

CC Docket 95-116

Please Place

in this

CC Docket

95-116

Thanks, Matt

MCImetro

RECEIVED

AUG - 2 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

**MCI Local Number
Portability (LNP)
Trial Proposal**

May 5, 1995

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

**In Response To: New York State Number Portability Trial
Request for Proposal RFP No. 9501 March 1995**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS	7
1.1 Statement of Purpose	7
1.2. Development of a Cost Model	8
1.3. Responsibility of the Companies	9
1.4. Provider's RFP Responsibility	9
1.5. Critical Dates	10
1.5.1. Questions Regarding the RFP	10
1.5.2. Proposal Due Date	10
1.6. Completeness of Proposal	11
1.7. Restricted Communications	12
1.8. Qualifications and Availability	12
1.9. Disposition of Proposals	12
1.10. Confidentiality	12
1.11. Obtaining Bellcore Publications	13
1.12. Material Safety Data Sheets	13
1.13. Financial Ability	13
2. OVERVIEW	15
2.1. Scope of the Trial	15
2.2. Duration of the Trial	16
2.3. Trial Sites	16
2.4. Providers Commitment	17
3. FUNCTIONAL & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS	19
3.1. General	19
3.2. Provider's Response to this Section	19
3.3. Introduction	19
3.4. Purpose and Scope of Trial	21
3.4.1. Network Architecture	22
3.4.2. Trial Timeline	22
3.5. Trial Environment Baseline	23
3.6. Proposed Trial Architecture	30
3.7. Trial Requirements	43
3.7.1. Networks	46
3.7.2. Switching	48
3.7.3. Signaling	52
3.7.4. LNP Database	55
3.7.5. Call Transport	64
3.7.6. Operations and Billing	64
3.7.6.1. Operations and Billing	65
3.7.7. Supported Services and Features	65

3.8.	Illustrative Call Scenarios	67
3.8.1.	Local Calls	67
3.8.1.1.	Interswitch.....	67
3.8.1.2.	Intraswitch.....	71
3.8.2.	Toll Call Flow	73
3.8.2.1.	Direct IXC Connectivity	73
3.8.2.2.	Indirect Connectivity	74
3.8.3.	500, 800, 900 Calls	76
3.8.4.	911, E911	77
3.8.5.	Operator Services.....	78
3.8.6.	Non-Participants' Calls	81
3.8.7.	Cellular Calls	84
3.8.8.	Inter-Switch Call To A Non-Ported Number [non-required additional information]	86
3.9.	Trial Exit Plan	87
3.10.	Technical Specifications and Engineering.....	87
3.10.1.	SS7 Interface.....	87
3.10.2.	SCP-SSP Interface	88
3.10.3.	Performance	89
3.11.	Reliability, Availability, and Serviceability (RA&S).....	91
3.11.1.	Maintenance	92
3.11.2.	Diagnostics and Alarms	94
3.11.3.	Fault Tolerance	95
3.12.	Feature Requirements	97
3.12.1.	Specific Feature Requirements	99
3.13.	Technical References and Advisories	103
4.	MAINTENANCE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT	106
4.1.	General	106
4.2.	Provider's Response To This Section.....	107
4.3.	Maintenance and Technical Support.....	107
4.4.	Emergency Technical Support.....	108
4.5.	Software Support	110
4.6.	[Paragraph 4.6 not included in RFP].....	110
4.7.	Documentation.....	110
4.8.	Right To Reproduce Documentation	112
4.9.	Training.....	113
5.	COSTS TO TRIAL COMPANIES.....	116
	APPENDIX A.....	117
A.1.	Provider Authority Statement	117

APPENDIX B	118
B.1 Hazardous Material Statement	118
APPENDIX C	122
C.1 Preface to Matrix	122
APPENDIX D	124
D.1 LNP PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES	124
APPENDIX E	130
E.1 ACRONYM LIST	130
APPENDIX F: MCI ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1994	

List of Figures

Figure 1.	Representative Signaling Network Configuration for the LNP Trial.....	2
Figure 2.	Call Flow for a Subscriber who has Changed Local Service Providers ...	3
Figure 3.5.3-1.	Representative Signaling Network Configuration for the LNP Trial	26
Figure 3.6-1.	Call Flow for a Subscriber Who Has Changed Local Service Providers	31
Figure 3.6-2.	Flow for an Originating Call Using IN Trigger	35
Figure 3.6-3.	Flow for an Originating Call Using AIN 0.1 Trigger	37
Figure 3.6-4.	Flow for an Incoming Call Using IN Method	39
Figure 3.7-1.	MCI LNP Trial Organization	44
Figure 3.7.3.1-1.	LNP SCP SS7 Signaling with No Direct LNP/SCP Connection to New York or Rochester.....	53
Figure 3.7.3.1-2.	LNP SCP SS7 Signaling with Direct LNP/SCP Connection to New York or Rochester.....	54
Figure 3.7.4-1.	Message Flow Block Diagram for IN TR-NWT-000533	56
Figure 3.7.4-2.	Message Flow Block Diagram for AIN 0.1 with 6-Digit PODP (NPA NXX) Trigger	58
Figure 3.7.4.3-1	Flow for Call Processing (CP)	60
Figure 3.8.1.1-1.	Flow for an Interswitch Call	68
Figure 3.8.1.1-2	AIN PODP Message Flow	69
Figure 3.8.1.1-3.	800 IN Message Flow	70
Figure 3.8.1.2-1.	Flow for an Intraswitch Call	72
Figure 3.8.2.1-1.	Flow for an Inter-LATA Call with Direct IXC Connectivity	74
Figure 3.8.2.2-1.	Flow for an Inter-LATA Call with Indirect IXC Connectivity	75
Figure 3.8.3-1.	Flow for an 800 Call	76

Figure 3.8.4-1.	Flow for an E911 Call	78
Figure 3.8.5-1.	Flow for Operator Services-Busy Line Verification Call	80
Figure 3.8.6-1.	Flow for Intra-LATA Non-Participants' Calls.....	81
Figure 3.8.6.6-1.	Flow for Inter-LATA Non-Participants' Calls.....	83
Figure 3.8.7-1.	Flow for Cellular Call	84
Figure 3.8.8-1	Flow for a Call to an Unported DN in a Ported NPA-NXX	86
Figure 3.10.3.1-1	SCP CPU Performance	89
Figure 3.11.3-1.	MCImetro Selected LNP SCP Hardware Architecture	96

List of Tables

Table 1.	Primary Characteristics and Advantages of the MCImetro LNP Concept	4
Table 3.7-1	Highlights and Benefits of MCI's LNP Trial Approach	43
Table 3.7.4-1	Format of Ported Number/Vacant Number Data Table.....	55
Table 3.7.4-2	Format of Non-Ported Number Data Table.....	55
Table 3.7.4.3-1	State Bubble Function Description Table.....	61
Table 3.12.1-1	Summary of LNP Effect on Features	100
Table 3.13-1	Technical Reference and Advisories Compliance Summary	105
Table 4.7-1	Representative LNP Trial Publications	111
Table 4.9-1	MCImetro Projected LNP Trial Training Courses	114
Tables D.1-1	LNP Trial Action List	124

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MCI is pleased to submit this proposal in response to New York State Number Portability Trial, Request for Proposal, RFP No. 9501, March 1995.

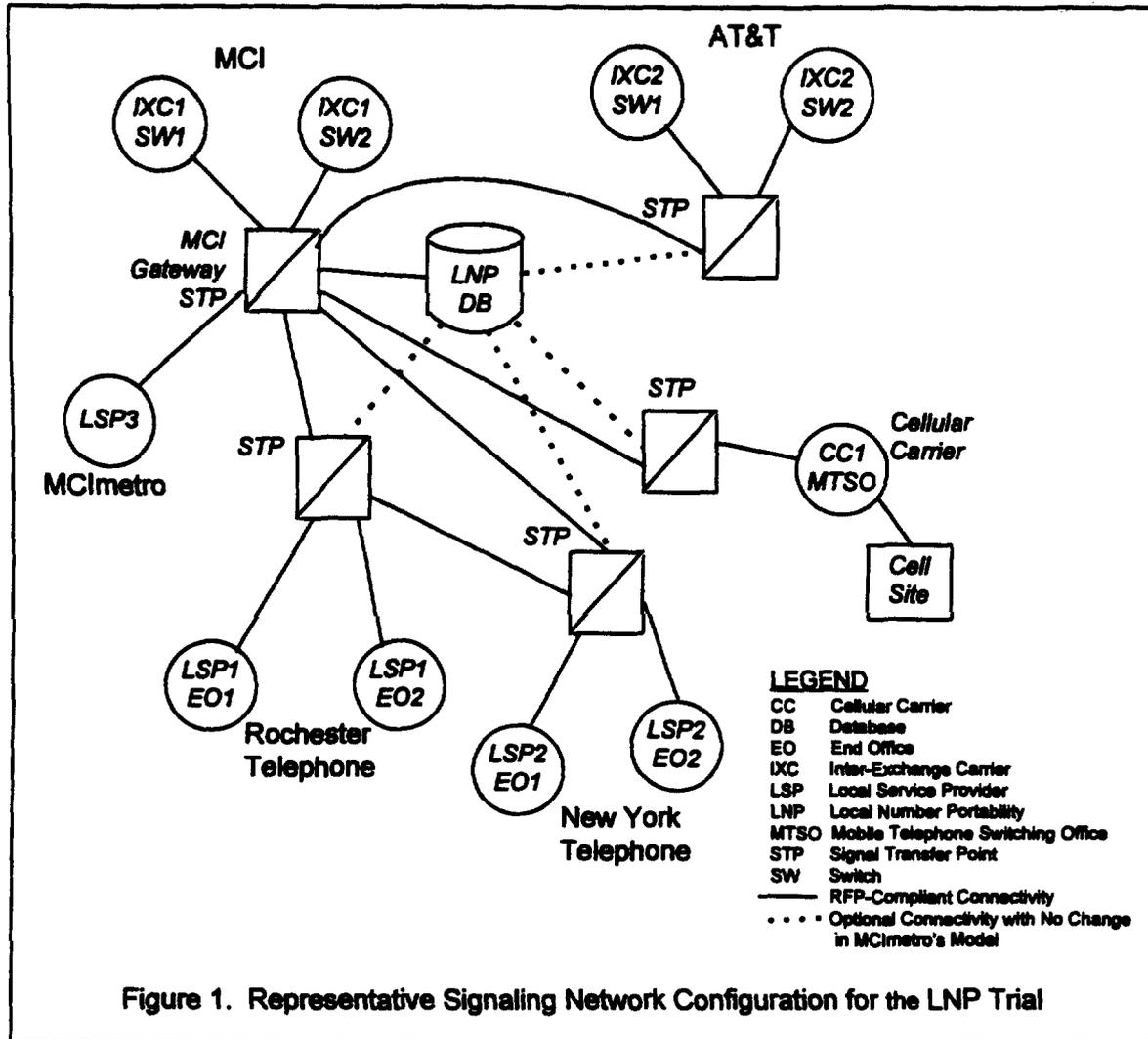
MCI is strongly committed to a successful number portability trial and the early implementation of Local Number Portability (LNP) on a broad scale. We believe that the New York Public Service Commission's goals align closely with our own: achieving a successful multi-company LNP trial that ultimately will continue the logical evolution of the United States telecommunications marketplace into a totally competitive arena for local, as well as long distance, services. We do not view LNP as a future MCI product, but as an essential component in this evolution.

We have selected MCImetro, a wholly owned subsidiary, to lead our LNP efforts. In November 1994, MCImetro assembled a multi-company task force to study LNP and to develop a prototype LNP model. Team members included Siemens Stromberg-Carlson, Northern Telecom (NORTEL), Tandem Computers, and DSC Communications (DSC). The team developed an IN/AIN (Intelligent Network/Advanced Intelligent Network) solution that uses an LNP database to obtain the information necessary to route calls to subscribers who have changed Local Service Providers.

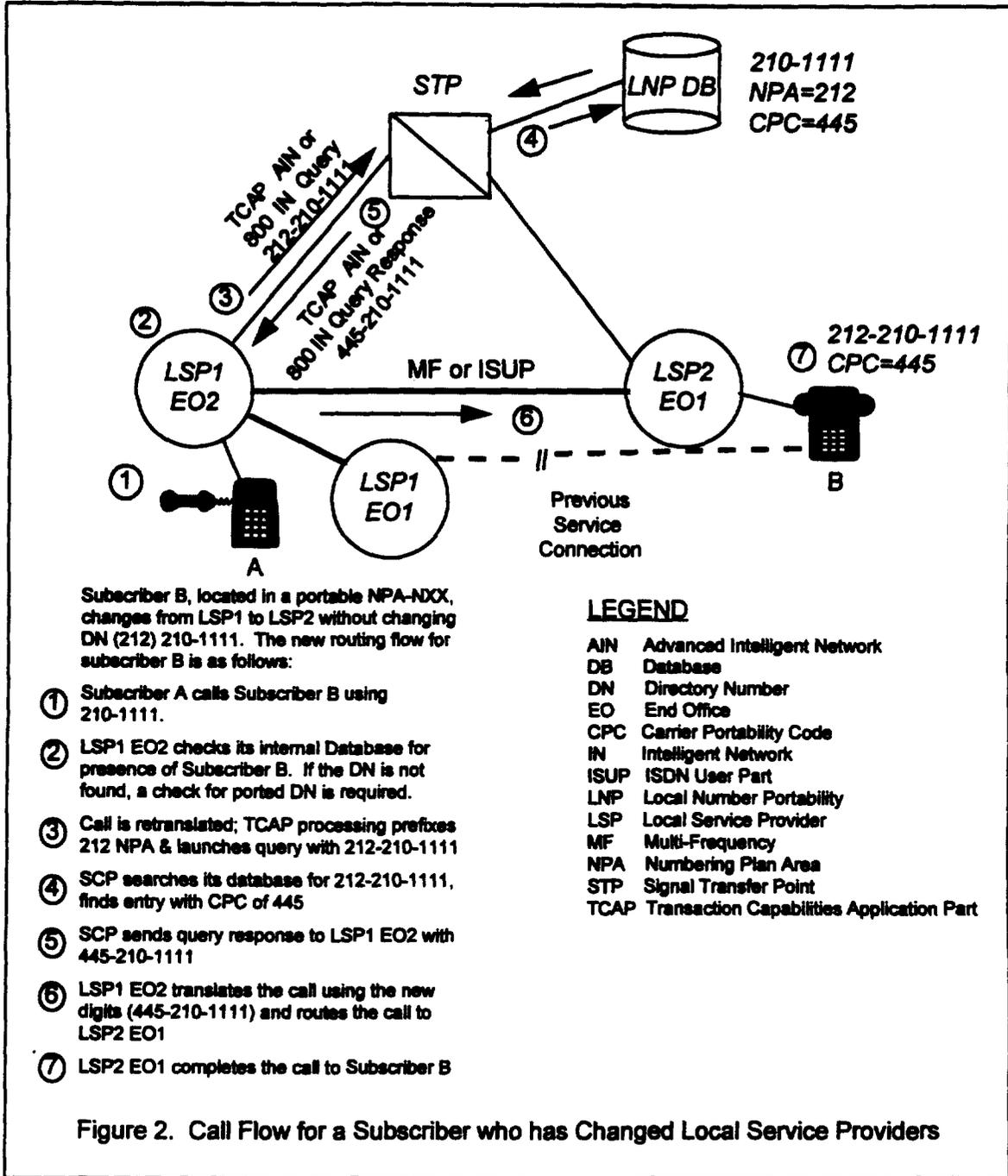
This team successfully demonstrated its prototype LNP model on April 6, 1995, in Richardson, Texas. The demonstration configuration included a Tandem Service Control Point (SCP) that housed the LNP database, a DSC DEX600 switch and Signal Transfer Point (STP), a Siemens Stromberg-Carlson EWSD switch using an IN-compliant interface, a NORTEL DMS-100 switch using an AIN 0.1-compliant interface, and a NORTEL DMS-250 switch using MCI's proprietary interface. The prototype was constructed using only existing hardware and software, along with some LNP-specific application software. The demonstration achieved portability (i.e., calls were routed between different Local Service Providers) without subscribers perceiving any change in service.

Our proposed configuration for the LNP trial

Figure 1 illustrates our proposed configuration for the LNP trial, and Figure 2 illustrates the call flow for a call to a subscriber who has changed Local Service Providers. The LNP database equipment in this proposal is the same system already proven successful in our prototype program. Except for the LNP database and its connections, the trial configuration uses existing carrier equipment and trunking. The LNP database is housed in a Tandem Computer SCP whose location will be determined in coordination with participating Companies.



For illustrative purposes, Figure 1 depicts two participating inter-exchange carriers (IXCs) and one mobile cellular carrier, in addition to New York Telephone, Rochester Telephone, and MCImetro. The actual trial configuration, including participants, switches, Signal Transfer Points (STPs), and connectivity, will be developed in coordination with participating Companies. Each participating carrier can choose to employ either an IN or an AIN 0.1 interface.



Our LNP model is based upon the concept that each Local Service Provider within the Manhattan and Rochester Numbering Plan Areas (NPAs) will be assigned a unique three-digit "Carrier Portability Code" (CPC). This CPC is stored with the ported subscriber's Directory Number (DN) in the LNP database, and, when needed, replaces the NPA for call-routing purposes.

We selected the CPC approach during our prototype studies. In evaluating the available architectures, we found that the CPC approach provided superior performance with respect to the following criteria:

- development and implementation cost
- technical feasibility
- time to market
- impact on existing infrastructure
- need for modification to existing signaling and protocol standards
- service/feature interaction
- flexibility for future enhancement.

The CPC approach uses existing standards and can query the LNP SCP using either IN or AIN 0.1 methods, eliminating the need for any significant development in switching systems. It minimizes service/feature interaction issues and also minimizes impacts on the billing and records systems.

Table 1 lists the important characteristics and corresponding advantages of our LNP concept. Perhaps the most important characteristic of our architecture is its reliance on - and integration with - existing networks and switches, with no significant increase in complexity. This approach not only is the most robust, it also minimizes costs for other interested carriers and suppliers, encouraging their participation. Furthermore, it maximizes the probability of rapid broad-scale LNP implementation after the trial period.

Table 1. Primary Characteristics and Advantages of the MCI/metro LNP Concept

Primary Characteristics	Advantages
A single trial database serves both Manhattan and Rochester.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to attract maximum carrier participation through economies of scale. • Will reduce both pre-trial coordination and interface-development requirements for carriers and vendors wishing to participate at both sites.
Architecture incorporates provisions for both IN and AIN 0.1 interfaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to increase carrier participation by allowing choice.
Implementation requires no change in current MF/ISUP signaling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimizes costs to participants. • Increases the likelihood of rapid broad-scale implementation.
Architecture incorporates provisions for non-SS7 switches to use a tandem or SS7-capable office to perform the database query for them.	Increases life cycle for the many older network switches that do not support SS7.

Primary Characteristics	Advantages
<p>Pre-trial planning activities are based on our successful development and demonstration of a multi-company prototype.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases probability of successful trial. • Reduces technical and schedule risks. • Demonstrates success in a multi-company project environment.
<p>Our management approach includes a comprehensive pre-trial, trial, and post-trial plan of action, complete with milestones. Shown as APPENDIX D, our plan will be continually refined through periodic coordination with interested parties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases the probability of a successful trial.
<p>Program strongly encourages maximum multi-company participation throughout pre-trial, trial, and post-trial activities.</p>	<p>Should provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a more comprehensive trial • a stronger post-trial report • greater likelihood of open marketplace of future LNP products and services • earlier implementation of LNP on broad scale.
<p>Our approach incorporates a dual focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is research-oriented in encompassing modeling and simulation of broad-scale capability. • It is operationally oriented with respect to quality of subscriber service, protection of billing data, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will provide greater credibility under post-trial technical and political scrutiny. • Should lead to quicker approval for broad-scale implementation
<p>Our successful prototype demonstration using existing TCAP 800 IN and AIN 0.1 protocols and triggers proves that LNP can be deployed in pockets or as portability "islands" without requiring extensive architecture/software changes to existing switches in those areas.</p>	<p>Ensures an easy and smooth transition to broad-scale LNP deployment because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • software change requirements are minimal, thereby reducing costs • existing central office routing capabilities are used • it operates with MF or SS7 trunks • widely deployed subscriber features continue to operate normally • non-LNP-capable offices can be supported easily.

While ours is not the only possible LNP solution, our concept does provide the many advantages listed in this Executive Summary. We believe it to be the most likely to ensure a successful trial and early broad-scale implementation. If the trial does lead to broad-scale implementation, as we anticipate, our concept will allow carriers to be able to choose from network equipment and systems offered by various vendors.

We believe that a successful trial is more likely if the Companies select a trial coordinator who has already successfully demonstrated an LNP solution, who offers a proven multi-company approach, and who has no stake in specific solutions selected for broad-scale implementation. We intend to perform all LNP trial activities with a team mindset toward all participating Companies and the NYPSC. As evidence of this intent, we stand ready to demonstrate our successful prototype for any Company interested in participating in our test.

1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

1.1. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Proposal ("RFP") is to solicit proposals ("Proposals") from manufacturers/providers of network database-driven Local Number Portability architectures ("Products") for use in exploring the feasibility of a multi-company local number portability trial. This trial will begin February 1, 1996, following the approval of the New York Public Service Commission ("NYPSC"). It is expected that the manufacturers/providers submitting proposals will provide provisioning, administration, signaling and interconnection with existing networks (see 3.7.3. 1. for further detail) of carriers certified to operate in the trial geography. It is the intention of:

**AT&T
Cellular One/Genesee Telephone Company
LOCATE
MCI
MFS Intelenet, Inc.
NYNEX
Rochester Telephone Corp.
Sprint Communications Company L.P.
Teleport Communications Group
Time Warner Communications**

(hereinafter "Companies") to obtain the use of Products and associated support services at no charge for the duration of the number portability trial ("Trial"). It should be noted that some of the companies listed above may also choose to respond to this RFP. Recipients of this RFP will be referred to as Providers ("Provider") and are requested to submit a proposal ("Proposal") for Products and associated services to be utilized in the Trial. This RFP shall not be construed to be an order but is released by the Companies in response to the NYPSC Order dated March 8, 1995 mandating a study of the feasibility of a local number portability trial in New York and to report back to the NYPSC regarding the costs and parameters of a trial.

MCI is pleased to submit this proposal in response to New York State Number Portability Trial, Request for Proposal RFP No. 9501, of March 1995.

To ensure complete responsiveness, this proposal addresses each numbered RFP section and paragraph, complies with all RFP requirements, and meets the Mandatory Requirements of RFP APPENDIX C, paragraph C.1.

RFP Paragraph 1.4 requires that the proposal relate exactly to RFP Section and Paragraph numbers. RFP Paragraph 3.2 reiterates this requirement specifically for Section 3, and also requires that the provider reprint the Companies' paragraph, followed immediately by the Provider's response. For the convenience of all readers and evaluators, we have adopted this format for the entirety of our proposal. Throughout this proposal, each RFP paragraph number is followed by the RFP text in bold-face type, then our response to this numbered RFP Paragraph in roman (non-bold) type.

MCI has selected a wholly owned subsidiary, MCImetro, to lead MCI's efforts in Local Number Portability (LNP). MCImetro's charter is to provide a full range of basic and enhanced local telecommunications service through fiber-optic networks and local switching centers throughout the United States, as regulatory authorities permit. MCImetro is currently authorized to provide local service in New York and five other states, and has applications pending with utility regulators pending in six additional states.

In November 1994, MCImetro formed a multi-company task force to study local number portability and develop a prototype solution to address it. Our LNP team includes Siemens Stromberg-Carlson, Northern Telecom, Inc. (NORTEL), Tandem Computers, and DSC Communications (DSC). Within the span of five months, this team designed, implemented, and successfully demonstrated a working LNP model. The configuration included a Tandem Service Control Point (SCP) that contained the LNP database, a DSC DEX 600 and a Signal Transfer Point (STP), a Siemens Stromberg-Carlson EWSD switch using an Intelligent Network (IN) compliant interface, a NORTEL DMS-100 switch using an AIN 0.1 compliant interface, and a NORTEL DMS-250 switch using MCI's proprietary X.25 interface. We intend to expand this same team into a full-blown multi-company task force that will complete all aspects of this trial, including an organized, well-structured series of pre-trial and post-trial actions.

Our objective is to perform a successful multi-company LNP trial that will lead to early, broad-scale commercial LNP deployment, opening the local telephone market to the benefits of competition.

1.2. Development of a Cost Model

While the Companies expect the Provider to furnish all products and services at no charge during the term of the trial, Provider must agree upon conclusion of the trial to work jointly with the participating Companies to develop a cost model to assist the New York State Public Commission in determining a rough estimate of the potential cost for implementing number portability on a broad scale. Supplier will be asked to provide best estimates on the cost of its Products and Services as they would be applicable in such a cost model.

MCImetro will furnish all products and services at no charge during the trial. At the end of the trial period, we agree to work jointly with participating Companies to develop a

cost model to assist NYPSC in determining cost estimates for implementing broad-scale number portability. A well conceived, thoroughly documented, and fully credible cost model is critical in making decisions about implementing broad-scale number portability. Cost was a driving factor in our decision to propose a Carrier Portability Code (CPC) approach to LNP.

Current activities with our LNP prototype have already provided insights that will be useful in cost model development, and we believe that an early start will be useful to all interested parties. Accordingly, we plan to provide a draft preliminary cost model for review and discussion at our proposed pre-trial inaugural meeting, recommended for July 1995.

1.3. Responsibility of the Companies

The Companies or their affiliated companies shall incur no obligation or liability whatsoever by reason of issuance of this RFP or action by anyone relative thereto. By issuance of this RFP, the Companies do not commit to participation in the trial or to the purchase of any product or service.

We accept the conditions that the Companies incur no obligation or liability by reason of issuance of the RFP or accepting our proposal in response to it.

1.4. Provider's RFP Responsibility

Provider must analyze and respond to all Sections of this RFP providing sufficient detail to allow the Companies to evaluate the Proposal. Section and paragraph numbers in Supplier's Proposal must relate exactly to the Section and paragraph numbers in this RFP. To be considered, Provider is obligated to furnish all information as requested and complete all forms according to the instructions in each Section. Any deviations or exceptions to the Companies' requirements must be noted. Additional information may be attached to the Proposal.

Provider, by submitting its Proposal, agrees that any costs incurred by the Provider in responding to this RFP, or in support of activities associated with this RFP, are to be borne by Provider and shall not be billed to the Companies. As discussed in Section 1.10, all responses or any portion thereof will be considered non-confidential.

We are confident that our responses to each RFP paragraph provide sufficient detail to enable reviewers to accurately evaluate our answers and assign appropriate grades. Our proposal is fully compliant with the RFP and includes all requested information and all forms completed in accordance with RFP instructions. Any deviations from or exceptions to the Companies' requirements are clearly stated in the appropriate sections. To facilitate the evaluation process, we have included additional relevant information in three appendices:

- APPENDIX D contains pre-trial, trial, and post trial actions and milestones.
- APPENDIX E is a list of acronyms and abbreviations.
- APPENDIX F is a copy of MCI's 1994 Annual Report and is provided in compliance with RFP Paragraph 1.13.

MCI agrees that all costs associated with preparing this response to the RFP will be borne by MCI, and that none of these costs will be billed to the Companies. This proposal and all information contained in it are non-confidential.

1.5. Critical Dates

[No RFP statement provided.]

MCI has complied with all dates listed in RFP 1.5, as modified by New York State Local Number Portability Trial Steering Committee Answers to Questions Submitted By Vendors Related to the Request for Proposal Released March 24, 1995.

1.5.1. Questions Regarding the RFP

Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing, by April 3, 1995. Every attempt will be made to answer all inquires. Responses to all Provider's questions will be contained in a single document to be issued no later than April 14, 1995. Written questions shall be directed to the following process manager:

**Dan Engleman
Time Warner Communications
P. O. Box 6659
Englewood, Colorado 80155-6659
(303) 799-3302 (Phone) (303) 649-9749 (Fax)**

All submitted questions will be distributed without attributions to the Companies. Questions and answers will be provided to representatives of all Companies and Providers without attributions.

MCI submitted questions on April 3, 1995 in compliance with the time requirements of the above paragraph.

1.5.2. Proposal Due Date

Proposals must be delivered to the locations specified below on or before 4:00 p.m. April 21, 1995 ("Due Date"). No Proposal will be accepted after the Due Date.

Providers shall submit one copy of the Proposal for each company listed in 1. 1. Proposals should be submitted to the following companies' representative:

**Bill Salvatore
AT&T
32 Avenue of the Americas
Room 2060
New York, NY 10013
(212) 387-4750
(212) 387-4763 (fax)**

**Kurt Spangler
Cellular One
1500 Rand Building
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 854-5076
(716) 866-9008 (fax)**

**Stuart Dolgin
LOCATE
17 Battery Place
Suite 1200
New York, NY 10004
(212) 509-5115
(212) 809-5828 (fax)**

**Woody Traylor
MCI
2400 North Glenville, Drive
Richardson, TX 75082
(214) 918-5165
(214) 918-6038 (fax)**

**Suzanne Yerdon
MFS Intelenet, Inc.
6 Century Drive
Suite 300
Parsippany, NJ 07054
(201) 938-7346
(201)938-7335 (fax)**

**Larry Chu
NYNEX
1095 Avenue of the
Americas, Room 3429
New York, NY 10036
(212) 395-1209
(212)221-6941 (fax)**

**David Ketch
Rochester Telephone
Corporation
180 South Clinton Avenue
Rochester, NY 14646
(716) 777-6932
(716) 325-1355 (fax)**

**Kenneth Prohoniak
Sprint
1850 "M" Street, NW
Suite 1110
Washington, DC
(202) 828-7455
(202) 828-7403 (fax)**

**Thomas Tilton
Teleport
Communications
Company
Two Teleport Drive
Suite 300
Staten Island, NY 10311
(718) 983-2745
(718) 370-4803 (fax)**

**Jon Schwartz
Time Warner
Communications
160 Inverness Drive West
Englewood, Colorado 80112
(303) 754-6185 (303) 649-9079 (fax)**

MCImetro has delivered one copy of this proposal to each of the listed locations prior to 4:00 p.m. May 5, 1995, in compliance with New York State Local Number Portability Trial Steering Committee Answer Number 52 related to the RFP.

1.6. Completeness of Proposal

Provider acknowledges the Companies' right to reject any or all Proposals or portions thereof. A Proposal may be rejected if, in the Companies' judgment, it is conditional or incomplete. Lack of a response to a specific point will be interpreted as non-compliance to the Companies' requirements. Provider is allowed to recommend alternatives to any item but it must explain how the alternative meets the Companies' requirements.

MCImetro acknowledges the Companies' right to reject this proposal or any portion thereof. We have fully responded to each specific point of the RFP. Any alternatives have been clearly identified and explained under the appropriate section.

1.7. Restricted Communications

It is the Companies' wish to avoid situations which (1) place them in a position where their judgment may be biased; (2) create any appearance of conflict of interest with respect to rendering an impartial, fair, technically sound and objective decision concerning Provider's proposal; or (3) give an unfair competitive advantage to competing Providers. Therefore, all inquires or other communications regarding this RFP shall be directed to the process manager designated in Section 1.5.1.

Prior to award, all MCImetro inquiries and other communications regarding this RFP have been, and will continue to be, directed only to the process manager designated in RFP Paragraph 1.5.1.

1.8. Qualification and Availability

During the time the Companies are evaluating the proposals Provider should be prepared, at the Companies request, to explain its Proposal and to demonstrate that the stated objectives and requirements can be met or exceeded. Provider should also be prepared to explain and demonstrate that Provider's Product will be available, in sufficient quantities to meet any dates listed in this RFP.

We are fully prepared to explain this proposal and to demonstrate to the Companies that we can meet or exceed the RFP's stated objectives and requirements. We are also prepared to demonstrate that our Product will be available in sufficient quantities to meet all dates listed in the RFP. Additionally, we would be pleased to demonstrate our LNP-model to the Companies to demonstrate our ability to meet the RFP's stated objectives and requirements.

1.9. Disposition of Proposals

Companies may dispose or retain individual proposals at their sole discretion.

We accept this stipulation.

1.10. Confidentiality

The Companies do not wish to receive any confidential information from the Provider. RFP responses will be considered non-confidential and subject to public disclosure. Any responses containing information marked confidential will not be accepted and will be returned to the submitting provider in its entirety. Definition of Confidential Information is non-public information which if disclosed could cause a company substantial competitive harm.

MCImetro's response to the RFP contains no confidential information. No portion of this proposal is marked as being confidential or proprietary, and any portion may be disclosed to the public.

1.11. Obtaining Bellcore Publications

To obtain Bellcore publications referenced in this RFP please contact:

**Bellcore
Customer Service
60 New England Avenue
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854-4196**

**Domestic Hotline, no toll 800 521-2673 (automatic message)
Foreign, toll call 908 699-5800 (automatic message)
fax 201 699-0936**

Bellcore orders must be prepaid. Phone or write Bellcore and state document and item numbers, quantity, and your shipping information. Bellcore accepts VISA, American Express, and Master Card for publication payment.

Noted.

1.12. Material Safety Data Sheets

Provider must identify and inform the Companies of Hazardous Materials contained in Provider's material and be willing to provide an OSHA Form 20 or its equivalent in response to this RFP and with each shipment of Provider's material. Further information is provided in Appendix B, Section B.1.

MCImetro's product does not include the use of any hazardous material. Nonetheless, we agree to comply with the RFP's requirement for OSHA Form 20 or its equivalent. The alternative letter is provided in Appendix B of this proposal.

1.13. Financial Ability

The Providers must demonstrate the financial ability to support the trial throughout its duration. The Provider may submit an audited annual report. If the provider considers such information to be confidential, then some other proof of financial ability to support the trial must be submitted.

MCI's annual revenue for 1994 was \$13.3 billion, an increase of 12 percent over 1993 revenue. One full-year traffic growth was also 12 percent. Earnings for 1994 were \$794 million, or \$1.32 per share, compared to 1993 earnings of \$1.30 per share.

On December 31, 1994, MCI had a positive working capital balance (current assets less current liabilities) of \$1.8 billion. On December 31, 1993, we had a working capital deficit of \$600 million.

MCI's ratio of debt to total capitalization, defined as total debt to total debt plus equity, has declined to 26 percent on December 31, 1994, from 35 percent on December 31, 1993.

A copy of MCI's 1994 Annual Report is attached as APPENDIX F. Price Waterhouse LLP's audit statement is located on page 25 of the Annual Report.

2. OVERVIEW

2.1. Scope of the Trial

On March 8, 1995, the NYPSC issued an Order mandating a study of the feasibility of a local number portability trial in the State of New York. In order to conduct such a study, the Companies are issuing this RFP. Following NYPSC approval, this trial, which will utilize database technology, will take place in Manhattan and Rochester, New York and will include NXXs based out of both the DMS and 5ESS switching system.¹ [RFP footnote #1 - In Manhattan the trial locations will be NYNEX's East 56th Street DMS 100-DS0 (NXXs 935 and 318) and NYNEX's East 37th Street 5ESS (NXXs 210 and 922). Both of these switches have direct connections with six Interexchange Carriers. In Rochester, the Stone Street 5ESS will be utilized with three NXXs (987, 262 and 325) being ported. Four Interexchange Carriers have direct connections to this end office.] The trial will be conducted in three phases. The first phase will utilize a dedicated unused NXX provided by NYNEX. This NXX will be divided by line number among the trial participants. The numbers will be ported between participating carriers and test calls will be placed to demonstrate the functionality of the database platform. The second phase of the trial will utilize the NXXs listed in footnote 1. Line numbers from administrative offices of the trial participants which reside in the trial NXXs will be ported between carriers and the processing of normal traffic will be evaluated. Phase three of the trial will test the platform with real customers. The Companies' customers, who at the time of the trial are assigned line numbers out of the ported NXXs, will be given the option of converting from the interim number portability solution that they currently use (e.g., Remote Call Forwarding) to the number portability database solution.

The database to be utilized in the trial will be selected through the following process. The Companies have drafted the following RFP including technical specifications for the system that is needed and an evaluation matrix to assess which Proposal(s) best fit the needs of all companies certified to operate in the trial geography. Provider's selection does not obligate the Companies to select or procure any equipment or services from the provider subsequent to the trial completion. Proposals will be evaluated by the Companies based on the weightings given to each criteria on the evaluation matrix.² [RFP Footnote 2 - It is the requirement of the Companies that no Confidential Information be included in the Proposals. (Reference Section 1.10).] The Proposal(s) that scores the highest on the evaluation matrix will be selected (note Section 1.3). Providers will be notified of which Proposal(s) was selected on or about June 2, 1995. The Provider will then work cooperatively with the Companies to build the trial platform in preparation for a trial start date on or about February 1, 1996.

It is the intention of the Companies that the Solution be provided at no charge. The Providers will have the benefit of testing their platform with live traffic in a real

market. This experience will allow Providers to determine how to modify their databases for large scale deployment, provide insights into areas for future development and expose the Solution to multiple companies inside and outside the trial geography who may wish to use their Solution.

MCI agrees with all elements of the stated scope of the trial, specifically agreeing to perform all activities in accordance with RFP Paragraph 2.1 and Footnote 1. We agree that if we are selected to provide trial Product, the Companies are not subsequently obligated to procure any equipment or services from us.

Upon award, we will immediately begin work in close coordination with the Companies to build the trial platform to ensure that the trial commences not later than February 1, 1996. We will provide our Product at no charge.

2.2. Duration of the Trial

The trial will commence on or about February 1, 1996 and have a duration of approximately six months total for all three phases.

MCImetro will be ready for trial commencement on or before February 1, 1996, and has developed a schedule that ensures completion of all three phases within approximately six months of start up. APPENDIX D to this proposal includes a detailed project plan with milestones to illustrate how we will meet this schedule.

2.3. Trial Sites

All Proposals must cover both Rochester and Manhattan trial sites. However at the discretion of the Companies, two solutions may be tested, one in Manhattan and one in Rochester.

MCImetro's proposal is based on serving both designated trial sites. If we are selected for a single site, we will remain fully committed to meeting all applicable RFP requirements.

Selecting MCImetro to perform the trial at both sites offers the following benefits:

- A low-cost solution incorporating both IN and AIN capabilities should attract maximum carrier participation, and should help ensure an early and smooth start-up for all participants.
- Participants can work together as a single entity to achieve a multi-company consensus on such pre-trial issues as how to notify participants of changes in portability status of an NPA-NXX, how a subscriber is to be moved, and

what procedures are followed to execute change orders with precision timing and minimal subscriber impacts.

- A single two-site solution reduces interface development requirements for carriers and switch vendors wishing to participate in testing at both sites. It also reduces pre-trial coordination and meeting requirements for participants and other interested parties.

2.4. Providers Commitment

The Provider(s) selected to participate in the trial will be expected to furnish their proposed Solution together with all technical services necessary to support their Solution and mediate multi-company issues that may be related to the Solution(s) at no charge for the duration of the trial. Because the trial will include live customer bearing traffic of the Companies, it is essential that the Provider have emergency technical support available to the Companies twenty four (24) hours a day, seven days a week for the duration of the trial. Provider must state any and all limitations on the Solution, support and/or resources that it will furnish that could potentially affect the trial in a negative manner. Provider is expected to contribute to a final report which will be submitted to the NYPSC following the conclusion of the trial.

If MCImetro is selected as the Provider, we agree to promptly furnish our solution, together with all technical services necessary to support the solution. We agree to mediate at no charge for the duration of the trial any multi-company issues that may be related to our solution.

Our emergency technical support will be available to the Companies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the duration of the trial. Paragraphs 4.4 and 4.4.1 of this proposal include further details on our plans for providing technical support during the trial period.

Our solution has no known limitation that might affect the trial in a negative manner. Upon award, we will work directly with the Companies and other interested parties to confirm this statement, and will modify our solution if appropriate or necessary. If limitations are discovered during the course of pre-trial and trial activities, we will promptly notify all interested parties. APPENDIX D, our Plan of Action and Milestones, reflects the priority we assign to this action.

MCImetro will not limit the support or resources committed to this trial in any way that might adversely affect the trial in any manner.

MCImetro accepts the responsibility for preparing a final report at the Companies' request, and will submit it to the NYPSC following the conclusion of the trial. To enhance the value and ensure the credibility of the post-trial report, we will:

- design the trial with a long-term, broad-scale perspective, selecting measurements, measurement points and methods, metrics, and success criteria that fully address not only the trial, but also the valid extrapolation of results to broad-scale implementation.
- ensure that Phases 2 and 3 are conducted with both an operational mentality in terms of protection of subscriber service, protection of billing data, etc., and also a research mentality in terms of test rigor and validity of results to broad application.
- fully involve interested parties in both pre-trial and trial activities.
- coordinate the draft final report with NYPSIC, the Companies, and other interested parties, incorporating into the report any dissenting conclusions or recommendations.

We are committed to the success of this trial and to any other industry actions intended to promote the broad-scale implementation of LNP.