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RICHARD R. WOLF
Director
Legal & Regulatory Affairs

October 16, 1997

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 "M" Street, NW
Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Mr. Caton:

I would like to take this opportunity to update you regarding Illuminet's progress with its Local Number Portability (LNP) project. As discussed in our meeting on February 6, 1997, Illuminet's business plan was aimed at ensuring the availability of a local number portability solution to Telecommunications Common Carriers by the FCC-established October 1, 1997, deadline. It is my pleasure to inform you that Illuminet has successfully met this objective. By October 1, 1997, Illuminet had completed the service provider testing necessary to connect to the Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) in the Mid-Atlantic region. Illuminet also successfully participated in the Mid-West trial in support of our customer's testing requirements.

Completion of this testing ensures that Illuminet's Service Order Administration (SOA) and Local Service Management System (LSMS) can provide the necessary technical and operational interfaces with the NPAC in the Mid-Atlantic Region. While not part of the NPAC testing, the Illuminet local number portability database functionality also is fully operational. As a result, Illuminet now can provide turnkey LNP services to telecommunications providers in this Region, which includes New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Enclosed is a copy of Illuminet's latest press release to the industry.

As you may be aware, NPAC functionality for testing in the West, Western and Southeast Regions has been delayed due to NPAC software performance problems. Where NPAC functionality is available, Illuminet is participating actively in turn-up testing to enable it to provide LNP on a national scope. When these NPACs are available for commercial service, Illuminet will be ready to provide carriers with a turnkey LNP service in these Regions, as well.

Currently, due to the extensive costs in deploying an LNP solution, only the largest carriers have committed to deploying their own LNP solution. These carriers include the RBOCs, GTE, TCG, AT&T, MCI, WORLDCOM and SPRINT. Illuminet's shared LNP solution allows all carriers to participate in the competitive telecommunications market without having to incur the expense of a stand-alone LNP solution.

Illuminet has committed insignificant time and resources in its efforts to bring LNP to the telecommunications industry within the guidelines established by the FCC. Illuminet commends the FCC for its leadership role in LNP and looks forward to being an important part of the industry LNP solution.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Wolf
Director
Legal & Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

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ILLUMINET Completes LNP Testing in Mid-Atlantic Region

Service bureau solution now available

OLYMPIA, Wash.—ILLUMINET today announced it has successfully completed service provider testing necessary to connect to Lockheed Martin's Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) in the Mid-Atlantic Region. ILLUMINET now is positioned to offer turnkey local number portability (LNP) services to telecommunications carriers in the region, which includes New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. The completion of testing ensures that ILLUMINET's service order administration (SOA) and local service management system (LSMS) can interoperate with the main service management system (SMS) for the NPAC in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

"ILLUMINET is offering local, long distance and wireless carriers LNP support on a service bureau basis," said Roger Moore, president and CEO - ILLUMINET. "By leveraging our core competencies such as SS7 network services, and database management and administration, we can offer carriers shared access to number portability services without incurring the cost of deploying their own infrastructure."

ILLUMINET's approach features Tekelec's Eagle® integrated service control point/signaling transfer point (SCP/STP) platform that combines the capabilities of an SCP's ability to handle complex database queries, and an STP's capacity to accommodate as many as 20,000 transactions per second (a typical LNP volume for a large metropolitan area). This approach addresses industry concerns regarding the potentially dramatic increase in SS7 signaling traffic associated with LNP.

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"Faster, more efficient service at a reasonable cost is the hallmark of ILLUMINET's LNP service," Moore said. "We currently have an operational pair of Tekelec Eagle STPs in our SS7 network on the West Coast, and we're adding an additional pair on the East Coast to ensure that we can handle the increased traffic."

"The Eagle STP can process more LNP transactions than the equivalent of multiple SCPs operating twice as fast as today's 'state-of-the-art' SCP systems," said Tekelec President Allan Toomer.

In addition to providing the STPs, Tekelec's LSMS platform downloads routing information on ported numbers from the Lockheed Martin NPAC SMS.

Another important aspect of ILLUMINET's service bureau approach is service order administration (SOA). AG Communication Systems is providing its INgage™ SOA software to facilitate input requests from multiple regions using either Java-based web browser technology or message-based interface. The SOA resides between carriers' in-house systems and the network databases that update routing information as service changes are received.

"The AGCS SOA allows carriers access to all NPAC regions through a single interface," said Moore. "This architecture benefits carriers who want easy access to data from multiple geographic locations."

"AG Communication Systems INgage SOA was built to offer the flexibility of a robust interoperable interface," said Carl Glaeser, general manager, INgage Solutions for AG Communication Systems. "ILLUMINET's service bureau approach leverages the software's agility to give service providers the ability to support LNP for a modest investment."

The flexible service bureau approach allows carriers to choose just the components they need, or bundle them all for a turnkey solution. ILLUMINET is continuing testing with the six other NPACs nationwide to meet the FCC's initial LNP implementation deadline of March 31, 1998.

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TEKELEC

Tekelec is a leading supplier of advanced diagnostic systems and innovative network switching solutions that enable rapid delivery of advanced communications products and services for the global communications marketplace. Tekelec's diagnostic systems are used by communication suppliers and service providers to design, install and maintain their communication equipment and networks. Tekelec's Eagle STP switching platform is designed to meet the complex requirements of SS7 networks and enable wireline and wireless operators to deliver intelligent network services.

AGCS

AG Communication Systems (www.agcs.com) is a leading developer and manufacturer of advanced telecommunication products and services, including access, wireless and intelligent network products. AG Communication Systems' GTD-5® EAX digital switching systems serve more than 17 million customers worldwide in business, industry and government, as well as subscribers serviced by the public telephone network. The 100-year-old company had more than $300 million in sales in 1996.

ILLUMINET

ILLUMINET (www.illuminetSS7.com) provides advanced SS7 networking technology and enhanced applications, including local number portability, wireless fraud management, SS7 network usage measurement and billing services to more than 1,000 local, interexchange and wireless telecommunications providers throughout North America and in parts of Asia.

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