



GTE Network Services

1000 GTE Drive
P.O. Box 307
Wentzville, MO 63385-0307

March 1, 2000

VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS

Mr. Dale Hardy Roberts
Secretary/Chief Administrative Law Judge
Missouri Public Service Commission
301 W. High Street, Room 530
Jefferson City, MO 65101

FILED²
MAR 02 2000 TO-2000-534
Missouri Public
Service Commission

Subject: APPLICATION OF GTE MIDWEST INCORPORATED AND GTE
ARKANSAS INCORPORATED FOR APPROVAL OF AN
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH CIERA NETWORK
SYSTEMS, INC., PURSUANT TO SECTION 252(e) OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed for filing are the original and fourteen (14) copies of the Application for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement on behalf of GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated with Ciera Network Systems, Inc. As directed by the Commission on January 4, 1999, an original and only five (5) copies of the approved Interconnection Agreement, numbered in seriatim, are enclosed with this filing.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tracy D. Pagliara

TP:jh
Enc.

FILED

MAR 2 2000

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Missouri Public
Service Commission

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
GTE MIDWEST INCORPORATED AND GTE)
ARKANSAS INCORPORATED FOR APPROVAL)
OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH)
CIERA NETWORK SYSTEMS, INC., PURSUANT)
TO SECTION 252(e) OF THE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996)

CASE NO. 70-2000-534

**APPLICATION OF GTE MIDWEST INCORPORATED AND GTE ARKANSAS
INCORPORATED FOR APPROVAL OF INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

COMES NOW, GTE Midwest Incorporated ("GTE Midwest") and GTE Arkansas Incorporated ("GTE AR") (collectively, "GTE" or "Applicants") and file this Application for Approval of an Interconnection Agreement (the "Agreement") between GTE and Ciera Network Systems, Inc. ("CIERA"), pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Federal Act") and would respectfully show the Missouri Public Service Commission (the "Commission") the following:

I. THE APPLICANTS

GTE Midwest and GTE AR are engaged in the business of providing local, access, toll and other telecommunications services. The principal office of GTE Midwest and GTE AR is 601 Monroe Street, Suite 304, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

II. INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT REACHED

GTE presents to this Commission for approval an agreement negotiated and executed pursuant to the terms of the Federal Act (Agreement, Attachment 1). After weeks of intensive good faith negotiations to address all of the complex issues involved

in such an agreement, the parties have executed the Interconnection Agreement between GTE and Ciera on February 25, 2000, and filed herewith, together with the two (2) appendices incorporated therein.

III. DESIGNATED CONTACTS

The designated contact for purposes of this Application is:

Dave Evans
GTE Manager – Regulatory Affairs
601 Monroe Street, Suite 304
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Telephone: 573-636-7196
Fax: 573-636-6826
e-mail: dave.evans@telops.gte.com

IV. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

GTE seeks the Commission's approval of the Agreement, consistent with the provisions of the Federal Act. GTE believes that the implementation of this Agreement complies fully with Section 252(e) of the Federal Act because the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and does not discriminate against any telecommunications carrier. The Agreement promotes diversity in providers, provides interconnectivity, and increases customer choices for telecommunications services.

GTE respectfully requests that the Commission grant expeditious approval of this Agreement, without change, suspension or other delay in its implementation. This is a bilateral agreement, reached as a result of negotiations and compromise between

competitors, and the parties do not believe a docket or intervention by other parties is necessary or appropriate.

V. STANDARD FOR REVIEW

The statutory standards of review are set forth in Section 252(e) of the Federal Act which provides as follows:

Section 252(e) of the Federal Act:

(e) APPROVAL BY STATE COMMISSION

- (1) **APPROVAL REQUIRED.** Any interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration shall be submitted for approval to the state commission. A state commission to which an agreement is submitted to shall approve or reject the agreement, with written findings as to any deficiencies.
- (2) **GROUND FOR REJECTION.** The State Commission may only reject -
 - (A) an agreement (or any portion thereof) adopted by negotiation under subsection (a) if it finds that -
 - (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
 - (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity; or

VI. MISSOURI LEGISLATION

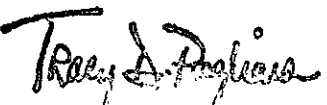
The negotiated and executed Agreement is consistent with the Missouri Legislation, Senate Bill No. 507, which became effective on August 28 ,1996.

VII. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, GTE respectfully prays that the Commission approve the Agreement expeditiously.

Respectfully submitted,

GTE MIDWEST INCORPORATED
GTE ARKANSAS INCORPORATED

By: 

Tracy D. Pagliara, Bar #40126
601 Monroe Street, Suite 304
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101-3202
(972) 718-6362
FAX (972) 718-1250

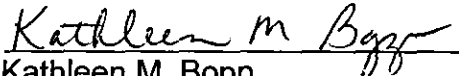
THEIR ATTORNEY

VERIFICATION

I, Kathleen M. Bopp, under penalty of perjury, certify as follows:

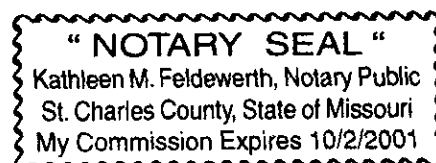
I am Assistant Secretary of GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated. I am authorized to make this verification on behalf of GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated. I have read the foregoing "Application of GTE Midwest Incorporated and GTE Arkansas Incorporated for Approval of Interconnection Agreement with Ciera Network Systems, Inc., pursuant to Sections 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996" and know the contents thereof, and the facts stated therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Executed in the State of Missouri on this 1st day of March, 2000.


Kathleen M. Bopp
Assistant Secretary
GTE Midwest Incorporated and
GTE Arkansas Incorporated

Sworn before me and subscribed in my presence by Kathleen M. Bopp this 1st day of March, 2000.


Notary Public



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was mailed via Airborne Express to Dale Hardy Roberts, Secretary/Chief Administrative Law Judge, Missouri Public Service Commission, 301 W. High Street, Room 530, Jefferson City, MO 65101 and was mailed, postage prepaid, this 1st day of March, 2000 the following:

Office of the Public Counsel
301 W. High Street, Room 250
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Ciera Network Systems, Inc.
Attention: Robert W. Livingston
2630 Fountainview, #300
Houston, TX 77057


Janice G Hartley