the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions did not appear on WTI's WorldOne customers' bills. The actual amount of the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions that was not flowed through to WorldOne customers, from July 1998 through April 1999, totaled \$741,328.
- 3. Proposed Corrective Action. Because of the relatively large number of business customers that may have been affected by this error, and the fact that many of those customers are no longer WorldOne customers, it is impractical to attempt to issue refunds directly to customers. Instead, to rectify this situation, MCIW agrees to reduce prospectively the rates for the WorldOne service by the amount necessary to return to customers the \$741,328 not previously flowed through, plus interest, plus an additional amount necessary to bring the total reduction to \$1,482,656. Current and future WorldOne customers therefore will receive a total reduction of twice the amount that they would have realized had WTI timely implemented its tariffed rate changes. The rate reduction will be designed to return this amount to customers over a period of one year based on currently estimated call volumes; however the period of the reduction may be shortened or lengthened as necessary, based on actual experience, to accomplish the full \$1,482,656 reduction.

C. TTI

4. Background. As a result of inadvertent oversight, TTI did not implement

the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions until January 31, 2000. As a result of this delay, TTI overcharged its business customers by a total of approximately \$64,000.

5. Proposed Corrective Action. TTI agrees to issue a one-time refund to the affected customers of \$64,000, plus interest, plus an additional amount necessary to bring the total refund to \$128,000. This is twice the amount that those customers would have received if TTI had timely implemented its tariff changes. At the conclusion of the refund, TTI will report to the Commission the amount of any refunds that remain unclaimed, and will dispose of those funds as directed by the Commission.

D. <u>MCIT/TUSA</u>

- 6. <u>Background</u>. MCIT and TUSA obtained one-month extensions from the Commission to implement the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions. In connection with those extensions, MCIT and TUSA agreed to make such changes retroactive to July 1998 and October 1998, respectively, and to credit their customers accordingly. MCIT and TUSA implemented properly the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions and issued the proper credits to their residential customers, but inadvertently failed to credit their business customers. This resulted in overcharges to business customers totaling approximately \$23,125 for MCIT during the period July 1, 1998 through January 23, 1999 for its Vision and Vnet services and an undetermined amount, currently estimated to be approximately \$150,000 to \$175,000, for its 1-800 services. As a result of its failure to issue timely credits, TUSA overcharged its business customers by a total amount of only \$328.
- 7. Proposed Corrective Action. MCIW agrees to issue a one-time refund of \$23,125, plus interest, plus an additional amount necessary to bring the total refund to \$46,250, to the former MCIT Vision and Vnet business customers affected by this error. This is twice the amount that those customers would have received if MCIT had timely implemented its tariff changes. Similarly, once the final overcharge with respect to 1-800 service is determined, MCIW will issue a one-time refund of the amount of the

overcharge, plus interest, plus as additional amount necessary to bring the total refund to two times the amount of the overcharge. At the conclusion of the refund, MCIT will report to the Commission the amount of any refunds that remain unclaimed, and will dispose of those funds as directed by the Commission. Due to the <u>de minimis</u> nature of the TUSA overcharges, TUSA does not propose to issue any refund or rate reduction for this inadvertent error.

E. <u>ADDITIONAL TERMS</u>

- 8. During the period when the above-identified rate implementation errors occurred, the various WorldCom Operating Companies each maintained their own separate billing system or systems, some of which were managed in-house and some of which were managed by outside contractors. Each of the failures with respect to the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions was the result of the failure to implement properly tariff changes in the respective billing systems. Due to changes in personnel since 1998, the relevant WorldCom Operating Companies are unable to determine the specific circumstances surrounding each failure to implement properly the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions. In any event, however, these failures were caused by inadvertent errors, which resulted in a significant revenue loss. These errors were not the result of any refusal to comply with, or willful violation of, any Florida Statutes or Commission rules or orders.
- 9. Subsequent to the merger of WorldCom and MCI Communications
 Corporation ("MCIC"), all tariff and billing responsibilities have been consolidated into
 two rate organizations and process improvements have been implemented that are
 designed to ensure that billed rates match tariffed rates. In particular, rate changes are
 now input into the billing systems directly from approved tariff sheets. After rate
 changes are input, MCIW employs an internal audit function designed to ensure that
 the changes were made properly. While no process is 100% error free, MCIW and TTI
 believe that the post-1998 procedures should prevent a recurrence of the types of

errors experienced in 1998.

- 10. If accepted by the Commission, this Offer of Settlement shall be a complete settlement and resolution of any and all claims, actions, causes of action, liabilities, and demands against the WorldCom Operating Companies and their respective predecessors, successors, parents, direct subsidiaries, indirect subsidiaries, affiliates, assigns, agents, directors, officers, employees, and shareholders arising out of, or in any way relating to, the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions, the Audits and the Audit Reports.
- 11. If the Commission finds that the acceptance of this Offer of Settlement is in the public interest, the Commission will enter an "Order Approving Settlement Offer" (the "Order") which approves and accepts this Offer of Settlement. This Offer of Settlement will be included as an attachment to the Order, and incorporated therein by reference.
- 12. By making this Offer of Settlement, the WorldCom Operating Companies and their respective predecessors, successors, parents, direct subsidiaries, indirect subsidiaries, affiliates, assigns, agents, directors, officers, employees, and shareholders do not admit to any refusal to comply with, or to any willful violation of, any Florida statutes or Commission rules or orders. Indeed, the WorldCom Operating Companies expressly deny that they refused to comply with, or willfully violated any Florida statutes or Commission rules or orders.
- 13. If this Offer of Settlement is not accepted by the Commission in its entirety and without modification, it shall have no further force and effect and shall not be admissible in any current or future Commission or judicial proceeding arising out of, or related to, the 1998 Flow-Through Reductions, the Audits and the Audit Reports.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this _

_ day of October, 2000.

Thomas F. O'Neil III
Chief Legal Counsel
William E. Smith
Associate Litigation Counsel
WorldCom, Inc.
1133 19th Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

and

Richard D. Melson Hopping Green Sams & Smith, P.A. P.O. Box 6526 Tallahassee, FL 32314

Attorneys for MCI WORLDCOM Communications, Inc., MCI WORLDCOM Network Services, Inc., TeleCom*USA, TTI National, Inc. and Biz-Tel Corp.