



Scott R. Freiermuth
Counsel – Government Affairs
scott.r.freiermuth@sprint.com

Sprint Corporation
6450 Sprint Parkway
Overland Park, KS 66251
(913) 315-8521

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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING (ECFS)

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: **EX PARTE PRESENTATION**
*Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service;
Telecommunications and Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services
for Individuals with hearing and Speech Disabilities*
CG Docket Nos. 13-24 & 03-123

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 5, 2013, representatives of Captel, Inc., Ultratec, Inc., and Weitbrecht Communications, (collectively “Captel/Ultratec”), Sprint Corporation (“Sprint”), and Hamilton Relay, Inc. (“Hamilton”) met with Karen Peltz Strauss, Greg Hlibok, Robert Aldrich, Elaine Gardner, and Eliot Greenwald of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (“CGB”), David Schmidt, Diane Mason, and Andrew Multz of the Office of the Managing Director (“OMD”) (collectively, the “FCC” or “Commission”). On behalf of Sprint were Mike Ellis, Scott Freiermuth, Angie Officer, and Dennis Selznick (via teleconference). On behalf of Hamilton were Dixie Ziegler, Anne Girard, and David O’Connor of Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer, LLP on behalf of Hamilton. Attending the meeting on behalf of Ultratec were Rob Engelke and Kevin Colwell. On behalf of CapTel were Jayne Turner and Tim Engelke. On behalf of Weitbrecht Communications was Barbara Dreyfus (via teleconference) (collectively, the “parties”).

The main purpose of the meeting was to provide the Commission with a status update regarding efforts to comply with the new, permanent requirements for Internet Protocol (“IP”) Captioned Telephone Service (“IP CTS”) adopted by the Commission in the above-captioned proceeding.¹ While providing the status update, the parties also obtained confirmation on several

¹ *Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CG Docket Nos. 13-24 & 03-123, FCC 13-118 ¶ 90 (rel. Aug. 26, 2013) (“*FNPRM*”).

items: 1) the ability of audiologists and other hearing health professionals to continue in their roles via state Equipment Distribution Programs (EDPs) and in other governmental programs, without the role of those professionals being deemed a joint marketing arrangement;² 2) the compensability of minutes generated from IP CTS equipment purchased by friends, family and employers for eligible users; and 3) the ability of EDPs to distribute equipment such as iPads, with users having the ability to download and register to use IP CTS software provided for free by an IP CTS provider.

The parties also discussed their interpretation of the permanent rules as they pertain to interim registrants, and Commission staff sought input regarding registration alternatives for consumers that do not have a social security number.³ On that note, the parties urged the Commission to issue a policy statement or Public Notice to assuage consumer concerns about the collection of personal information such as date of birth and social security information.

The parties also sought an update from Commission staff regarding the joint waiver request for additional time to comply with the equipment labeling requirements.⁴ The parties reiterated arguments from their joint waiver request while stressing the urgency of the matter as the rules are expected to be approved by the Office of Management and Budget and thus become effective within weeks. Additionally, the parties urged additional time to ensure web and mobile applications could be updated consistent with the final rules as these updates take time and are, to some extent, beyond the provider's control (*e.g.*, mobile app store front approval/gatekeeping). In response to several staff questions, the parties indicated that they would supplement the waiver request in the near future.

In relation to Sprint's Petition for Reconsideration, Sprint separately discussed mechanisms to support public IP CTS usage in public settings (*e.g.*, airports, hotels, libraries, hospitals, etc.) while ensuring such usage is limited to registered users.⁵

Finally, the parties urged the Commission to give consideration to a topic raised in the *FNPRM* concerning the verbatim requirement.⁶ The parties discussed how the interpretation of the rule can have a profound effect on the consumer experience while also affecting providers' operations and costs. The parties believe that further clarification of the verbatim obligation coupled with enforcement will help to ensure a level playing field for providers of IP CTS.

² The parties also discussed whether the same rationale should apply to support groups that employ hearing health professionals.

³ The parties suggest that Tribal ID numbers, passport numbers, driver's license numbers, and other valid state identification numbers accepted by other branches of the federal government should be acceptable alternatives.

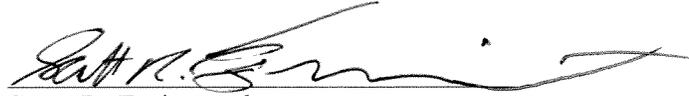
⁴ *See*, Joint Petition for Limited Waiver, filed by Hamilton Relay, Inc. and Sprint Corporation, CG Dockets 13-24 and 03-123 (Sept. 30, 2013).

⁵ *See*, Petition for Reconsideration of Sprint Corporation, CG Dockets 13-24 and 03-123 (Sept. 30, 2013).

⁶ *See*, *FNPRM* n. 438.

This filing is made in accordance with Section 1.1206(b)(1) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b)(1). In the event that there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Scott R. Freiermuth
6450 Sprint Parkway
Overland Park, KS 66251
Tel: 913.315.8521
E-mail: scott.r.freiermuth@sprint.com
Counsel for Sprint Corporation

cc: Participants