# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of the Application of Conversant	)	
Technologies, Inc. for a Certificate of Service	)	
Authority to Provide Competitive Intrastate	)	File No. XA-2009-0442
Interexchange Telecommunications Services,	)	Tariff No. YX-2009-0864
including Operator Services, within the State	)	
of Missouri	)	

# ORDER APPROVING INTEREXCHANGE CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AUTHORITY AND ORDER APPROVING TARIFF

Issue Date: September 21, 2009 Effective Date: September 30, 2009

This order grants Conversant Technologies, Inc., (Conversant) a certificate of service authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services and approves the company's proposed tariff.

Conversant applied to the Missouri Public Service Commission on June 18, 2009, for a certificate of service authority to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in Missouri under Section 392.440, RSMo 2000. Conversant asked the Commission to classify it as a competitive company and waive certain statutes and rules as authorized by Sections 392.361 and 392.420, RSMo. Cum. Supp. 2008. Conversant is a Texas corporation with its principal office located at 6900 Alma Drive, Suite 180, Plano, Texas 75023.

The Commission issued a Notice of Applications for Intrastate Certificates of Service Authority and Opportunity to Intervene on June 22, 2009, directing parties wishing to intervene to file their requests by July 7, 2009. No requests for intervention were filed.

Conversant filed a proposed tariff in conjunction with its application with an effective date of September 30, 2009. Conversant's tariff describes the rates, rules, and regulations it intends to use, identifies Conversant as a competitive company, and lists the waivers requested. Conversant intends to provide interexchange telecommunications services, including operator services.

In its Memorandum filed on September 18, 2009, the Staff of the Commission recommended that the Commission grant Conversant a certificate of service authority, competitive status, and waiver of the statutes and rules listed in the Notice. Staff recommended that the Commission approve the proposed tariff to become effective on September 30, 2009.

The Commission finds that competition in the intrastate interexchange telecommunications market is in the public interest and Conversant shall be granted a certificate of service authority. The Commission finds that the services Conversant proposes to offer are competitive and Conversant shall be classified as a competitive company. The Commission finds that waiving the statutes and Commission rules set out in the ordered paragraph below is reasonable and not detrimental to the public interest.

The Commission finds that Conversant's proposed tariff details the services, equipment, and pricing it proposes to offer, and is similar to tariffs approved for other Missouri certificated interexchange carriers. The Commission finds that the proposed tariff filed on June 18, 2009, shall be approved to become effective on September 30, 2009.

The Commission reminds the company that failure to comply with its regulatory obligations may result in the assessment of penalties against it. These regulatory obligations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A) The obligation to file an annual report, as established by Section 392.210, RSMo 2000. Failure to comply with this obligation will make the utility liable to a penalty of \$100 per day for each day that the violation continues. 4 CSR 240-3.540 requires telecommunications utilities to file their annual report on or before April 15 of each year.
- B) The obligation to pay an annual assessment fee established by the Commission, as required by Section 386.370, RSMo 2000.
- C) The obligation to comply with all relevant laws and regulations, as well as orders issued by the Commission. If the company fails to comply, it is subject to penalties for noncompliance ranging from \$100 to \$2,000 per day of noncompliance, pursuant to Section 386.570, RSMo 2000.
- D) The obligation to keep the Commission informed of its current address and telephone number.

Furthermore, the company is reminded that, as a corporation, non-attorneys may not represent the company before the Commission. Instead, the corporation must be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in Missouri.

In addition, the company is reminded that Section 392.410.5, RSMo Supp. 2008, renders the company's certificate of service authority null and void one year from the date of this order unless it has exercised its authority under that certificate.

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

 Conversant Technologies, Inc., is granted a certificate of service authority to provide intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in the state of Missouri, subject to all applicable statutes and Commission rules except as specified in this order.

- 2. The certification granted herein is conditioned upon the company's compliance with the regulatory obligations in this order.
- 3. Conversant Technologies, Inc., is classified as a competitive telecommunications company. Application of the following statutes and regulatory rules shall be waived:

## <u>Statutes</u>

392.210.2 - uniform system of accounts

392.240.1 - rates-rentals-service & physical connections

392.270 - valuation of property (ratemaking)

392.280 - depreciation accounts

392.290 - issuance of securities 392.300.2 - acquisition of stock

392.310 - stock and debt issuance

392.320 - stock dividend payment

392.330 - issuance of securities, debts and notes

392.340 - reorganization(s)

## **Commission Rules**

4 CSR 240-10.020 - depreciation fund income 4 CSR 240-30.040 - uniform system of accounts

4. The tariff filed by Conversant Technologies, Inc., on June 18, 2009, under tariff number YX-2009-0864, is approved to become effective on September 30, 2009. The tariff approved is:

Missouri Tariff No. 1
Original Title Page
Original Pages 1 through 27

- 5. This order shall become effective on September 30, 2009.
- 6. This case may be closed on October 1, 2009.

BY THE COMMISSION

Steven C. Reed Secretary

(SEAL)

Ronald D. Pridgin, Senior Regulatory Law Judge, by delegation of authority pursuant to Section 386.240, RSMo 2000.

Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri, on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2009.