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April 15, 2005

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ORIGINAL

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

APR 18 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech
Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities
CC Docket No. 98-67 and CG Docket No. 03-123
Notice of Ex Parte Communication

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The purpose of this letter is to report that on April 13, 2005, Pat Nola, Chief Operating Officer of Sorenson Media, Inc. ("Sorenson"), Dave Johnson, Vice President of Sorenson, Jerold Oldroyd and the undersigned, as counsel to Sorenson, met with Jay Keithley, Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Thomas Chandler, Chief of the Disability Rights Office of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, and Monica Desai, Liaison to Chairman Kevin Martin for the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, concerning the above-referenced proceeding and issues concerning certification of video relay service ("VRS") providers.

During the meeting, the representatives from Sorenson discussed their support for proposed rules whereby the Commission, rather than all 50 states, would certify VRS providers as eligible for compensation from the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service Fund, and how requiring state certification would reduce the choices available to deaf and hard of hearing consumers. We also discussed the consumer's ability to choose a VRS provider, Sorenson's progress toward improving speed of answer, Sorenson's videophone number dialing feature, the various methods of contacting other videophone users, and the development of improved VRS technologies. We provided a summary of Sorenson's position on these issues and a copy of a letter from a Sorenson user that demonstrates the benefits of communicating by videophone.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, an original and three copies of this letter are being submitted to your office and copies of this letter are being sent to the Commission participants. I acknowledge that pursuant to Section 1.1206, this notice should have been filed the next business day, and respectfully request that the Commission accept this late filed notice.

Marlene H. Dortch
April 15, 2005
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Should you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me.

Sincerely,

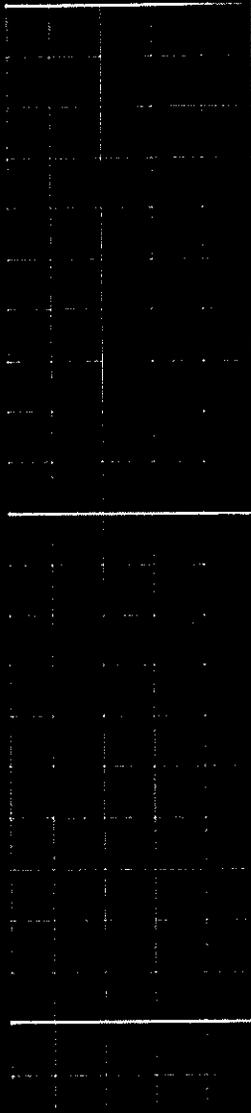


Sharon M. Bertelsen

cc: Monica Desai
Jay Keithley
Thomas Chandler

sorensonmedia®

HIGH QUALITY VIDEO



Presentation Contents

Company Snapshot

Sorenson VRS Service Description

Regulatory Issues

Video Phone Number

Future Developments

Company Snapshot

Formed in April 2000

Three Solution Areas

- Services - Relay Services
- Videophone Appliances
- Video Compression Software

sorenson VRS.

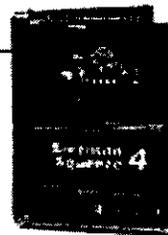


VP-100



Sorenson Squeeze. 4

Compression Suite



Next Generation Video Phone

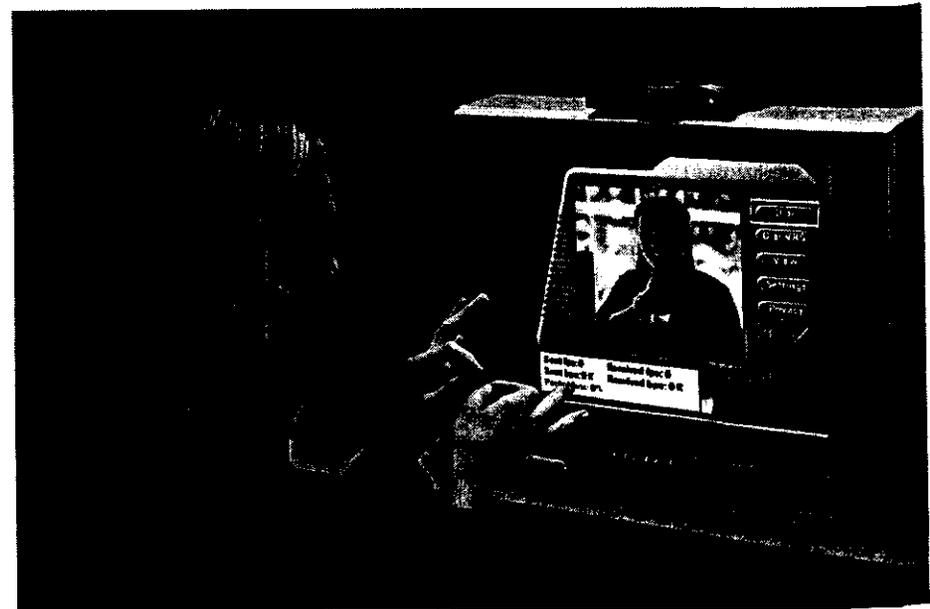


Regulatory Issues

Interstate Funding of VRS

Interoperability = Relay Choice

Speed of Answer



Interstate Funding of VRS

Apply Vonage decision to VRS (meets same criteria)

- Use of the Internet to provide service creates change
- The difficulty of identifying the customer's location

Support healthy competition by centralizing oversight with FCC versus 50+ state regulatory bodies to ensure:

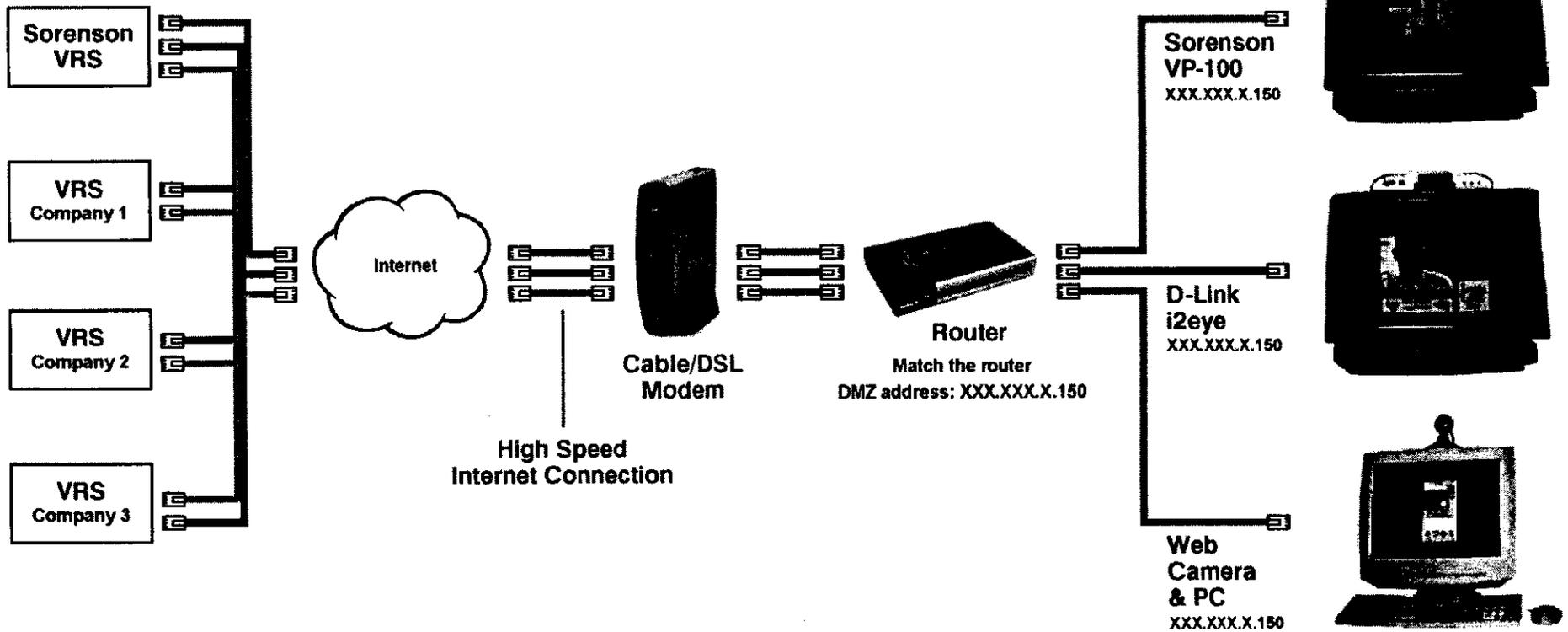
- Innovation
- Low cost
- Customer choice

Interoperability = Relay Choice

- Customers are free to choose among 8 VRS providers (unlike TTY)
- TRS regulations do not require consumer equipment interoperability
- Sorenson has invested much capital to bring the first videophone to the deaf market
- Functional equivalence is a phone – not booting up a computer
- Sorenson VP-100 users would be denied innovative functionality (e.g. number pass through, videophone numbers, video sign mail, technology updates)
- Sorenson VP-100 users are informed and willing to exclusively use Sorenson VRS
- Hearing users can reach a Sorenson VP-100 user from any VRS provider

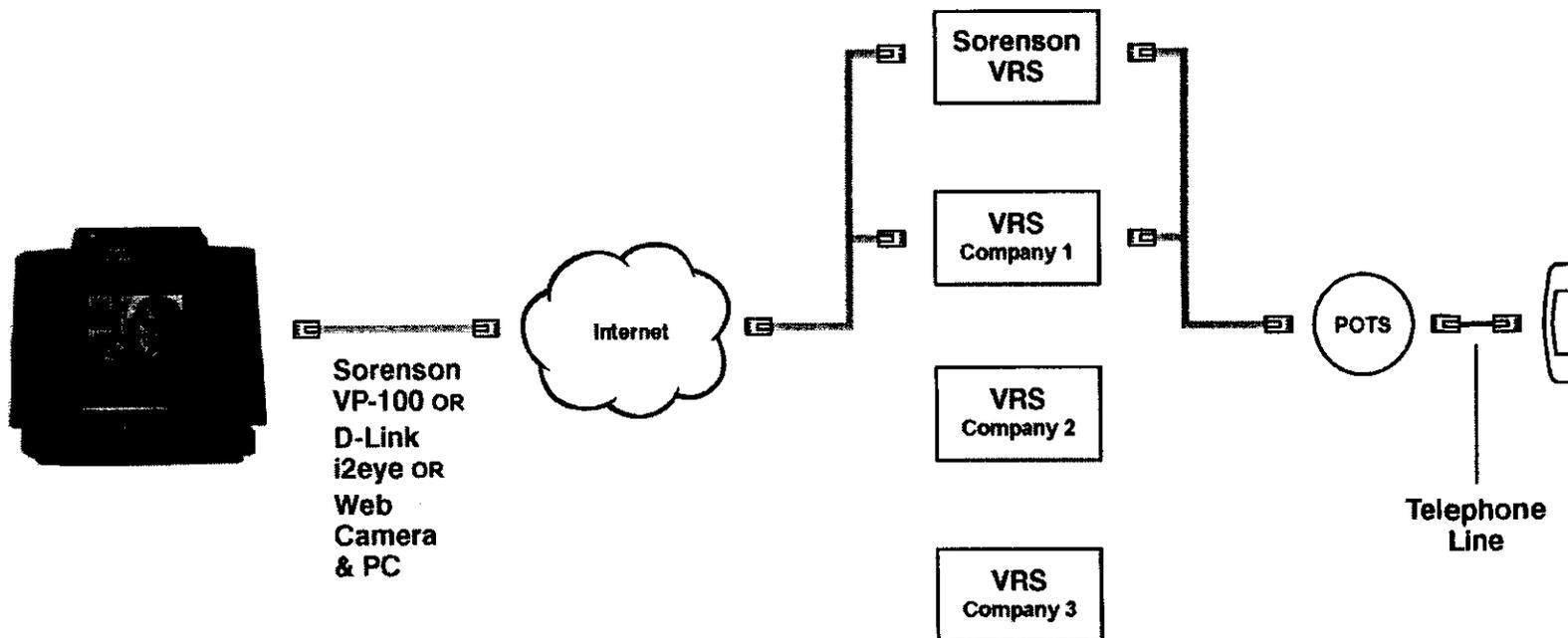
Interoperability = Relay Choice

Call from Various VRS Solutions (Deaf User)



Interoperability = Relay Choice

Call from Telephone (Hearing User)



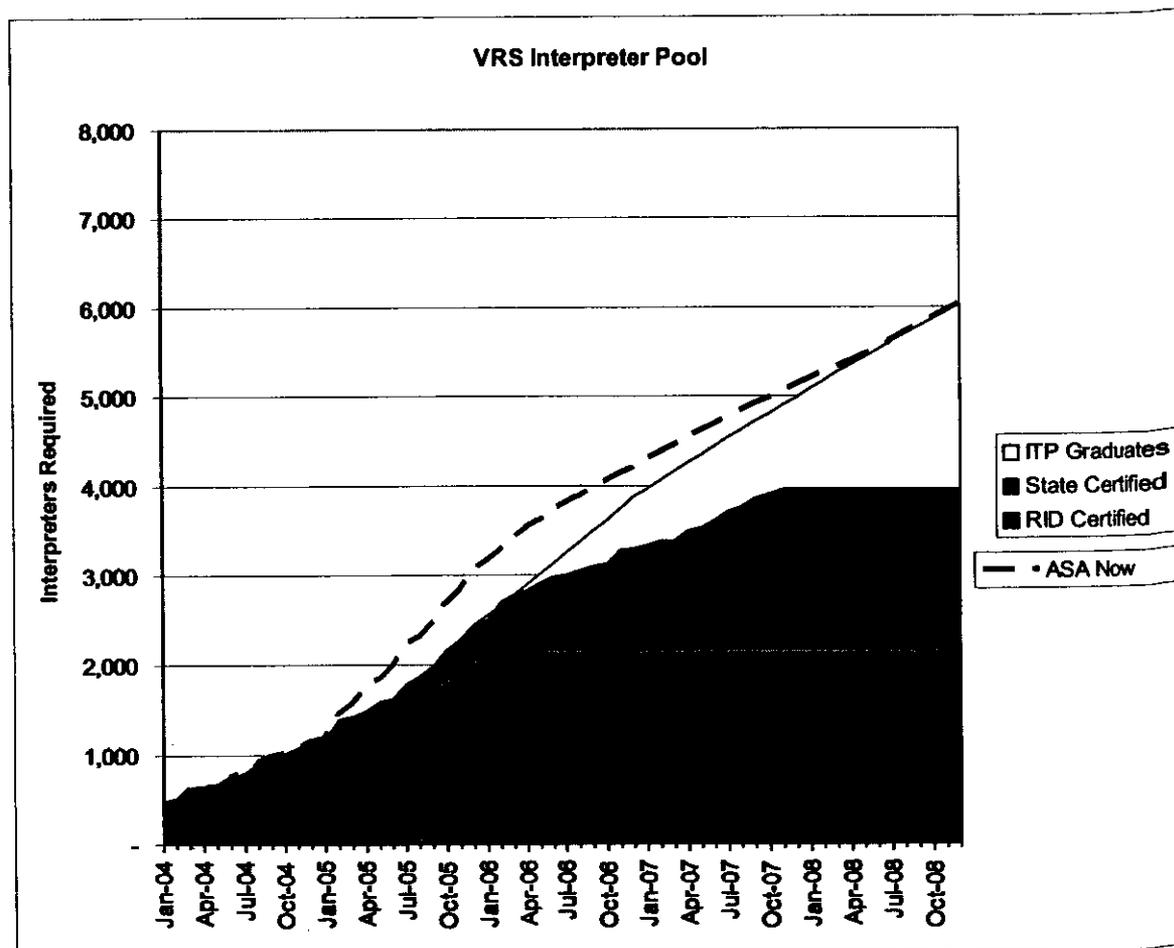
Speed of Answer

Extend waivers to 2008

- Sorenson VRS demand continues to outpace competitors
- Interpreter supply is limited
- Industry still immature and more data needed
- VRS educational programs will take several years to generate adequate supply
- Second wave of demand from mobile users will cause additional disruption
- Spawned calls are not included in calculation and should be
 - Functionally equivalent to hearing caller making new calls

Where the Interpreters Come From

- Qualified pool reaches saturation at end of 2005
- Getting state certified to qualified skill level takes time
- Training new graduates takes several years
- *Serving only 10 - 20% of deaf population now*



Sources: RID web site; Sorenson survey of state interpreter administrators; Sorenson historical growth capacity; Sorenson survey of ITP programs

Future Developments

Sorenson Media continues to advance the communication needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers by working on:

- Sorenson IP Relay
- Sorenson Next Generation videophone
- Sorenson VRS 911
- Sorenson VRI

Sorenson Video Phone #'s

VP-100 cannot dial other devices by phone number

- Video communication standard dialing is by IP address, example: 12.168.121.112
- Sometimes IP address changes, so
 - Sorenson developed Video Phone number dialing
 - Used for point to point calling not for relay calling
- No Internet video phone number standard exists
- Sorenson call only integrate with it's technology
- Other solutions
 - Static (fixed IP address)
 - Use a domain name

April 10, 2005

Dear Dave,

It is with great pleasure that I write about the Sorenson techs, _____ and _____, our tech, spent a great deal of time on Sunday, March 6th trying to hook up the Sorenson Videophone for me. Since he was unable to connect the unit successfully, he rescheduled to come back in a week. This time he brought along a co-worker, _____. The two techs were here an additional four hours trying to hook up the Sorenson Videophone. It is nice to report that both _____ and _____ were extremely personable, and the atmosphere was warm and friendly. Both _____ and _____ kept us posted of different things they were doing to try and get the unit to work. I was extremely impressed with their capabilities and the teamwork.

Four hours later came the "**Hallmark Moment**". I contacted my sister and told her to get ready to see us, via the Sorenson Videophone. As soon as we were connected, there was my sister anxiously waiting to see my face. She started jumping up and down for joy and running around the room like a kid, she was so excited. (mind you, she is a grown woman.) We all started to laugh, cry, hug, and shake hands. This was the highlight of the day!! All of the work that both techs put into getting me hooked up to talk to my sister "face to face" with the videophone was well worth their efforts. The happiness we all felt can be equated to the feeling one has when giving birth to a newborn baby. We were all so overwhelmed with joy!!!!

Dave, this has certainly opened up a whole new world for my sister and me in terms of communication. Now we can both see each other's facial expressions. This is so important because the face conveys feelings and emotions, something that just can not be expressed when writing.

My husband and I thank you for the excellent service provided to us by your Sorenson Techs, _____ and _____. They are to be commended for their superb efforts, their professionalism, and their warm mannerism.

Sincerely,