

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

_____)	
In the Matter of:)	
)	
Petition of Telcordia Technologies Inc. to)	WC Docket No. 09-109
Reform or Strike Amendment 70, to Institute)	
Competitive Bidding for Number Portability)	
Administration and to End the NAPM LLC's)	
Interim Role in Number Portability)	
Administration Contract)	
)	
Telephone Number Portability)	CC Docket No. 95-116
_____)	

REPLY COMMENTS OF NEUSTAR, INC.

NeuStar, Inc. (“Neustar”) hereby respectfully submits these reply comments to the record in response to the Wireline Competition Bureau (“Bureau”)’s *Order and Request for Comment* on the Consensus Proposal of the North American Number Council (“NANC”) and the North American Portability Management LLC (“NAPM LLC”) regarding the selection of a Local Number Portability Administrator (“LNPA”).¹

I. INTRODUCTION

Neustar is the current administrator of the Number Portability Administration Center/Service Management System (“NPAC”), the database relied upon by more than 4,000 service providers every day for efficient and effective provision of LNP services.² In this role,

¹ See Telephone Number Portability, WC Docket No. 09-109, CC Docket No. 95-116, *Order and Request for Comment*, DA 11-454 (rel. Mar. 8, 2011) (“*Order*”).

² The Commission’s *National Broadband Plan* recognized that number portability is one of the “necessary elements” of the transition to IP that policymakers must address “to ensure that the transition does not dramatically disrupt communications or make it difficult to achieve certain public policy goals.” *Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan*, Recommendation 4.5, at 59 (rel. Apr. 16, 2010) (“National Broadband Plan”) available at <http://download.broadband.gov/plan/national-broadband-plan.pdf>.

Neustar has witnessed firsthand how the effective management of the NAPM LLC and oversight of the NANC have enabled the NPAC to become and continue to be “a critical component of the telecommunications industry’s infrastructure.”³ Together the NAPM LLC and the NANC, along with oversight from the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”), have ensured that local number portability has been efficiently managed by Neustar in an open, fair and neutral manner.

The Bureau delegated authority to the NANC to develop and implement, in cooperation with the NAPM LLC, a process for the selection of an LNPA.⁴ The Consensus Proposal, also included in the *Order*,⁵ represents a significant amount of work on the part of the NANC Chair and the NAPM LLC, and was unanimously ratified by the entire NANC at its March 9, 2011 meeting. Neustar intends to participate in the LNPA selection process set out in the Consensus Proposal and hopes to be selected to continue serving as the LNPA. In contrast to the comments of Telcordia Technologies, Inc. (“Telcordia”) in response to the *Order*, however, Neustar does not believe that it is appropriate for potential respondents to the NAPM LLC/NANC request for proposal (“RFP”) to put forward changes to the Consensus Proposal by which a vendor will be recommended to the Commission.⁶ Instead, Neustar submits these reply comments to correct what it perceives to be errors or misunderstandings in the record concerning the LNPA contracts.

³ *Order*, Attachment A at 1.

⁴ *Id.* at 2 ¶ 5.

⁵ *See id.*, Attachment A.

⁶ Neustar agrees with the Bureau that the Consensus Proposal is “consistent with prior delegations of authority and Commission rules regarding the LNPA selection.” *Order* at 3. Neustar also notes that the Consensus Proposal, particularly in the way that it addresses the Selection Working Group, is wholly consistent with long standing NANC procedures. NANC working groups are open to all NANC members without restriction and without regard to what other entities choose to participate. In addition, as contemplated by the Consensus Proposal for

II. CONTRACT EXPIRATION DATE

In the *Order*, the Commission states that “Neustar’s contract to maintain, administer, and operate the NPAC/SMS expires on December 31, 2015.”⁷ This date is incorrect. The correct date for the expiration of the LNPA contracts between Neustar and the NAPM LLC is June 30, 2015.

III. THE NPAC IS NOT FEDERALLY FUNDED AND SHOULD REMAIN A PRIVATE CONTRACT BETWEEN PRIVATE PARTIES

As the Commission is aware, the NAPM LLC, under the oversight of the NANC, has been responsible for the direct, day-to-day management of the NPAC, the LNPA, and the contract that governs the LNPA’s activities since the inception of number portability. Contrary to a misunderstanding expressed in the record, the NPAC is in no way a federally-funded endeavor.⁸ In fact, the NPAC contract is between the LNPA and the NAPM LLC, and the database is entirely funded through fees paid by telecommunications and interconnected VoIP service providers. All of these service providers are eligible to become members of the NAPM LLC. Indeed, the entities that pay the vast bulk of the NPAC’s costs are represented through NAPM LLC membership, creating a significant incentive for the NAPM LLC to ensure that the NPAC is run as efficiently and pro-competitively as possible. Because it is not a federally-funded endeavor, the LNPA contracts should remain private contracts negotiated and entered

the Selection Working Group, the existing NANC working groups select their own leadership from the volunteers that offer to work on them.

⁷ *Order* at 2 ¶ 5.

⁸ *See* Comments of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, WC Docket No. 09-109, CC Docket No. 95-116 at 5, 7 (filed Mar. 22, 2011).

into between private entities, subject to the existing levels of oversight by the NANC and the Commission.⁹

IV. CONCLUSION

Neustar hopes that its comments have helped to clarify the record and looks forward to participating in the selection process.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Thomas J. Navin

Thomas J. Navin

M. Ethan Lucarelli

Wiley Rein LLP

1776 K Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006

Counsel to NeuStar, Inc.

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⁹ See also Letter from Richard L. Fruchterman, III, Public Policy and Regulatory Counsel, NeuStar, Inc. to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket No. 09-109 (filed Dec. 9, 2009) (explaining that LNPA contracts are private agreements not subject to government procurement rules); Letter from Todd D. Daubert, Counsel for the NAPM LLC to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket Nos. 07-149, 09-109, Attachment at 9 (filed Mar. 22, 2010).