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Lisa B. Smith
Senior Policy Counsel
Local Markets and Enforcement

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July 23, 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: SBC Petition for Relief from Regulation Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act and 47 U.S.C. Section 160 for ADSL Infrastructure and Service (CC Docket No. 98-91); Association for Local Telecommunications Carriers Petition for Declaratory Ruling Section 706 (CC Docket No. 98-78); Petition of APT Requesting Issuance of Notice of Inquiry and NPRM to Implement Section 706 (RM-9244, CCB/CPD 98-15); Petition of Bell Atlantic Corp. for Relief from Barriers to Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Services (CC Docket No. 98-11); Petition of Ameritech Corp. for Relief from Barriers to Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Services (CC Docket No. 98-36); Petition of US West Communications Inc. for Relief from Barriers to Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Services (CC Docket No. 98-26)

Dear Ms. Salas:

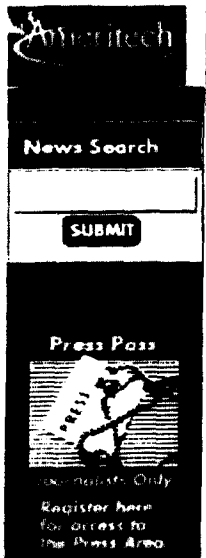
On July 21, 1998, Jonathan Sallet, Fred Briggs and I met with Commissioner Ness and James Casserly to discuss the Section 706 petitions filed by various parties. In particular, MCI discussed the separate subsidiary proposal raised by Ameritech in its petition and certain issues that MCI is concerned have not been adequately addressed in the record with respect to a section 272 affiliate. MCI also discussed its views on the Commission's authority to grant the forbearance from sections 251 and 271 of the Act at this time.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's Rules, an original and one copy of this notice are being submitted to the Secretary.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Smith
Senior Policy Counsel

cc: Commissioner Susan Ness
James Casserly



News Releases

AMERITECH RELEASE: December 9, 1997

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Ameritech Launches High Speed Internet Service

Company Partners with Microsoft to Make ADSL Internet Access Easy to Install

CHICAGO -- In a series of moves that will dramatically expand use of the Internet for its consumer and small business customers, Ameritech today announced it is launching high-speed Internet access and is partnering with Microsoft to make the ADSL-enabled service easier to install and simpler to get.

Ameritech this week is launching Ameritech.net (SM) High-Speed Internet Service, which the company plans to make available to 7 out of 10 Ameritech customers in the next three years. The company is deploying the service initially in Ann Arbor, Mich., to be followed by Royal Oak, Mich., and then the Chicago area in mid 1998.

50 Times Faster

Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service uses Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) technology to enable customers to connect to the Internet at speeds up to 50 times faster than a standard telephone line and modem. ADSL is a modem technology that enhances the existing copper telephone wiring serving virtually all homes and businesses.

Ameritech.net High-Speed Internet Service will be $59.95 per month, which includes an ADSL line and unlimited Internet access, plus a one-time $150 installation charge. Through 1998, Ameritech is offering charter memberships at $49.95 per month and is waiving the $199 cost of the modem. The service will enable users to download materials from the Internet at speeds of up to 1.5 megabits per second and send materials at speeds up to 128 kilobits per second.

"By connecting to the Internet with ADSL, users will see dramatic speed improvements -- a graphic-intensive web page that would take a minute to download with a standard modem will only take a second with ADSL," said Thomas Richards, Ameritech executive vice president, communication and information products sector.

For example, using ADSL, a customer could download the entire Encyclopedia Britannica in 31 minutes. Using a standard 28.8 modem, downloading the same information would take 27 hours.

News Release

Bell Atlantic Launches Next-Generation Long Distance Data Network to Address $80 Billion Market for 21st Century Communications

Lucent to Supply Equipment and Operating Systems

June 8, 1998

Media contacts: June 8&9: Bell Atlantic Media Relations, 212-395-0500
June 10 and after: , Larry Plumb, 703-295-4360

Lucent Technologies: Paula Horii, 908-582-5522
908-301-0344 (home)

NEW YORK -- Bell Atlantic will begin construction of a next-generation, data packet-switched, long distance network in July, the company said today. The new network will provide the regional platform for data communications for customers across the Bell Atlantic region, the nation and the world.

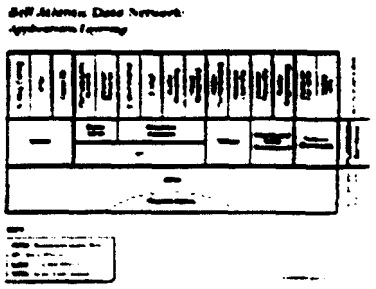
Bell Atlantic has selected Lucent Technologies under a five-year contract, valued at more than $200 million, to supply equipment and software for the East Coast network components and to integrate several of the new network's systems. Other vendors to be named later will supply additional elements for the network. Deployment of services over this network depends on regulatory approvals, the first of which are expected to come in the next six months.

The market for data services in the region is expected to double and possibly triple to $80-90 billion a year, by the year 2003. The new network will support services such as virtual private networks, work-at-home and audio and video streaming over th e World Wide Web. This network will provide high-quality, high-speed transport services; platform services such as Internet access and backbone transport; and a complete range of value-added applications, such as Intranet/Extranets, electronic commerce a nd video conferencing.

"Bell Atlantic will be able to provide state-of-the-art solutions for the data communications needs of its major customers headquartered in the northeast and mid-Atlantic states and the hundreds of colleges and universities in the region with this netw ork," said Joe Farina, president and chief executive officer-Bell Atlantic Data Solutions Group. "Our new network will be ready to serve the expanding realm of electronic commerce across the 'Net' and the many media-rich Internet applications of the futu re."

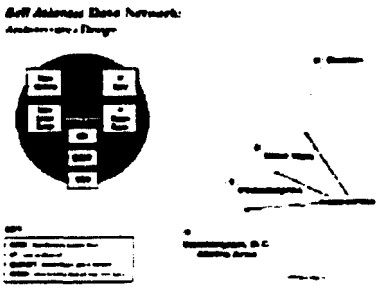
"The East Coast of the United States is the richest and most rapidly growing data market in the world," said Farina. "Bell Atlantic is determined to stay ahead of our customers as their data needs expand and develop regionally, nationally and gioball y."

The company conservatively estimates it will generate more than $3 billion a year in new revenue by 2003 from long distance transport services alone over the in-region network. This is over and above the multi-billion dollar revenue stream it generate s today with metropolitan-area data services. Value-added platform and application services are expected to generate an additional $2 to $3 billion in yearly revenues.



Click here for Print Quality Picture

The initial deployment will connect hubs in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and the Washington, DC., area. Delivery of services over the new network could begin as early as Jan. 1, 1999. Data routing hubs will be extended to serve all markets in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic region during the course of the next two years. These markets include Providence, R.I. and other cities in the New England states, cities and towns in upstate New York such as Albany, and mid-Atlantic cities such as Pittsburgh, Richmond, Va., and Charleston, W. Va.



Click here for Print Quality Picture

The network will employ the latest advances in data technology and will deliver the highest quality service for a complete range of applications. Bell Atlantic will extend the capabilities of this network to other cities across the United States and around the world to provide complete, end-to-end solutions to national and global customers.

Bell Atlantic's new network will incorporate advanced ATM (asynchronous transfer mode), SONET (synchronous optical network) and WDM (wave division multiplexing) technologies. Lucent's OneVision* software will provide advanced administrative and operat ions support systems capabilities that will enable rapid service provisioning and enhanced network management. The use of this technology means the network will have enough flexibility to deliver bandwidth on demand, enabling Bell Atlantic to offer affor dable, tailored data services to meet a customer's most exacting requirements. The services that will be supported include access to the global Internet, credit-card

authorization, video conferencing and multimedia-rich, Web-based medical, financial and electronic commerce applications.

"Bell Atlantic's long-distance, ATM-based network will provide a solid platform for advanced data services, including managed Internet Protocol networks," said Stew Verge, president-Bell Atlantic Global Networks, Inc., which is the company in the Bell Atlantic Data Solutions Group that was created to build and manage Bell Atlantic's long distance data network. It also is the unit that signed the contracts with Lucent Technologies.

The network will provide a logical addition to the company's current suite of high-quality, local data services, enabling Bell Atlantic to provide complete end-to-end solutions that connect customer locations between cities and states

"This data network complements the high speed, local loop services the Bell Atlantic telephone companies will be rolling out in 1998 and 1999 using asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) technology," said Verge. "We anticipate many of the 2,000 Inte rnet service providers with East Coast customers will be very interested in using capabilities provided by Bell Atlantic's new data network, just as they have been interested in high speed ADSL." In fact, Bell Atlantic was the first regional Bell carrier to file with Federal regulators for long distance data relief under section 706 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which would enable the company to smoothly integrate its ADSL services and broadband metropolitan area networks with its next-generation d ata network.

The Bell Atlantic telephone companies will begin commercial deployment of ADSL services later this year. These ADSL services will enable consumers to access the Internet at speeds up to 250 times faster than today's most commonly used modems. In 1999 , the Bell Atlantic companies will deploy ADSL services based on universal specifications.

Bell Atlantic's data network will carry Internet backbone traffic along with other traffic. The expanded capacity and superior performance of Bell Atlantic's network will result in improved performance for consumers purchasing Bell Atlantic's high spe ed data services, and Internet users will begin to experience the high quality, reliability and availability characteristics they associate with phone calls over the public voice network.

Bell Atlantic's new ATM/SONET data network also will be capable of emulating a circuit switched, voice network over a platform built and designed for data. Integrating voice capabilities adds to the cost-effectiveness of the network, and long distance voice services can be joint marketed with services from Bell Atlantic's local telephone companies. But delivery of voice services over the data network is contingent on gaining the necessary regulatory approvals

for Bell Atlantic to enter the long dista nce voice business.

"For decades people have come to rely on and expect reliable high-quality voice service, but there is a revolution taking place in networking, and now people need that same quality of service for data," said Carly Fiorna, president of Lucent's Global S ervice Provider business. "That is exactly what Bell Atlantic is setting out to provide for them. The people of Lucent are proud that Bell Atlantic, long a leader in offering advanced communications services, selected them to help transform this visiona ry concept into the next-generation network."

Lucent Technologies, headquartered in Murray Hill, New Jersey, designs, builds and delivers a wide range of public and private networks, communications systems and software, data networking systems, business telephon e systems and microelectronics components. Bell Labs is the research and development arm for the company. For more information on Lucent Technologies, visit the company's Web site at www.lucent.com.

Bell Atlantic – formed through the merger of Bell Atlantic and NYNEX -- is at the forefront of the new communications and information industry. With more than 41 million telephone access lines and 6.7 million wireless customers worldwide, Bell Atlantic companies are premier providers of advanced wireline voice and data services, market leaders in wireless services and the world's largest publishers of directory information. Bell Atlantic companies are also am ong the world's largest investors in high-growth global communications markets, with operations and investments in 22 countries.

* OneVision is a trademark of Lucent Technologies.

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Fact Sheet For Bell Atlantic Long Distance Data Network

Network Elements and Vendors:

ATM – vendor still to be named.
-- ATM will provide communications fabric to drive scale economies and deliver quality of service capabilities over backbone network.

SONET/WDM Transport – Lucent Technologies
-- SONET provides highly resilient transmission capability. Use of WDM (wave division multiplexing) will enable capacity expansion to keep pace with demand growth.

Internet Protocol Packet Router – vendor still to be named.

-- Router will collect, transport and manage IP-based services and applications.

Digital Voice Switch (5ESS*) – Lucent Technologies
-- Switch will collect circuit-switched voice signals for translation into ATM-based data packets. Also will provide full interconnection with national voice signaling network.

Systems – Lucent Technologies – will ensure software systems interoperate
1. Operations – provides functions such as ability to monitor traffic flow over network.
2. Administration – provides database capabilities, such as inventory of circuit assignments.
3. Maintenance – provides functions such as ability to spot and correct network problems before they affect customers.
4. Provisioning – provides functions such as ability to assign circuits to customers.

Network Architecture:

SONET Rings
– self-healing, high capacity.

Interconnection with other networks
– will have "peering" and other interconnection relationships at appropriate locations.

Initial four hubs:
1. Boston
2. New York
3. Philadelphia
4. Washington, D.C. area (Arlington, Va.)

Phase I
– Deploy basic ATM/SONET network to support services such as Internet backbone transmission and voice – 1Q/99 (contingent on appropriate regulatory relief)

Phase II
– Expand hubs to additional cities to deploy services -- 2Q/99 (contingent on regulatory relief)

Phase III
– Add voice and data service enhancements -- 3Q/99 (contingent on regulatory relief)

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*5ESS is a registered trademark of Lucent Technologies.

June 5, 1998

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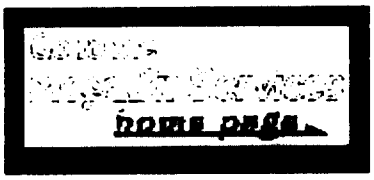
WEST !NTERPRISE Networking
03) 896-9402

S WEST to Launch Second 20-City Wave of Lightning-Fast ADSL Internet Service; Will Complete Deployment of Always-on 'Web-tone' to Homes and Businesses in 40 Cities by July

- Affordable, Ultra-Fast Digital Service Lets Customers Use Single Phone Line to Simultaneously Surf the Internet
While Making Voice or Fax Calls; Already Deployed in 20 Cities in U S WEST Region -

DENVER - In its first move as an independent telecommunications and data company, the new U S WEST today announced the second 20-city wave of its industry-leading, mass-market deployment of ultra-fast ADSL integrated Internet and voice service. The new service, which will reach more than 40 cities by the end of July, promises to revolutionize how people use the Internet by bringing always-on, no-wait 'web-tone' - the data equivalent of dial-tone - to millions of homes and offices across America.



U S WEST MegaBit Services' ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) debuts next in Washington State in mid-June, and is already available in more than 20 cities in U S WEST's region. It lets customers transmit both data and voice calls over turbocharged existing phone lines, and eliminates the headaches of working on-line with its affordable high-speed bandwidth and "plug-and-play" ease of use.

"This new service will revolutionize how Americans use the Internet. Ultra-fast 'web-tone' makes all the difference. Now, working on-line is as easy as picking up the phone or changing the channel on your TV," said Sol Trujillo, president and CEO of the new U S WEST. "Best of all, millions of customers can get it today. A lot of companies promise big changes with new technology some time in the distant future. We're offering this service right now - not just to a few high-end users, but to homes and offices across the region."

U S WEST MegaBit Services dramatically improves people's Internet and data network experience because:

- Customers can make or receive phone calls over the same line while simultaneously surfing the Internet;

- It offers speeds from 256 kbps to 7 Mbps - up to 250 times faster than traditional modems;

- The service offers a continuous 'always-on' digital connection, letting customers simply open their Internet browser software to get access. No dial-up is required, eliminating annoying busy signals;

- Customers get their own private link to the Internet - over their existing phone line - increasing security and reliability, and eliminating traffic jams from sharing copper or fiber-optic lines with other users.

"MegaBit Services turns existing phone lines into high-speed data pipelines," said Joe Zell, president, U S WEST !NTERPRISE Networking. "It lets our customers unleash the power and productivity of the Internet. It lets homes and offices across our region experience the benefits and bandwidth of high-speed data networking. And it finally makes telecommuting and telework viable business solutions."

This spring, U S WEST deployed ADSL in a first wave of 20 markets, including Boulder, Denver, Fort Collins and Greeley, Colorado; Boise, Nampa and Meridian, Idaho; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Minneapolis, St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota; Omaha, Nebraska; Fargo, North Dakota; and Salt Lake City, Provo, Orem, Kearns, Murray, Bountiful, Clearfield, Farmington, Kaysville, Holladay, Utah.

By the end of July, U S WEST plans to turn on MegaBit Services in more than 20 additional markets, for a total of 226 wire centers, serving 5.5 million customer lines in U S WEST's 14 states:

Colorado	Iowa	Minnesota	Oregon	Washington
Colorado Springs	Ames	St. Cloud	Corvallis	Bellingham
	Cedar Rapids		Eugene	Olympia, Seattle
	Council Bluffs	Montana	Portland,Salem	Spokane, Tacoma
	Des Moines	Helena		
			South Dakota	Wyoming
			Sioux Falls	Cheyenne

Wide Range of U S WEST High-Speed Internet/Data Options
MegaBit Services offers a variety of high-speed ADSL options at affordable flat-rate prices.

- U S WEST MegaHome - Gives standard Internet users 256 kbps access for about $40/mo.

- U S WEST MegaOffice - Telecommuters and small businesses can get 512 kbps for about $65/mo.

- U S WEST MegaBusiness - Heavier-use business customers can get 768 kbps for about $80/mo.

- U S WEST MegaPak - Combines MegaHome and U S WEST.net Internet service for $59.95/mo.

- U S WEST MegaBit - Intensive business users and cyber-surfers can get 1-7 Mbps for $120-$840/mo.

- U S WEST MegaCentral - Businesses and Internet service providers (ISPs) wanting end-to-end ADSL connections for their customers or employees can install MegaCentral at their host site.

To hook up customers, MegaBit Services provides a Cisco SpeedRunner modem that simply plugs into a customer's existing phone jack and connects to their computer. With no special wiring required, customers can work in any room with a standard phone jack. Customers also get a "one-bill" service that combines all their MegaBit Services, Internet and local phone charges on a single monthly statement.

Later this fall, customers will also be able to order personal computers with built-in ADSL modems, thanks to an initiative announced in May by U S WEST, Dell Computers and Cisco Systems. Select Dell Dimension XPS desktop PCs will be able to plug directly into phone jacks without an external modem.

MegaBit Services can be ordered by calling 1-888-MEGAUSW (634-2879). Availability, scale and timing will depend on rollout schedule, local market conditions and regulatory environments. The technology also requires that customers live within range of ADSL-equipped wire centers. U S WEST representatives will work with customers to verify availability. Coverage area will continue to expand over time as the technology advances, much like the expansion of coverage for cellular services in the 1980's.

There are additional options for those who want different capabilities or aren't included in the initial rollout.

- U S WEST.net - For $19.95/mo., this fast, reliable Internet service is available with any of the MegaBit Services options or as a stand-alone service with dial-up speeds up to 56 kbps. Includes CNET Snap!Online and Netscape Communicator 4.0 software. It can be ordered by calling 1-800-244-1111.

- ISDN One-Pak - Offers voice/video/data capability, 128 kbps, U S WEST.net access for $78-$115/mo.

- Frame Relay service - For business customers that do not immediately qualify for ADSL service but are still interested in upgrading data access services for their company and their employees.

Solutions that Improve People's Lives

"For all its potential, the promise of the Internet is yet to be realized in improving people's daily lives," said Trujillo. "High-speed access to the Internet and corporate data networks can make that promise a reality."

- **Telecommuting**
  In Denver alone, the time people spend on the road commuting is expected to top 2.3 million hours a year by 2020, a 55% jump from 1995. In other cities, the situation is even grimmer. Millions of Americans are ready and eager to substitute telecommuting for the daily grind of rush-hour commuting. The Department of Transportation estimates that new communications technology can help double the number of U.S. telecommuters to 15 million by next decade. Industry experts say employees who

telecommute two days a week over high-speed data networks increase their productivity by 25-40%.

- **Education**
  In education, the Internet has only scratched the surface. According to the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education, "the integration of technology into teaching as a tool for challenging and meaningful study has been more a goal than a reality." The gap between information "haves" and "have nots" is widening, and too few children, especially minority children, are cyberliterate. Eliminating dial-up and download hassles will dramatically improve the Internet's usefulness at school. And high-speed data at home can extend the learning day, letting children do high-speed homework on-line.

The new U S WEST provides a full range of telecommunications services - including wireline, wireless PCS and data networking - to more than 25 million customers nationally and in 14 western and midwestern states. On June 4, shareowners approved splitting U S WEST from its sister company, MediaOne Group, which will take final effect in mid-June. U S WEST !NTERPRISE is the data networking arm of the new U S WEST. U S WEST, Inc. can be found on the Internet at http://www.uswest.com.

U S WEST News Release Archive | June News Releases

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January 29, 1998

U S WEST Brings Lightning Fast New Internet Access to Homes in 40 Cities by June 1998; Nation's 1st Regionwide Deployment of High-Power ADSL Internet and Data Networking -*Upgraded ADSL Offers Easy Installation & Speeds up to 7 Mbps to Centers Serving 5.5 Million Customer Lines; NetSpeed Modem Turns Phone Lines into High-Speed Data Pipes, Meeting All Goals of New UAWG*

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For Media and Analyst Calls Only

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DENVER- U S WEST Communications today unveiled plans to take the headaches and wait out of getting on-line, with an ultra-fast new Internet and data service for residential and business customers in more than 40 cities across its 14 states in the first half 1998. U S WEST's new ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) offers multi-*MegaBit* speeds up to 250 times faster than standard modems, and a continuous " always-on" digital connection to the Internet over customer home or office phone lines.

" This is a breakthrough new service. At last, the benefits of the information age are coming home," said Solomon D. Trujillo, president and CEO of U S WEST Communications. " Customers across our region will now be able to get the power and convenience of super-fast Internet and data access (in their homes or at the office. No more "World Wide Wait." Now, people will have the speed and simplicity to make the Internet a vital and useful part of their lives (all at affordable prices and over their existing phone lines," Trujillo said in an address to the New York Financial Writers Association. First deployed in Phoenix Oct. 28, U S WEST plans by June 1998 to expand *MegaBit Services* ADSL and *U S WEST.net* Internet access to 226 wire centers, serving 5.5 million customer lines in these cities:

Arizona	Colorado	Idaho	Iowa	Minnesota
Phoenix	Boulder	Boise	Ames	Minneapolis
Tucson	Colorado Springs		Ceder Rapids	St. Paul
	Denver		Council Bluffs	Rochester
	Fort Collins		Des Moines	
	Greely			
Montana	**Nebraska**	**New Mexico**	**North Dakota**	**Oregon**
Helena	Omaha	Albuquerque	Fargo	Eugene
		Las Cruses		Portland-area
		Santa Fe		Salem
		Whiterock		
South Dakota	**Utah**	**Washington**	**Wyoming**	
Sioux Falls	Davis County	Olympia	Cheyenne	
	Holladay	Seattle-area		
	Kearns	Tacoma		
	Murray			
	Orem			
	Provo			
	Salt Lake City			

Deployment is planned in these and several other markets over the first half of 1998. Availability, scale and timing in each state will depend on local market conditions and regulatory environments.

***MegaBit Services* ADSL Roll-Out**

To date, U S WEST's *MegaBit Services* in Phoenix is still the nation's only broadly available DSL service. With its 14-state rollout, U S WEST is making high-speed ADSL available for the first time to residential and business customers in an entire region, offering the benefit of dramatically improved performance that eliminates the delays and waiting associated with most current on-line services.

The new ADSL and modem technology U S WEST *MegaBit Services* is deploying meets industry-wide goals for speed and ease-of-deployment being developed and proposed by the recently announced Universal ADSL Working Group (UAWG), made up of leading companies in the personal computer, networking and telecommunications industries, including U S WEST. *MegaBit Services* will also meet all final industry standards that are reached from UAWG's proposals (www.uawg.org).

MegaBit Services ADSL lets customers maintain a continuous " always-on" digital connection to the Internet or other data networks over a dedicated portion of their existing phone line (with no dial-up required. Customers simply open their Internet browser software, and can make or receive phone calls over the same line simultaneously while surfing the Internet.

Because the service gives customers their own private digital connection (off the standard voice network) subscribers get increased security and reliability, eliminating traffic jams that come from having to share copper or fiber-optic cable lines with other on-line users.

" This is a renaissance of the copper phone network," said Joe Zell, president, U S WEST

!NTERPRISE Networking. " *MegaBit Services* gives U S WEST customers the abi to finally get maximum value out of the Internet. and it enables businesses to establis office-quality work-at-home connections."

In its regionwide deployment, U S WEST *MegaBit Services* is incorporating several key upgrades, including NetSpeed's advanced *SpeedRunner* modem to give customers ADSL access at much faster speeds - up to 7 *MegaBits*. or nearly 250 times faster than standard 28.8 kbps modems.

" NetSpeed is proud to work with U S WEST and participate in the nation's largest ADSL deployment." said John McHale, CEO of NetSpeed, Inc. " This deployment will dramatically improve communications for business and residential customers throughout U S WEST's 14-state region."

Along with higher speeds. NetSpeed's new "splitterless" technology gives *MegaBit* customers easy "plug and play" installation (no technician visit is required.) It will ultimately give customers the flexibility to connect to their corporate network by day and the Internet through an Internet service provider by night. Customers will even be able to link one computer to the Internet another to a corporate network.

To meet capacity needs for the anticipated high level of customer demand, U S WEST has installed NetSpeed's LoopRunner technology in its central offices, and is utilizing switching equipment from **Cisco Systems** to carry the data traffic over U S WEST's high-speed data network.

To provide an Internet platform for a variety of customers, U S WEST is also offering its fast, reliable *U S WEST.net*, which has an array of Internet features and dial-up speeds of up to 56 kbps. Used in tandem with *MegaBit* Services, no dial-up is needed and full ADSL performance is available.

Wide Range of *MegaBit* Options

MegaBit Services will offer several upgraded and higher-speed ADSL options in 1998 to meet the Internet and data network needs of all residential and business customers (at affordable flat-rate prices:

- ***MegaHome*** (Only about $40 a month plus installation, U S WEST *MegaHome* gives occasional Internet or work-at-home users 256 kbps access, 9-18 times faster than standard modems.
- ***MegaOffice*** (Telecommuters and smaller businesses with greater bandwidth needs can select U S WEST *MegaOffice*, which provides 512 kbps access for about $65 a month plus installation.
- ***MegaBusiness*** (Heavier-use business customers and serious cyber-surfers needing more bandwidth and video capability can get U S WEST *MegaBusiness*. With 768 kbps at about $80 a month plus installation, customers can work from home at speeds once available only at the office.
- ***MegaBit*** (A new offering for 1998, intensive business users and hard-core Internet customers will be able to get three U S WEST *MegaBit* high-speed options: 1 Mbps bi-directional access; 4Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream access; and 7 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream access.
- ***MegaPak*** (Customers can also get high-speed ADSL with unlimited Internet service in

U S WEST's *MegaPak*, which combines *MegaHome* and *U S WEST.net* at $59.95 a month with discounted installation. Other *MegaBit* users can add *U S WEST.net* for $19.95 a month.

Pricing on different *MegaBit Services* may vary slightly from state to state, depending on tariffs. Speeds may also vary depending on a customer's distance from a central office and loop condition.

To hook up customers, *MegaBit Services* will provide a NetSpeed *SpeedRunner* modem that simply plugs into a customer's existing phone jack and connects to their computer. Because no special wiring is required, customers can work in any room with a standard phone jack. They can also get a " one-bill" option, with all their *MegaBit* Services, Internet and local phone charges on a single monthly statement.

Businesses and Internet service providers (ISPs) that want an end-to-end package of ADSL connections for their customers or employees can install U S WEST's MegaCentral at their host site. MegaCentral gives businesses the ability to keep employees continuously connected to their own private high-speed Intranets, and lets ISPs keep customers continuously linked to the Internet.

***U S WEST.net* Internet Service**

Available with *MegaBit* or as a stand-alone, *U S WEST.net* is engineered with an extremely high ratio of dataports to customers lines, so subscribers won't have to deal with busy signals or slow connections. *U S WEST.net* Internet platforms are built to withstand occasional equipment and backbone failures that may take other Internet providers off-line, and are monitored 24-hours, seven-days-a-week.

Currently deployed in Phoenix and Denver, *U S WEST.net* will also be rolled out in the more than 40 cities that receive *MegaBit* service in the first half of 1998.

For $19.95 a month, customers receive unlimited Internet access, newsgroup access, two e-mail boxes, two megabytes of personal Web-page storage and 24-hour technical support. *U S WEST.net*'s homepage will also link directly to a U S WEST custom version of Snap!Online from CNET: The Computer Network, offering localized business, restaurant and other useful Web information.

To make getting on-line hassle-free, *U S WEST.net* provides easy installation instructions and customized Netscape Communicator 4.0 software. Microsoft's Internet Explorer is also available to those who request it. Customers get an easy-to-understand Internet guide explaining how to send e-mail and search the World Wide Web, and a " one-bill" option is also available with *U S WEST.net* to combine Internet and local phone charges.

NetSpeed is a leader in end-to-end broadband access product solutions for service providers, corporations and consumers. NetSpeed's QuickDial(technology and products are designed to provide bandwidth on demand, allow deployment of pervasive low-cost xDSL services, and enable high-speed Internet and Intranet access, videoconferencing, telecommuting and video on demand. For further information, visit NetSpeed's World Wide Web site at http://www.netspeed.com or call (800) 550-ADSL or (512) 249-8055.

U S WEST Communications provides telecommunications services (including wireline, wireless PCS and data networking (to more than 25 million customers in 14 western and midwestern states. The company is one of two major groups that make up U S WEST, a company in the connections business, helping customers share information, entertainment and communications services in local markets worldwide. U S WEST's other major group, MediaOne Group, is involved in domestic and international cable and telephone, wireless communications, and directory and information services. U S WEST has proposed splitting the two groups into separate public companies sometime after mid-1998, pending shareowner and other approvals.

U S WEST INTERPRISE is the data networking arm of U S WEST Communications.
S WEST Communications, Inc. can be found on the Internet at http://www.uswest.com.

U S WEST Communications News Release Archive | January News Releases

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Ameritech Launches High Speed Internet Service

Company Partners with Microsoft to Make ADSL Internet Access Easy to Install

CHICAGO -- In a series of moves that will dramatically expand use of the Internet for its consumer and small business customers, Ameritech today announced it is launching high-speed Internet access and is partnering with Microsoft to make the ADSL-enabled service easier to install and simpler to get.

Ameritech this week is launching Ameritech.net (SM) High-Speed Internet Service, which the company plans to make available to 7 out of 10 Ameritech customers in the next three years. The company is deploying the service initially in Ann Arbor, Mich., to be followed by Royal Oak, Mich., and then the Chicago area in mid 1998.

50 Times Faster

Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service uses Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) technology to enable customers to connect to the Internet at speeds up to 50 times faster than a standard telephone line and modem. ADSL is a modem technology that enhances the existing copper telephone wiring serving virtually all homes and businesses.

Ameritech.net High-Speed Internet Service will be $59.95 per month, which includes an ADSL line and unlimited Internet access, plus a one-time $150 installation charge. Through 1998, Ameritech is offering charter memberships at $49.95 per month and is waiving the $199 cost of the modem. The service will enable users to download materials from the Internet at speeds of up to 1.5 megabits per second and send materials at speeds up to 128 kilobits per second.

"By connecting to the Internet with ADSL, users will see dramatic speed improvements -- a graphic-intensive web page that would take a minute to download with a standard modem will only take a second with ADSL," said Thomas Richards, Ameritech executive vice president, communication and information products sector.

For example, using ADSL, a customer could download the entire Encyclopedia Britannica in 31 minutes. Using a standard 28.8 modem, downloading the same information would take 27 hours.

"Plug and Play ADSL"

As part of its ongoing effort to bring ADSL-enabled Internet access to

customers, Ameritech also announced it is partnering with Microsoft to make the technology easier to install and simpler to use. As part of the two companies' relationship:

- Ameritech and Microsoft are working with hardware manufacturers to make their PCs and equipment ADSL compatible, which will make it even easier for customers to enjoy the benefits of ADSL-enabled Internet access service;
- Ameritech will package Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service offerings with Microsoft Internet Explorer for using the World Wide Web, e-mail and user groups; and
- Ameritech will package Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service offerings with software that greatly simplifies the installation of ADSL, ensuring that a user's MS Windows operating system is ready to connec to the Internet using ADSL.

"We are working collaboratively to make installing ADSL as easy as plug and play," said Cameron Myhrvold, vice president of Microsoft's Internet customer unit. "This technology will make it easy for consumers and businesses to seamlessly enjoy the benefits of high-speed Internet access without any problems or needs for additional installation visits. Microsoft supports ADSL and is pleased to be working with Ameritech to make this service available to its customers."

"Customers are tired of having to wait to download text, graphics and video from the Internet. Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service will improve the Internet experience for customers by making super high-speed access easy," said Valeri Marks, president of Ameritech Interactive Media Services. "Many of our customers, especially those who work from home or have families who use the Internet extensively, told us that easy-to-use, high-speed Internet access is important to them. We are working to meet that need."

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers. The company offers a wide range of products and services for business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing every day.

Ameritech (NYSE: AIT) serves millions of customers in 50 states and 40 countries. Ameritech provides a full range of communications services, including local and long distance telephone, cellular, paging, security monitoring, cable TV, electronic commerce, on-line services and more. One of the world's 100 largest companies, Ameritech (www.ameritech.com) has 69,000 employees, 1 million shareowners and $24 billion in assets.

Microsoft and Windows NT are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corp. in the United States and/or other countries. Other product and company names herein may be trademarks of their respective owners.

Fact Sheet

Ameritech.netSM High Speed Internet Service

Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service is based on Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) technology, which enables users to connect to the Internet at speeds up to 50 times greater than with a regular phone line and a standard 28.8 modem. Other benefits of ADSL-enabled Internet access include an always-on capability that means users won't have to log on. ADSL is ideal for multimedia and data communications, such as Internet access because it reduces to seconds the amount of time necessary to download complex

graphics and information that used to take several minutes.

Customer Computer Requirements

To use Ameritech.net High-Speed Internet Services, customers need to have an IBM-compatible personal computer with Pentium processor, the Windows 95 operating system, 16 MB random access memory, CD-ROM and 32 MB hard drive capacity. Ameritech.net is available with Microsoft Internet Explorer for using the World Wide Web, e-mail and newsgroups; personalized Web pages; CyberPatrol(parental control software; and chat software for joining online discussions.

Ameritech Network Upgrades

The service will be delivered over Ameritech's state-of-the-art asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) backbone. Ameritech will use standards-based ADSL equipment from Alcatel Telecom Inc. Ameritech was one of four major communications companies that formed a buying consortium last year and reviewed ADSL equipment solutions from numerous vendors before choosing the Alcatel 1000 for its deployment.

Expanded Ameritech.net Availability

The introduction of ADSL-based Internet access follows the company's successful trial of the service in Wheaton, Ill. and the targeted launch of Ameritech.net, which is currently available to 3 out of 4 Ameritech customers.

The enhanced Internet access service complements the expansion announced last week of Ameritech.net, the company's easy-to-use, affordable Internet service, into five additional cities. Ameritech.net is now available in Milwaukee, Columbus, Indianapolis, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Mich. metropolitan areas in addition to Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland. Prices remain at $19.95 a month for unlimited Internet and $8.95 for 10 hours of Internet each month.

Since the launch of Ameritech.net about a year ago, the company has enhanced and expanded features based on response from customers in Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland. Based on its initial success, the service will be expanded farther.

How to Order

To order Ameritech.net, customers can call 800-NET-8775. Ann Arbor residents wishing to order Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service should call 800-910-4369.

PHOTO EDITORS: A screen shot of Ameritech.net's start page is available for downloading.

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Ameritech and Compaq partner to makecomputers ready for high-speed Internet access

Companies will make ADSL Internet access readily availabl in new PCs

CHICAGO, January 22, 1998 -- Making it easier than ever for customers to ge high-speed Internet access, Ameritech today announced it is partnering with Compaq Computer Corporation to install the equipment needed for ADSL-enabled Internet access into future Compaq Presario personal computers.

Compaq will test the modems and network interface cards Ameritech is using for Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service. This means that later this year customers will be able to purchase select Compaq Presario computers and have them configured by some retailers in parts of Michigan to run Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service. The Compaq Presario computers are expected to be available by spring of 98.

Ameritech last month announced it is offering ADSL-enabled Internet service in Ann Arbor, Mich., and will be deploying the service in several other Midwestern cities in the coming months. Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service uses Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) technology to enable customers to connect to the Internet at speeds up to 50 times faster than a standard telephone line and modem. ADSL is a modem technology that enhances the existing copper wiring serving virtually all homes and businesses.

Certification up front

"Ameritech is committed to making high-speed Internet access more widely available," said Tim Waters, vice president of data product management. "By working with Compaq, our customers will have access not only to high-speed Internet access, but to computers from the No. 1 PC manufacturer that will readily accommodate their need for speed."

By assuring that the ADSL equipment used by Ameritech will work with its computers, Compaq demonstrates its commitment to seamless high-speed Internet access for consumers and small businesses.

"Compaq is a leader in the personal computing industry and is committed to taking a leadership role, along with Ameritech, in making high-speed Internet access easy for our customers to get and use," said Michael Rubin, director of product marketing for Compaq's Presario line of PCs. "This alliance represents a tremendous opportunity for all of us. As the leader in the PC industry, we understand the need to provide the customer with the ability to communicate via the computer at speeds not normally reserved for the home user. This alliance is based not only on a sharing of technology, but a mutual vision of greater things to come."

Ameritech.net High-Speed Internet Access enables users to download materials from the Internet at speeds of up to 1.5 megabits per second and send materials at speeds up to 128 kilobits per second. That means using ADSL, a customer could download the entire Encyclopedia Britannica in 31 minutes. Using a standard 28.8 modem, downloading the same information would take 27 hours.

"It has always been Compaq's belief that technology is only truly useful when it provides a better experience for the consumer. This technology will enhance our customers' ability to utilize the Internet as both an information and entertainment medium and increase its effectiveness for communications," said Rubin.

"By working with Compaq, Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Access customers are ensured quality service from both their computer vendor and service provider," said Waters. "Ameritech will continue to work with Compaq so our services are compatible with all of Compaq's quality line of PCs."

The agreement with Compaq follows an agreement announced last month with Microsoft under which Ameritech will package future Ameritech.net High Speed Internet Service with software from Microsoft to ensure that a user's MS Windows operating system is ready to connect to the Internet using ADSL.

To use Ameritech.net High Speed Access Service, customers need to have a personal computer with Pentium processor, the Windows 95 operating system, CD-ROM, 16 MB random access memory, and 32 MB hard drive capacity. Ameritech.net is available with Microsoft Internet Explorer for using the World Wide Web, e-mail and newsgroups; personalized web pages; CyberPatrol (parental control software); and chat software for joining online discussions.

Compaq Computer Corporation, (NYSE: CPQ) a Fortune 100 company, is the fifth largest computer company in the world and the largest global supplier of personal computers, delivering useful innovation through products that connect people with people and people with information. The company is an industry leader in current and future needs of its customers, offering Internet and enterprise computing solutions, networking products, commercial PC products and consumer PCs. As the leader in distributed enterprise solutions, Compaq has shipped over a million servers. In 1997, the company reported worldwide sales of $24.6 billion. Compaq products are sold and supported in more than 100 countries through a network of authorized Compaq marketing partners. Customer support and information about Compaq and its products can be found at www.compaq.com or by calling 1-800-OK-COMPAQ. Product information and reseller locations can be obtained by calling 1-800-345-1518.

Ameritech (NYSE: AIT) serves millions of customers in 50 states and 40 countries. Ameritech provides a full range of communications services, including local and long distance telephone, cellular, paging, security monitoring, cable TV, Internet services and more. One of the world's 100 largest companies, Ameritech (www.ameritech.com) has 74,000 employees, 1 million shareowners and $25 billion in assets.

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SBC Communications Announces Broad ADSL Deployment Across California

Pacific Bell Plans To Have Service Available To More Than 5 Million California Business And Residential Customers By End Of Summer

San Francisco, California, May 27, 1998

Communications, Inc. announced today that Pacific Bell will begin broadly deploying high-speed Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) service in more than 200 communities across California to satisfy customers' increased demands for bandwidth and faster Internet access.

Designed primarily for Internet and telecommuting applications, ADSL enables businesses of all sizes to work smarter and home Internet enthusiasts to surf faster. Packaged with Internet service, ADSL provides online consumers and small businesses with accelerated access to the World Wide Web. As a stand-alone connection, ADSL also allows telecommuting employees and after-hours home workers to connect to their employers' corporate networks via dedicated, secure links.

Following a successful market trial of ADSL initiated last fall, Pacific Bell plans to initially deploy ADSL in 87 central offices serving all or of more than 200 communities throughout the state. Within the few months, cities such as San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland, Anaheim, Los Angeles, San Diego and Sacramento will have Pacific Bell ADSL service. The ADSL-equipped central offices currently serve approximately 4.4 million households and 650,000 business customers.

SBC recognizes the value of the data communications market for our customers and our business. Pacific Bell's broad-based rollout of ADSL in California is one example of the commitment we are making to support our customers' data needs," said Royce Caldwell, President SBC Operations.

Pacific Bell is stepping up to the plate to deliver lightning fast Internet access to millions of our customers in California, home of the world's most demanding and intensive Internet users," said Jim Callaway, Pacific Bell president of public affairs. "This broad geographic rollout delivers on our commitment to provide Californians with the speed they need at a competitive price so that they can take greater advantage of the power of the Internet. It gives them the ability to receive and send data to anyone, anywhere, anytime. The California marketplace

already has the highest percentage of "wired" households and the greatest number of second phone lines of any state in the country. The introduction of ADSL technology will solidify the Golden State's position as the center of the Internet world," he added.

The much-anticipated offering is expected to bolster California's economic, environmental and social development, according to state Senator Steve Peace (D-La Mesa). "I applaud Pacific Bell's commitment to accelerate deployment of this advanced telecommunications infrastructure on behalf of California businesses and consumers," said Senator Peace. "This is truly the technology that California needs to remain competitive in the 21st century, for it has social, educational and business applications that benefit each and every one of us."

Pacific Bell plans to begin commercial deployment in July. Pacific Bell is making filings with regulatory authorities to provide this service.

ADSL provides telecommuters and branch offices with secure, dedicated links to corporate networks at transmission speeds of up to 1.5 megabits per second (Mbps) - 50 times faster than 28.8 kilobits per second (Kbps) modem speeds. By comparison, it would take a 28.8 Kbps modem 41 minutes to download a short video clip (72 Mbps) that could be downloaded in 48 seconds using ADSL technology. It is also a high-speed, always-on, direct Internet access solution that enables users to download data, graphics, audio and video files over existing telephone lines while simultaneously using a phone or fax machine.

Three ADSL offerings will be available from the company and priced as follows pending regulatory approval and processes:

- **"Home Pack DSL"** includes the ADSL connection and Internet service, and is designed for high-volume home Internet users. "Home Pack" provides transport speeds starting at 384 kilobits per second (Kbps) downstream and 128 Kbps upstream. Total monthly price for home Internet access package starts at $89, including $59 ADSL connection and $30 dedicated Internet service from Pacific Bell Internet Services.

- **"Internet Access Pack DSL"** also includes the ADSL connection and Internet service, and is designed to meet the higher-speed Internet access needs of all businesses. "Internet Access Pack" includes two speed options:
    - up to 384 Kbps downstream and 384 Kbps upstream to meet the needs of small office/home office (SOHO) and small businesses requiring internet access. Total monthly price for business Internet package starts at $199, including $99 ADSL connection and $100 dedicated Internet service from Pacific Bell Internet Services.
    - up to 1.5 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and

384 Kbps upstream for small businesses needing more bandwidth and for medium and large businesses where many employees share a single internet connection. Total monthly price for the business Internet package for small offices starts at $339, including $189 ADSL connection and $150 dedicated Internet service from Pacific Bell Internet Services.

- **"Office Pack DSL"** includes the ADSL service and is designed to meet the dedicated and secure remote access needs of large business customers. "Office Pack" includes two speed options:
  - up to 1.5 Mbps downstream and 384 Kbps upstream. Total monthly price for high-speed corporate network connection is $189.
  - up to 384 Kbps downstream and 384 Kbps upstream Total monthly price for high-speed corporate network connection is $99.

Additional charges may apply for purchases of customer premise equipment and network integration services.

A one-time installation charge of $125 applies for each ADSL package. Pacific Bell will make ADSL equipment available to its residential and business customers; pricing for ADSL equipment will vary by ADSL package.

"Pacific Bell's plans to broadly deploy high-speed connectivity is a major win for California's personal computer users," said Robert T. Jenkins, Intel vice president and director of corporate licensing. "We congratulate Pacific Bell's commitment to major statewide deployment of ADSL access." Jenkins, who chairs the executive committee of the California Manufacturers' Association (CMA), said that a recently issued CMA study predicted that "640,000 new jobs and an increase of more than $200 billion in gross state output by 2001" will result from broadly deployed services such as Pacific Bell's ADSL.

"Commercial deployment of ADSL is but one component of our unfolding data strategy. Over the next few months, we intend to introduce a full range of data transport and networking services that meet the complex demands of businesses and consumers," said Ed Mueller, president and CEO of Pacific Bell.

According to Beth Gage, a broadband consultant at TeleChoice, the North American DSL market is expected to reach an installed base of 110,000 lines this year, 355,000 in 1999 and more than one million in 2001. "California's high tech industries and other factors contribute to its position as the most wired region in the US," Gage said. "As mass market DSL services become available consumers and businesses will benefit from vastly improved Internet response times for retrieving and transmitting data. Eliminating the local access bandwidth bottleneck for consumers and small businesses will have definite side effects -

increased use of the Internet for business applications and consumer entertainment, and continued growth of new applications and services that will take advantage of new access capabilities."

Due to existing technology and distance limitations, ADSL will not be available to all customers served by the ADSL-equipped central offices. Initially, the service will be available to approximately 60 percent of the households and businesses in each service area. To receive the service, customers must be located within 16,000 feet of a ADSL-equipped central office and their lines must meet certain transmission criteria.

While existing phone lines can be adapted for ADSL, the following hardware and software is required: an ADSL modem; a "splitter" that divides voice and data line traffic; and a Network Interface Card that connects the modem to a personal computer.

As a member of the Universal ADSL Working Group (UAWG) comprised of leading telecommunications, hardware and software companies, Pacific Bell's parent company, SBC Communications, Inc., believes its ADSL offering helps satisfy the UAWG's goal of bringing high-speed access to the mass market.

Pacific Bell will provide one-stop shopping for hardware, service and support and can assist customers in obtaining and installing these devices. California residents can call 1-888-884-2DSL or visit the Pacific Bell Web site at **www.pacbell.com/products/business/fastrak/adsl/** for additional information.

Pacific Bell provides basic and leading-edge telephone services and products to over 13.8 million business and residential customers -- a total of more than 17.6 million access lines -- throughout California. It is a company of SBC Communications Inc., a global leader in the telecommunications industry with nearly 34 million access lines and 5.6 million wireless customers across the United States, as well as investments in telecommunications businesses in 10 countries. Under the Southwestern Bell, Pacific Bell, Nevada Bell and Cellular One brands, SBC, through its subsidiaries, offers a wide range of innovative services, including local and long-distance telephone service, wireless communications, paging, Internet access, and messaging, as well as telecommunications equipment, and directory advertising and publishing. SBC (www.sbc.com) has more than 118,000 employees and reported 1997 revenues of $25 billion. SBC's equity market value of $80 billion (as of March 31, 1998) ranks it as one of the largest telecommunications companies in the world.

Pacific Bell
ADSL Central Offices
1998 Summer Deployment

The following central offices cover all or part of more than 200 communities in California.