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THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GST NET, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota

MEMORANDA

DATE

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### TC97-033

### CHARLES L. BEST

Attorney at Law Suite 805 1220 S.W. Morrison Street Portland, Oregon 97205 APR 0 2 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Telephone: (503) 222-1886 / Facsimile: (503) 222-4711

March 31, 1997

Public Utilities Commission of South Dakota 500 E. Capitol Ave Pierre, SD 57501

Re State certification for GST Net, Inc. (GST Net)

Dear Commission Staff

Enclosed for filing with the Commission please find an original and ten (10) copies of the above captioned corporation's application for a new CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

Also enclosed is an exact duplicate of this letter. Please date-stamp the duplicate and return the same to me in the enclosed postage pre-paid envelope.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me at the number above.

Enclosures

1. Signed application and exhibits.

2. Registration fee.

cc: GST Net, Inc. Harlen Best PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION STATE OF SOUTH DANGTA

HARLAN BEST

MECTON - FIRED UTILITIES DIVISION

### HARLES L. BEST

Attorney at Law
Suite 1102
522 S.W. Fifth Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97204
) 222-1886 / Facsimile: (503) 222-4711

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SOUTH JAKO UTILITIES COMM SON

in GST

SDPUC

TELEPHONE (605) 773-3201

500 E. CAP-10L AVE PIERRE. SD 57501

SD 57501

..ugust 26, 1996

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Attn: Telecommunications Staff 500 E. Capitol Street Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: State Certificate of Authority for GST Net, Inc.

Dear Commission Staff.

GST Net. Inc. a competitive provider of 800, calling card and long distance services, wishes to provide service to customers in your state. GST Net recently acquired International Telemanagement compositions, inc. (TIG) which may already be certified to provide some cutting long distance services in your state. However, GST Net would now with like to provide services in its own name. Initially GST Net would SDPWC provide the following:

Intrastate Message Telecommunications Service 800 Service Calling Cards Pre-paid Calling Cards

We need to know whether GST Net can use any current authority granted to ITG by your state to provide these services? If ITG's are not current certificate cannot be used, what certification process does transferable GST need to utilize to obtain authority to provide these services in your state?

Any assistance you can provide us would be greatly medical appreciated. Please send any necessary forms and rules to me at the above address. If you have questions or wish to discuss any aspect of the process, please give me a call.

Very truly yours,

Grand & Box

cc: GST Telecom

### BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Application of GST Net, Inc. for a Certificate of	)		
Authority, Pursuant to South Dakota Rule	)	Docket No.	
20:10:24:02.	)		

### 1. IDENTITY OF THE APPLICANT:

GST Net, Inc. ("GST Net") 4317 NE Thurston Way Vancouver, WA 98662 Phone: (360) 254-4700 Fax: (360) 260-2075

### 2. DOING BUSINESS AS:

Not applicable.

### 3. SUPPLEMENTAL CORPORATE INFORMATION:

GST Net, a privately held corporation, was incorporated in the State of Delaware on February 2, 1995.

A copy of GST Net's Articles of Incorporation is attached as Exhibit A.

The name and address of GST Net's registered agent in South Dakota is Ronald Olinger, Prentice Hall, 117 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501.

A copy of GST Net's certificate of authority to transact business in South Dakota, issued by the Secretary of State, is attached as Exhibit B.

GST Net is a subsidiary of another privately held corporation, GST USA, Inc. ("GST USA"). GST USA is a subsidiary of GST Telecommunications, Inc. Please see attached Organizational Chart identified as Exhibit C.

### 4. THE NAME, TITLE, AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF EACH PARTNER, BOTH GENERAL AND LIMITED.

Not applicable. GST Net is a privately held corporation.

### 5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SERVICES:

GST Net initially intends to provide the following intrastate services throughout the State of South Dakota:

1. Message Telecommunications Service;

2. 800 Service;

- 3. Calling Card Services;
- 4. Prepaid Calling Cards

### 6. MEANS BY WHICH GST NET WILL PROVIDE ITS SERVICES:

As a non-facility based telecommunications reseller, GST Net does not own, operate, control or manage any telecommunications facilities in South Dakota. However, GST Net will serve as a central point of contact for customer assistance.

### 7. THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS IN WHICH THE SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED:

GST Net will be providing service throughout the state of South Dakota.

### 8. FINANCIAL:

GST Net is submitting its ultimate parent company's most recent annual report to demonstrate that GST Net possesses the financial ability to provide competitive long distance resold telecommunications services in South Dakota. Please see attached Exhibit.

Also included in Exhibit D is GST Net's proposed tariff showing all rates, deposits, and charges associated with providing the proposed services to the general public, including the standard practices GST Net will follow when interacting with its customers.

### 9. CONTACT PERSON(s):

Regulatory Contact: Geri Roper

Manager, Contracts & Dockets 4317 NE Thurston Way Vancouver, WA 98662 (360) 254-4700

Tariff Contact: Jane Z. Delahanty Tariff Manager

(Same as above)

Attached as Exhibit E is a description of how GST Net will handle customer billing and service related matters.

### 10. STATES IN WHICH GST NET IS REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED:

- GST Net is currently doing business in various states and the interstate jurisdiction.
- GST Net has never been denied registration or certification in any state.

### 11. MARKETING:

Attached as Exhibit F is a detailed description of how GST Net intends to market its services,, its target market, statement that GST Net intends to engage in multilevel marketing, and copies of company brochures used to assist in the sales of services.

GST Net does not intend to engage in multilevel marketing.

### 12. NECESSARY MANAGERIAL AND TECHNICAL ABILITY:

In support of GST Net's managerial and technical ability to provide service for which authority is sought herein, GST Net is submitting the resumes of its current corporate officers. Please see Exhibit G.

### 13. ATTORNEY:

Michelle-Shari Kruss Attorney at Law Law Offices of Charles L. Best 1220 SW Morrison Street Suite 805 Portland, OR 97205 (503) 222-1886 Fax: (503) 222-4711

### 14. ACCOUNTING RECORDS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

GST Net's accounting records and supporting documentation are maintained at its principal place of business in the State of Washington.

### 15. START DATE:

GST Net proposes to begin offering services immediately upon Commission approval of this Application.

### 16. COMMISSION APPROVAL SOUGHT:

GST Net respectfully requests that this Application be acted upon expeditiously by the Commission and that the Commission makes its order effective with the date of its issuance.

Respectfully submitted this 31 day of Horon, 1997

By: Wallet

Vice-President GST Net, Inc.

Michelle-Shari Kruss Attorney at Law Law Office of Charles L. Best 1220 S.W. Morrison Street Suite 805 Portland, OR 97205 Phone (503) 222-1886

Phone (503) 222-1886 Fax (503) 222-4711 142

### Certificate of Incorporation

-

### GST OmniNet, Inc.

FIRST: The name of the Corporation is: GST OmniNet, Inc. (the "Corporation").

SECOND: The registered office of the corporation and registered agent in the State of Delaware is to be located at 32 Lockerman Square, Suite L-100 in the City of Dover, County of Kent. The name of its registered agent is The Prentice-Hall Corporation System. Inc.

THIRD: The nature of the business, and the objects and purposes proposed to be transacted, promoted and carried on, are to do any lawful act or thing for which a corporation may be organized under the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "GCL").

EQURTH: The aggregate number of shares of stock which the Corporation shall have authority to issue is One Thousand (1,000) with a par value of one cent (\$.01) per share, all of which shall be designated "Common Stock".

FIFTH: The name and mailing address of the Incorporator is:

Eugene J. Stroz, Jr. 4 c/o Olshan Grundman Frome & Rosenzweig 505 Park Avonue New York, New York 10022

SIXTH: A. A director of the Corporation shall not be personally liable to the Corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fluidary duty as a director, except for liability (i) for any breach of the directors' duty of loyalty to the Corporation or its stockholders, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the GCL, or (iv) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit. If the GCL is amended to authorize corporate action further eliminating or limiting the personal liability of directors, then the liability of a director of the Corporation shall be eliminated or limited to the fullest extent permitted by the GCL, as so amended. Any repeal or modification of this Paragraph A by the stockholders of the Corporation shall not adversely affect any right or protection of a director of the Corporation with respect to events occurring prior to the time of such repeal or modification.

49655.

B. (1) Each person who was or is made a party or is threatened to be made a party to or is involved in any action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (hereinafter a proceeding), by reason of the fact that he or she or a person of whom he or she is the legal representative is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation, as a director, officer or employee or agent was belying at the corporation or of a partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, including service with respect to employee benefit plans, whether the basis of such proceeding is alleged action in an official capacity as a director, officer, employee or agent or in any other capacity while serving as a director, officer, employee or agent, shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Corporation to the fullest extent authorized by the GCL as the same exists or may hereafter be amended (but, in the case of any such amendment, only to the extent that such amendment permits the Corporation to provide broader Indemnification rights than said law permitted the Corporation to provide prior to such amendment), against all expense, liability and loss (including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, ERISA excise taxes or penalties and amounts paid or to be paid in settlement) reasonably incurred or suffered by such person in connection therewith and such indomnification shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of his or her heirs, executors and administrators; provided, however, that except as provided in paragraph (2) of this Paragraph B with respect to proceedings seeking to enforce rights to Indemnification, the Corporation shall indemnify any such person seeking indemnification in connection with a proceeding (or part thereof) initiated by such person only if such proceeding (or part thereof) was authorized by the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The right to indemnification conferred in this Paragraph B shall be a contract right and shall include the right to be paid by the Corporation the expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding in advance of its final disposition: provided, however, that if the GCL regulres, the payment of such expenses incurred by a

(2) If a claim under paragraph (1) of this Paragraph B is not paid in full by the Corporation within thirty days after a written claim has been received by the Corporation, the claimant may at any time thereafter bring suit against the Corporation to recover the unpaid amount of the claim and, if successful in whole or in part, the claimant shall be entitled to be paid also the expense of prosecuting such claim. It shall be a defense to any such action (other than an action brought to enforce a claim for expenses incurred in defending any proceeding in advance of its final disposition where the required undertaking, if any is required, has been tendered to the

director or officer in his or hor capacity as a director or officer (and not in any other capacity) in which service was or is rendered by such person while a director or officer, including, without limitation, service to an employee benefit plan) in advance of the final disposition of a proceeding, shall be made only upon delivery to the Corporation of an undertaking by or on behalf of such director or officer to repay all amounts so advanced if it shall ultimately be determined that such director or officer is not entitled to be

indemnified under this Paragraph B or otherwise.

Corporation) that the claimant has not met the standards of conduct which make it permissible under the GCL for the Corporation to indemnify the claimant for the amount claimed but the burden of proving such defense shall be on the Corporation Neither the failure of the Corporation (including its Board of Directors, independent legal counsel or stockholders) to have made a determination prior to the commencement of such action that indemnification of the claimant is proper in the circumstances because he or she has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in the GCL, nor an actual determination by the Corporation (including its Board of Directors, independent legal counsel or stockholders) that the claimant has not met such applicable standard of conduct, shall be a defense to the action or create a presumption that the claimant no time the applicable standard of conduct.

- (3) The right to indemnification and the payment of expenses incurred in defending a proceeding in advance of its final disposition conferred in this Paragraph B shall not be exclusive of any other right which any person may have or hereafter acquire under any statute, provision of the certificate of incorporation, By-Laws, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise.
- (4) The Corporation may maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect itself and any director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation or another corporation, partnership, Joint venture, trust or other enterprise against say expense, liability or loss, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such expense, liability or loss under the GCL.
- (5) The Corporation may, to the extent authorized from time to time by the Board of Directors, grant rights to Indemnification, and rights to be paid by the Corporation for the expenses incurred in defending any proceeding in advance of its final disposition, to any agent of the Corporation to the fullest extent of the provisions of this Paragraph B with respect to the Indemnification and advancement of expenses of directors, officers and employees of the Corporation.

SEYENTH: In addition to any other considerations which the Board of Directors may lawfully take into account, in determining whether to take or to refrain from taking corporate action on any matter, including proposing any matter to the stockholders of the Corporation, the Board of Directors may take into account the long-term as well as short-term interests of the Corporation and its stockholders (including the possibility that these interests may be best served by the continued independence of the Corporation), the interests of creditors, customers, employees and other constituencies of the Corporation and its subsidiaries and the effect upon communities in which the Corporation and its subsidiaries do business.

EIGHTH: In furtherance and not in limitation of the powers conferred by law or in this Certificate of Incorporation, the Board of Directors (and any committee of the Board of Directors) is expressly subtorized, to the extent permitted by law, to take

such action or actions as the Board or such committee may determine to be reasons by necessary or desirable to (A) encourage any person to enter into negotiations with the Board of Directors and management of the Corporation with respect to any transaction which may result in a change in control of the Corporation which is proposed or initiated by such person or (B) contest or oppose any such transaction which the Board of Directors or such committee determines to be unfair, abusive or otherwise undesirable with respect to the Corporation and its business, assets or properties or the stockholders of the Corporation, including, without limitation, the adoption of plans or the issuance of rights, options, capital stock, notes, debentures or other evidences of indebtedness or other securities of the Corporation, which rights, options, capital stock, notes, evidences of Indebtedness and other securities (I) may be exchangeable for or convertible into cash or other securities on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Board or such committee and (ii) may provide for the treatment of any holder or class of holders thereof designated by the Board of Directors or any such committee in respect of the terms, conditions, provisions and rights of such securities which is different from, and unequal to, the terms, conditions, provisions and rights applicable to all other holders thereof.

NINTH: The Corporation reserves the right to amend, after, change or repeal any provision contained in this Certificate of Incorporation, and eny other provisions authorized by the laws of the State of Delaware at the time in force may be added or inserted, subject to the limitations set forth in this Certificate of Incorporation and in the manner now or hereafter provided herein by statute, and all rights, preferences and privileges of whatsoever nature conferred upon stockholders, directors or any other persons whomeover by and pursuant to this Certificate of Incorporation in its present form or as amended are granted subject to the rights reserved in tils Article NINTH.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this st day of

Eugene J. Stroz, J.

Sole Incorporator

### **NEXT**

DOCUMENT (S)

**DISREGARD** 

**BACKGROUND** 

### State of Delaware

### Office of the Secretary of State

I, EDWARD J. FREEL, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF
DELAWARE, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE AND CORRECT
COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT OF GST OMNINET, INC.",
CHANGING ITS NAME FROM "GST OMNINET, INC.",
FILED IN THIS OFFICE ON THE FIRST DAY OF JUNE, A.D. 1995, AT 11
O'CLOCK A.M.





Edward J. Freel, Secretary of State

AUTHENTICATION:

DATE: -7745143

12-11-95

2477253 B100 950289533

### State of Delaware

### Office of the Secretary of State PAGE 1

I. EDWARD J. FREEL, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF
DELAWARE, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE AND CORRECT
COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT OF "GSINET INC.", CHANGING
ITS NAME FROM "GSTHET OC." TO "GST NET. INC." FILED IN THIS
OFFICE ON THE MINETEENTH DAY OF JULY, A. D. 1993. AT 10:15





Edward J. Freel, Secretary of State

AUTHENTICATION:

DATE: 7745144

12-11-95

2477253 8100

950289533

### State of South Bakota

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MAR 28 197 12:19



### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

### CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

I. JOYCE MAZELISMS. Secretary of State of the State of South Dakota, hereby certify that the Application for a Certificate of Authority of 057 MFT. INC. (0E) to transact husiness in this stee duly signed and verified Curporation has roved been excluded in the Office and are found to conform to law.

ACCORDINGLY and by virtue of the authority vested in me by ins. I hereby losus this Certificate of Authority and attach horeto a duplicate of the application to transact business in this state under the name of GST NTT. INC.



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3686-891-4618 GST TELECOM INC

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have horeunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seel of the State of South Danute, at Pierre, the Capital, this March 24, 1997.

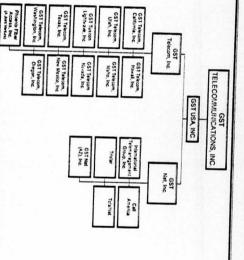
SOUTH HAZELTINE

Exhibt "B"

statement.			outh Daketa end for th	
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1013 Centro	milim .	ington_Delegr		Zip Codo19805
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### **GST Organization Structure**



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Description of how GST Net intends to handle Service Related Calls:

a GST Net's Customer Care Group will field all service related customer calls Calls will be resolved in a timely manner. Customers will receive updates, at requested intervals, until the matter is resolved.
b (800) 622-4478.

Description of how GST Net intends to handle Billing/Credit Related Calls:

a. GST Net Customer Care Group will receive the customers calls. GST Net's goal is for a "one call resolution" result.

b. (800) 355-4851



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Solutions Phone Card a Variety of

Providing

Services Card 750

GST's innovative calling card platforms provide a variety of prepaid and postpaid phone card services to support our customers in the pursuit of their

With GST you will experience the highest level of reliability clarity and quality. Diverse routing and redundant systems ensure uninterrupted call processing and by utilizing all-digital, fiber optic lines your services are delivered over our state-of-the-art switching network. Our commitment to you is to provide unsurpassed quality telephone connections at competitive rates

Long after other programs have been forgotten a prepaid phone card continues to renew your company's image in the card user's mind No matter how large or small, whether your phone card needs are wholesale, international, retail or promotional, GST has a solution designed to meet your specific needs

### Wholesale Platform

- Private Branding
- Multilingual Capabilities
- Disposable and Rechargeable • 24x7 Customer Service
- Fraud Control
- Domestic and International Origination and Termination
- · Enhanced Services
- · Survey Capabilities

### International Call Back

- Accurate Billing
- PTT Work Arounds
- Traveling Call Back Numbers
- Automated Re-Origination
- Call Back Queuing
- 24x7 Operator Assistance Optional Dialing Restrictions
- Available in Many Languages



### **Retail Phone Cards**

- · Point-of-Sale Activation Unit
- Batch Activation Available
- Toll Free Validation
- Secure Shrink Wrap Packaging
- 24x7 Customer Service
- Counter-Top Display
- · Signs and Decais

### **Promotional Phone Cards**

- Custom Audio Message
- Card Front Advertising
- Survey Capabilities
- Multiple Printing Options

There are many successful applications for promotional

- phone cards including
- · Door Openers Traffic Builders
- Thank Yous or Greetings
- Purchase incentives
- Employee Rewards
- Customer Appreciation







Eliminate the risks of fraud, shoplifting and nployee theft with a secure inactive phone card

Address

For information call toll free at 1-888-900-9449 or complete and

return this form.

Please Have Someone Contact Me

Wholesale Platform

International Call Back Retail Phone Cards

Promotional Phone Cards

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
PERMIT NO 306 VANCOUVER WA
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE GST NET 4317 NE THURSTON WAY VANCOUVER WA 98662-9960





### GST PhoneLinx Switched 1+

Overcome the challenges of today's business needs with customized long distance solutions

### Service Description

GST 1+ is an outbound, switched access offering that will benefit your business.

All of our long distance services provide solutions for today's advanced telecommunications requirements, and GST PhoneLinx 1+ has been designed for customers demanding superior quality and service.

### Features

GST PhoneLinx Switched 1+

- · Local account team
- · Fiber optic network
- · Digital state-of-the art switching equipment
- · Service accessible from all equal access areas
- · IntraLAIA dialing available where permitted
- . Outbound 1+ dialing to the U.S. and over 200 countries worldwide
- · Customer service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- · 90-day guarantee



### GST PhoneLinx Switched 1+



### Service Options

- · Account and project codes available
- · Detailed management reports available with monthly billing

- · No sign-up fee
- · Simple flat rate pricing for intrastate and interstate services
- · Billed in six-second increments
- · 90-day guarantee



### **GST PhoneLinx Dedicated 1**

### GST PhoneLinx Dedicated 1+

Overcome the challenges of today's business needs with customized long distance solutions

### Service Description

GST Dedicated 1+ is the perfect solution for the business that demands point-to-point connectivity. This dedicated access long distance service offers the ability to transmit and receive up to 24 simultaneous voice conversations over a single circuit. And our DS-1 connection allows you to enhance your own network by taking full advantage of GST's PhoneLinx enhanced services.

### Features

- · Local account team
- · Local access coordination
- · Fiber optic network with digital connectivity
- · Route diversity available
- · Disaster recovery plans available
- . Outbound 1+ dialing to the U.S. and over 200 countries worldwide
- · Customer service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- · 90-day guarantee



### GST PhoneLinx Dedicated 1+



### Service Options

- · Account and project codes available
- · Detailed management reports available with monthly billing

- · Simple flat rate pricing for intrastate and interstate services
- · Billed in six-second increments
- · 90-day guarantee



# GST PhoneLinx Switched Toll Free

### GST PhoneLinx Switched Toll Free

Leverage your business with the competitive advantage of Inbound Toll Free service

### Service Description

GST's inbound switched service is carried over state-of-the-art networks connected to the most advanced digital switching equipment. GST PhoneLinx offers a world-class, feature-rich tollfree service that will keep you from missing those important calls and save you money.

### Features

- · Local account team
- Calls can originate from the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- · You can choose your own toll free number, based on availability
- · Your existing toll free number can be rolled over to the GST network
- . Customer service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week



### GST PhoneLinx Switched Toll Free



### Services Offered

- Extended Call Coverage
- Tailoted Call Coverage
- · Exchange Routing
- · Percent Allocation Routing
- · Point of Call Routing
- · Holiday Routing
- · Day of Week Routing
- · Directory Assistance Listing

- · Simple flat rate pricing
- · Billed in six-second increments
- Detailed management reports available with monthly brilling
- · 90 day guarantee



## **GST PhoneLinx Dedicated Toll Free**

### **GST PhoneLinx Dedicated Toll Free**

Leverage your business with the competitive advantage of Inbound Toll Free service

### Service Description

GST has produced the most feature-rich inbound Dedicated Toll Free service that is available in the industry today. Easy customer access gives you the advantage, and you'll never miss an important call. GST PhoneLinx is the cost-effective way to stay ahead.

### Features

- · Local Account Team
- Calls can originate from the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Canada and the U.S. Virgin Islands
- · Choose your own toll free number, based on availability
- · Existing toll free numbers can be rolled over to the GST network
- · Customer service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week



### GST PhoneLinx Dedicated Toll Free



### Services Offered

- · Point of call routing
- · Day of week routing
- · Time interval routing
- · Percentage allocation routing
- Sequential allocation routing
- · Holiday routing
- Tailored call coverage
- · ID codes
- DNIS (Direct Number Identification)
- · Quota routing
- · Most available agent routing
- · Rules based routing
- · Directory assistance listing

- · Simple flat-rate pricing
- · Billed in six-second increments
- Detailed management reports available with monthly billing



## GST PhoneLinx International Toll Free

### **GST PhoneLinx International Toll Free**

Leverage your international business with the competitive advantage of Inbound Toll Free service

### Service Description

GST's International Toll Free service can provide your business with a global presence. We offer access from multiple countries routed over state-of-the-art networks delivering the most feature-rich international service in the industry today.

### Features

- · Local account team
- · Call termination on switched or dedicated facilities
- Customer can use existing toli free services
- · Minimized customer risk for international expansion
- · Enhanced customer credibility
- Customer service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week



### GST PhoneLinx International Toll Free



### Services Offered

- · Extended routing options
- · Simple flat rate pricing DNIS (Direct Number Identification)
- · ID codes
- · Management reports available with monthly billing
- · 90-day guarantee



### REGULATIONS AND SCHEDULE OF CHARGES FOR RESALE OF LONG DISTANCE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES WITHIN THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

### CHECK SHEET

The sheets of this Tariff are effective as of the date shown at the bottom of the respective sheet(s). Original and revised sheets as named below comprise all changes from the original Tariff and are currently an effect as of the dat on the bottom of this page.

SHEET	REVISION	SHEET	REVISION
Title Page	Original	2-14	Original
1	Original	2-15	Original
2	Original	2-16	Original
3	Original	2-17	Original
4	Original	2-18	Original
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6	Original	2-20	Original
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2-7	Original	2-33	Original
2-8	Original	3-1	Original
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2-10	Original	4-2	Original
2-11	Original	4-3	Original
2-12	Original	4-4	Original
2-13	Original	5-1	Original

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

### CHECK SHEET (Cont'd)

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SHEET	REVISION	SHEET	REVISION
5-2	Original		
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Issue Date:

Effective Date:

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Issue Date:

Effective Date:

0142 .37 .31

### APPLICATION OF TARIFF

This tariff contains the regulations and schedule of charges applicable to the provision of resold long distance telecommunications services by GST Net, Inc. GST Net, Inc.'s Tariff is available for review with South Dakot Public Utilities Commission".

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Customer complaints, bill inquiry, new service or disconnect requests:

GST Net, Inc. 4317 NE Thurston Way Vancouver, WA 98662 Toll Free (800) 622-4478

Commission contact - Tariff information:

GST Telecom, Inc. Tariff Manager 4317 NE Thurston Way Vancouver, WA 98662 (360) 254-4700

Commission contact - complaints:

GST Telecom, Inc. Manager Contracts & Dockets 4317 NE Thurston Way Vancouver, WA 98662 (360) 254-4700

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This Tariff contains all effective rates and rules, together with information relating to the resale of long distance telecommunications services offered to customers in the State of South Dakota by GST Net. Inc.

### EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS, REFERENCE MARKS, AND ABBREVIATIONS OF TECHNICAL TERMS USED IN THIS TARIFF

The following symbols shall be used in this Tariff for the purpose indicated below:

- (C) to signify changed condition or regulation.
- (D) to signify discontinued rate, regulation or condition.
- (I) to signify increase.
- (M) to signify that material has been transferred from another sheet or place in the Tariff.
- (N) to signify new rate, regulation, condition or sheet.
- (R) to signify reduction.
- (T) to signify a change in text for clarification.

Issue Date:	Effective Date:	
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### TERRITORY

GST Net, Inc. provides intrastate telecommunications service to customers within the State of South Dakota.



Issue Date:

Effective Date:

### TARIFF FORMAT

### A. Sheet Numbering:

Sheet numbers appear in the upper right corner of the page. Sheets are numbered sequentially. However, new sheets are occasionally added to the Tariff. When a new sheet is added between sheets already in effect, a decimal is added. For example, a new sheet added between sheets 14 and 15 would be 14.1.

### B. Sheet Revision Numbers:

Revision numbers also appear in the upper right corner of each page. These numbers are used to determine the most current sheet version on file with the Commission. For example, the 4th Revised Sheet 14 cancels the 3rd Revised Sheet 14. Because of various suspension periods, deferrals, etc. in the Tariff approval process, the most current sheet number on file with the Commission may not always be the Tariff page in effect.

### C. Paragraph Numbering Sequence:

These are four levels of paragraph coding. Each level of coding is subservient to the next higher level:

2.1

2.1.1.

2.1.1.1

2.1.1.1.1

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

# SECTION 1 TECHNICAL TERMS

#### 1.1 Definitions

Certain terms used generally throughout this Tariff are defined below:

Advanced Payment: Part or all of a payment required before the start of service.

Central Office: Company facilities where subscribers' lines are joined to switching equipment for connecting other subscribers to each other, locally and long distance.

Commission: The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Company: GST Net, Inc., the issuer of this Tariff.

Customer or Subscriber: The person, firm or corporation which orders service and is responsible for the payment of charges and compliance with the Company's regulations.

<u>Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (or "DTMF")</u>: The pulse type employed by tone dial station sets.

<u>loint User</u>: A person, firm or corporation which is designated by the customer as a user of services furnished to the customer by GST Net, Inc. and to whom a portion of the charges for the service will be billed under a joint user arrangement as specified herein.

Local Exchange Service: The transmission of public two-way switched communications furnished within a local exchange area, i.e., a geographic area encompassing one or more local communities, as described in maps, tariffs, or rate schedules filed with the Commission, where local exchange rates apply.

LEC: Local Exchange Carrier, any person or entity providing local exchange service.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

#### TECHNICAL TERMS

#### 1.1 Definitions (Cont'd)

Recurring Charges: The monthly charges to the customer for services, facilities and equipment, which continue for the agreed upon duration of the service.

Service Commencement Date: The first day following the date on which the Company notifies the customer that the requested service or facility is available for use, unless extended by the customer's refusal to accept service which does not conform to standards set forth in the service order or this Tariff, in which case the Service Commencement Date is the date of the customer's acceptance. The Company and customer may mutually agree on a substitute service commencement date.

<u>Service Order</u>: The request for services executed by the customer and the Company in the format devised by the Company. The acceptance of a service order by the Company initiates the respective obligations of the parties as set forth therein and pursuant to this Tariff.

Switched Inbound Calls: Refers to calls that are terminated via the Customer's LECprovided local exchange access line.

Switched Outbound Calls: Refers to calls in Featured Group D exchanges whereby the Customer's local telephone lines are presubscribed by the local exchange Company to the Company's outbound service such that "1+10-digit number" calls are automatically routed to the Company's network. Calls to stations within the customers LATA may be placed by dialing "10+ NXX" or 101 IXXXX" plus 1+10-digit number.

<u>User</u>: A customer, joint user, or any other person authorized by a customer to use service provided under this Tariff.

Effective Date:	
	Effective Date:

# SECTION 2 GENERAL REGULATIONS

## 2.1 Description of Service - General

The Company undertakes to furnish communications service pursuant to the terms of this Tariff in connection with one-way and/or two-way information transmission between points within the State of South Dakota.

Service is provided on the basis of a minimum period of at least one month, 24-hours per day. For the purpose of computing charges in this Tariff, a month is considered to have 30 days.

Customers and users may use services and facilities provided under this Tariff to obtain access to services offered by other service providers. The Company is responsible under this Tariff only for the services and facilities provided hereunder, and it assumes no responsibility for any service provided by any other entity that purchases access to the Company network in order to originate or terminate its own services, or to communicate with its own customers.

This Tariff shall be interpreted and governed by the laws of the State of South Dakota without regard for its choice of laws provision.

Any other Telephone Company may not interfere with the right of any person or entity to obtain service directly from the Company. No person or entity shall be required to make any payment, incur any penalty, monetary or otherwise, or purchase any services in order to have the right to obtain service directly from the Company.

To the extent that either the Company or any Other Telephone Company exercises control over available cable pairs, conduit, duct space, raceways, or other facilities needed by the other to reach a person or entity, the party exercising such control shall make them available to the other on terms equivalent to those under which the Company makes similar facilities under its control available to its customers. At the reasonable request of either party, the Company and the Other Telephone Company shall join the attempt to obtain from the owner of the property access for the other party to serve a person or entity.

Issue Date

Effective Date:

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

# 2.2 Customer Application for Service

Customers may be required to enter into written service orders which shall contain or reference a specific description of the service ordered, the rates to be charged, the duration of the services, and the terms and conditions in this Tariff.

At the expiration of the initial term specified in each service order, or in any extension thereof, service shall continue on a month-to-month basis at the then current rates unless terminated by the customer by verbal or written notice. Any termination shall not relieve the customer of its obligation to pay any charges incurred under the service order and this Tariff prior to termination.

# 2.3 Contracts or Agreements

Contract tariffs or agreements will be provided to customers where their unique situation requires such. Said contracts will be filed with the Commission.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

# 2.4 Customer Bills

The name of the Company will be clearly identified on the customer's bill. Each bill will prominently show the toll-free telephone number, as well as mailing address, to direct service or billing inquiries. In those instances where a billing agent is employed, the name of the billing agent will be identified on the bill. Additional notations on the bill include:

- (A) The charges for services requested by the customer;
- (B) Billing detail including the period of service covered by the bill;
- (C) Late payment charge(s) and when applied;
- (D) The due date of the bill:
- (E) State and federal taxes, if applicable;
- (F) The interstate customer line charges, if applicable.

#### 2.5 Establishment and Reestablishment of Credit

The Company may conduct a credit investigation of a new customer prior to accepting the service order or customer's deposit. A customer whose service has been discontinued for nonpayment of bills will be required to reestablish credit before service is restored. The Company may require a customer to pay all amounts past due in addition to any connection charges and/or a deposit.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

## 2.6 Deposits and Advanced Payments

### 2.6.1 Advance Payments

To safeguard its interests, the Company may require a customer to make an attained payment before services and facilities are furnished. The advance payment will not exceed an amount up to the first month's estimated monthly recurring charges, and non-recurring installation charges. In addition, where special construction is involved, the advance payment may also include an amount equal to the estimated non-recurring charges for the special construction. The advance payment will be credited to the customer's initial bill. An advance payment may be required in addition to a deposit.

#### 2.6.2 Deposits

To safeguard its interests, the Company may require the customer to make a deposit to be held as a guarantee for the payment of charges. A deposit does not relieve the customer of the responsibility for the prompt payment of bills on presentation. The deposit will not exceed an amount equal to:

- twice the estimated average monthly bill for the class of service applied for; or.
- (B) in the event the customer requests services in addition to basic service, the average bill will reflect the aggregate services requested.

A deposit may be required in addition to an advance payment.

When a service or facility is discontinued, the amount of a deposit, if any, including accrued interest, will be applied to the customer's account and any credit balance remaining will be refunded. If the amount of the deposit is insufficient to cover the balance due to the customer's account, the Company retains the right to collect any amounts owing after the deposit has been applied.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

# 2.6 Deposits and Advanced Payments (Cont'd)

# 2.6.2 Deposits (Cont'd)

The deposit, less the amount of any unpaid bills for service furnished by GST Net, fnc., will be refunded, together with any interest due, within 30 calendar days after the discontinuance of service, or after 12 months of service, whichever comes first provided credit has been established satisfactorily with the Company.

The Company will pay simple interest on the deposit at the rate of six per cent per annum from the date of the establishment of the credit until:

- (A) The deposit is returned;
- (B) Service is terminated; or
- (C) Notice is sent to the customer's last known address that the deposit is no longer required.

Issue Date: Effective Date:

# 2.7 Rendering and Payment of Bills

# 2.7.1 Payment for Service

The customer is responsible for the payment of all charges for facilities and services furnished by the Company to the customer.

The Company will apply any partial payment of a bill to a discharge of what is due for basic service before applying the payment for what is due for any other service.

# 2.7.2 Billing and Collection of Charges

The customer is responsible for payment of all charges incurred by the customer or other users for services and facilities furnished to the customer by the Company.

- 2.7.2.1 Non-recurring charges are due and payable upon presentation of the invoice.
- 2.7.2.2 The Company shall present invoices for recurring charges monthly to the customer, in advance of the month in which service is provided, and recurring charges shall be due and payable upon presentation of the invoice. When billing is based upon customer usage, usage charges will be billed monthly for the preceding billing period.
- 2.7.2.3 When service does not begin on the first day of the month, or end on the last day of the month, the charge for the fraction of the month in which service was furnished will be calculated on a pro rata basis. For this purpose, every month is considered to have 30 days.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

- 2.7 Rendering and Payment of Bills (Cont'd)
  - 2.7.2 Billing and Collection of Charges (Cont'd)
    - 2.7.2.4 Billing of the customer by the Company will begin on the service commencement date, which is the day on which the Company notifies the customer that the service or facility is available for use. Billing accrues through and includes the day that the service, circuit, arraneement or component is discontinued.
    - 2.7.2.5 A bill is considered past due if it remains unpaid after the due date stated on the bill.
    - 2.7.2.6 If any portion of the payment is received by the Company after the date due, or if any portion of the payment is received by the Company in funds which are not immediately available upon presentment, then a late payment penalty shall be due to the Company. The late payment penalty shall be the portion of the payment not received by the date due, multiplied by a late factor.
      - (A) a rate of 1.5 percent per month; or
      - (B) the highest interest rate which may be applied under state law for commercial transactions.
    - 2.7.2.7 The customer will be assessed a charge of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each check submitted by the customer to the Company which a financial institution refuses to honor.

Issue Date:	Effective Date:

- 2.7 Rendering and Payment of Bills (Cont'd)
  - 2.7.2 Billing and Collection of Charges (Cont'd)
    - 2.7.2.8 Customers have up to 45 days from the presentment of the bill to initiate a dispute over charges or to receive credits.
    - 2.7.2.9 If service is disconnected by the Company for cause as specified following and later restored, restoration of service will be subject to all applicable installation charges.

Issue Date

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

## 2.8 Disputed Bilis

The customer may dispute a bill only by written notice to the Company delivered within 45 days after presentment of the statement. Unless such notice is received in the timely fashion indicated above, the billing statement shall be deemed to be correct and payable in full by customer.

In the event of a billing dispute between the customer and the Company for services rendered to the customer which cannot be settled to their mutual satisfaction, the customer may make the following arrangement:

- (A) First, the customer may request an investigation and review by the Company of the disputed amount. The Company will comply with such request.
- (B) The undisputed portion of the bill must be paid by the Due Date shown on the bill or the service will be subject to disconnection if the Company has notified the customer by written notice of such delinquency and impending termination.
- (C) If the customer is unable to resolve any dispute with the Company, the customer may then request information or assistance from the Commission.
- (D) A customer shall be rebilled under the appropriate Tariff schedule when:
  - The customer was billed under a Tariff schedule for which the customer was not eligible; or
  - The customer was eligible for billing under more than one schedule but was billed under a schedule contrary to the customer's election or if the customer's election was based on erroneous information provided to the Company.

Issue Date

Effective Date:

# 2.8 Disputed Bills (Cont'd)

- (E) Nothing in (D) above requires the Company to adjust billing when it has acted in good faith based on the information available.
- (F) If the Company underbills as a result of its omission or negligence and the amount owed by the customer has accumulated over a period of one month and exceeds \$25, the Company will offer and enter into reasonable arrangements for payment of the amount owed by the customer. If the Company overbills a customer, the Company will refund the overbilled amount. The Company may refund the overbilled amount by a credit on future bills; provided that if the refund amount \$25 or more, the Company shall offer the customer a choice of a cash refund.

Issue Date:	Effective Date:

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## GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 2.9 Denial or Discontinuance of Service

2.9.1 Customers are responsible for notifying the Company of their desire to discontinue service on or before the date of disconnection. Such notice may be either verbal or written for month-to-month service arrangements; multi-month contracts require 30 days written notice.

# 2.9.2 Cancellation for Cause by the Company

- 2.9.2.1 The Company may deny or discontinue service to a customer without the customer's permission and without prior notice for any one or more of the following reasons:
  - (A) If a condition immediately dangerous or hazardous to life, physical safety, or property exists;
  - (B) Upon an order of any court, the Commission, or any other duly authorized public authority; or
  - (C) If service was obtained fraudulently or without the authorization of the Company.

Issue Date

Effective Date:

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 2.9 Denial or Discontinuance of Service (Cont'd)
  - 2.9.2 Cancellation for Cause by the Company (Cont'd)
    - 2.9.2.2 The Company may deny or discontinue service to a customer without the customer's permission and with prior notice for one or more of the following reasons:
      - (A) Nonpayment of a past due bill not in dispute;
      - (B) Failure to make a security deposit or obtain a guarantee when one is required:
      - (C) Obtaining service by subterfuge;
      - (D) Unauthorized interference, diversion, or use of the Telecommunication service situated or delivered on or about the customer's premises;
      - (E) Violation of any rule of the Company filed with the Commission;
      - (F) Failure to comply with laws and regulations pertaining to telecommunications services; or
      - (G) Failure of the customer to permit the Company reasonable access to the Company's facilities or equipment.

Issue Date

Effective Date:

- 2.9 Denial or Discontinuance of Service (Cont'd)
  - 2.9.2 Cancellation for Cause by the Company (Cont'd)
    - 2.9.2.3 The customer will be notified in writing of the Company's intention to discontinue service and be allowed no less than five days from the date of the notification is mailed to the customer, the customer shall be allowed an additional two days to respond. All notices of proposed discontinuance will state:
      - (A) The reason for and date of the scheduled discontinuance of service; and.
      - (B) Actions which the customer may take to avoid discontinuance of service.
    - 2.9.2.4 The Company may refuse to provide service, flexibly priced services, or fully or partially competitive services for nonpayment for any of these services, even if the debt is to another carrier.

Issue Date:	Effective Dat

- 2.9 Denial or Discontinuance of Service (Cont'd)
  - 2.9.2 Cancellation for Cause by the Company (Cont'd)
    - 2.9.2.5 The customer is responsible for providing adequate access lines to enable the Company to terminate all 8XX Service calls to the customer's telephone equipment. Should the customer have insufficient access lines on which to terminate 8XX Service calls, the Company reserves the right to request the customer to add additional lines for call terminations. If, after 90 days, the customer has not made the requested change, the Company, without incurring any liability, reserves the right to terminate the customer's 8XX Service, with 30 days written notice.

Issue Date:	Effective Date:

# 2.10 Temporary Service

Temporary service or service to speculative projects will be provided if consistent with the best interest of the Company.

# 2.11 Continuity of Service

The Company will provide the customer reasonable notification of service-affecting activities that may occur in normal operation of its business. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, equipment or facilities additions, removals or rearrangements and routine preventative maintenance. Generally, such activities are not specific to an individual customer but affect many customers' services. No specific advance notification period is applicable to all service activities. The Company will work cooperatively with the customer to determine reasonable notification requirements. With some emergency or unplanned service-affecting conditions, such as an outage resulting from cable damage, notification to the customer may not be possible.

# 2.12 Employee Service

The Company may offer discounted service to its employees for their primary residential line. Charges for employee service are specified under Rates following.

Issue Date:

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## GENERAL REGULATIONS

# 2.13 Liability of the Company

- 2 13.1 The liability of the Company for damages arising out of the furnishing of its Services, including, but not limited to, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, delays, or errors, or other defects, representations, or use of these services or arising out of the failure to furnish the service, whether caused by acts or omission, shall be limited to the extension of allowances for interruption following. The extension of such allowances for interruption shall be the sole remedy of the customer and the sole liability of the Company. The Company will not be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, consequential, exemplary or punitive damages to customer as a result of any Company service, equipment or facilities, or the acts or omissions or neeligence of the Company's employees or agents.
- 2.13.2 The Company shall not be liable for any delay or failure of performance or equipment due to causes beyond its control, including but not limited to: acts of God, fire, flood, explosion or other catastrophes; any law, order, regulation, direction, action, or request of the United States Government, or of any other government, including state and local governments having or claiming jurisdiction over the Company, or of any department, agency, Commission, bureau, corporation, or other instrumentality of any one or more of these federal, state, or local governments, or of any civil or military authority; national emergencies; insurrections; riots; wars; unavailability of rights-of-way or materials; or strikes, lock-outs, work stopages, or other labor difficulties.

Issue Date:	Effective Date:

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## GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 2.13 Liability of the Company (Cont'd)
  - 2.13.3 The Company shall not be liable for:
    - (A) any act or omission of any entity furnishing to the Company or to the Company's customers facilities or equipment used for interconnection with network services or
    - (B) for the acts or omissions of common carriers or warehousemen.
  - 2.13.4 The Company shall not be liable for any damages or losses due to the fault or negligence of the customer or due to the failure or malfunction of customerprovided equipment or facilities.
  - 2.13.5 The Company does not guarantee nor make any warranty with respect to installations it provides for use in an explosive atmosphere. The customer indemnifies and holds the Company harmless from any and all loss, claims, demands, suits, or other action, or any liability whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted, or asserted by any other party or person(s), and for any loss, damage, or destruction of any property, whether owned by the customer or others, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal presence, condition, location, or use of any installation so provided. The Company reserves the right to require each customer to sign an agreement acknowledging acceptance of the provisions of this Section as a condition precedent to such installations.

Issu	e	Dat	e

Effective Date:

- 2.13 Liability of the Company (Cont'd)
  - 2.13.6 The Company is not liable for any defacement of or damage to customer premises resulting from the furnishing of services or equipment on such premises or the installation or removal thereof, unless such defacement or damage is caused by negligence or willful misconduct of the Company's agents or employees.
  - 2.13.7 The Company shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the customer against any claim, loss or damage arising from customer's use of services, involving claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of convright arising from the customer's own communications.
  - 2.13.8 The entire liability for any claim, loss, damage or expense from any cause whatsoever shall in no event exceed sums actually paid the Company by the customer for the specific services giving rise to the claim. No action or proceeding against the Company shall be commenced more than one year after the service is rendered.
  - 2.13.9 The Company makes no warranties or representations, express or implied either in fact or by operation of law, statutory or otherwise, including warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular use, except those expressly set forth herein.

Effective Date:

# 2.14 Obligation of the Customer

#### 2.14.1 General

The customer shall be responsible for:

- (A) the payment of all applicable charges pursuant to this tariff;
- (B) damage to or loss of the Company's facilities or equipment caused by the acts or omissions of the customer; or the noncompliance by the customer, with these regulations; or by fire or theft or other casualty on the customer premises, unless caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the employees or agents of the Company;
- (C) providing at no charge, as specified from time to time by the Company, any needed personnel, equipment space and power to operate Company facilities and equipment installed on the premises of the customer, and the level of heating and air conditioning necessary to maintain the proper operating environment on such premises:
- (D) obtaining, maintaining, and otherwise having full responsibility for all rights-of-way and conduit necessary for installation of fiber optic cable and associated equipment used to provide communications services to the customer from the cable building entrance or property line to the location of the equipment space described above. Any and all costs associated with obtaining and maintaining the rights-of-way described herein, including the costs of altering the structure to permit installation of the Company-provided facilities, shall be borne entirely by, or may be charged by the Company to, the customer. The Company may require the customer to demonstrate its compliance with this section prior to accepting an order for service:

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

# 2.14 Obligation of the Customer (Cont'd)

#### 2.14.1 General (Cont'd)

- (E) providing a safe place to work and complying with all laws and regulations regarding the working conditions on the premises at which Company employees and agents shall be installing or maintaining the Company's facilities and equipment. The customer may be required to install and maintain Company facilities and equipment within a hazardous area if, in the Company's opinion, injury or damage to the Company employees or property might result from installation or maintenance by the Company. The customer shall be responsible for identifying, monitoring, removing and disposing of any hazardous material (e.g., friable asbestos) prior to any construction or installation work;
- (F) complying with all laws and regulations applicable to, and obtaining all consents, approvals, licenses and permits as may be required with respect to, the location of Company facilities and equipment in any customer premises or the rights-of-way for which customer is responsible and granting or obtaining permission for Company agents or employees to enter the premises of the customer at any time for the purpose of installing, inspecting, maintaining, repairing, or upon termination of service as stated herein, removing the facilities or equipment of the Company;
- (G) not creating or allowing to be placed any liens or other encumbrances on the Company's equipment or facilities; and
- (H) making Company facilities and equipment available periodically for maintenance purposes at a time agreeable to both the Company and the customer. No allowance will be made for the period during which service is interrupted for such purposes.

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

# 2.14 Obligation of the Customer (Cont'd)

#### 2.14.2 Claims

With respect to any service or facility provided by the Company, the customer shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Company from and against all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees for:

- (A) any loss, destruction or damage to property of the Company or any third party, or the death or injury to persons, including, but not limited to, employees or invites of either party, to the extent caused by or resulting from or invites of either party, to the extent caused by or resulting from the negligent or intentional act or omission of the customer, its employees, agent, representatives or invites; or
- (B) any claim, loss, damage, expense or liability for infringement of any copyright, patent, trade secret, or any proprietary or intellectual property right of any third party, arising from any act or omission by the customer, including, without limitation, use of the Company's services and facilities in a manner not contemplated by the agreement between the customer and the Company.

Issue Date

Effective Date:

# 2.15 Provision of Equipment and Facilities

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- 2.15.1 The Company shall use reasonable efforts to make available services to a customer on or before a particular date, subject to the provisions of and compliance by the customer with, the regulations contained in this tariff. The Company does not guarantee availability by any such date and shall not be liable for any delays in commencing service to any customer.
- 2.15 2 The Company shall use reasonable efforts to maintain only the facilities and equipment that it furnishes to the customer. The customer may not, nor may the customer permit others to, rearrange, disconnect, remove, attempt to repair, or otherwise interfere with any of the facilities or equipment installed by the Company.
- 2.15.3 The Company may substitute, change or rearrange any equipment or facility at any time and from time to time, but shall not thereby alter the technical parameters of the service provided the customer.
- 2.15.4 Equipment the Company provides or installs at the customer premises for use in connection with the services the Company offers shall not be used for any purpose other than that for which the Company provided it.
- 2.15.5 The customer shall be responsible for the payment of service charges as set forth herein for visits by the Company's agents or employees to the premises of the customer when the service difficulty or trouble report results from the use of equipment or facilities provided by any party other than the Company, including, but not limited to, the customer.

Lisue Date

Effective Date:

- 2.15 Provision of Equipment and Facilities (Cont'd)
  - 2.15.6 The Company shall not be responsible for the installation, operation, or maintenance of any customer-provided communications equipment. Where such equipment is connected to the facilities furnished pursuant to this tariff, the responsibility of the Company shall be limited to the furnishing of facilities offered under this tariff and to the maintenance and operation of such facilities. Subject to this responsibility of the Company shall not be responsible for:
    - the transmission of signals by customer provided equipment or for the quality of, or defects in, such transmission; or
    - (B) the reception of signals by customer-provided equipment.

Issue Date: Effective Date:

#### 2.16 Customer Equipment and Channels

#### 2.16.1 General

A user may transmit or receive information or signals via the facilities of the Company. The Company's services are designed primarily for the transmission of voice-grade telephonic signals, except as otherwise stated in this tariff. A user may transmit any form of signal that is compatible with the Company's equipment, but the Company does not guarantee that its services will be suitable for purposes other than voice-grade telephonic communication except as specifically stated in this tariff.

# 2.16.2 Station Equipment

- 2.16.2.1 Terminal equipment on the user's premises and the electric power consumed by such equipment shall be provided by and maintained at the expense of the user. The user is responsible for the provision of wiring or cable to connect its terminal equipment to the Company's Point of Connection.
- 2.16.2.2 The customer is responsible for ensuring that customer-provided equipment connected to Company equipment and facilities is compatible with such equipment and facilities. The magnitude and character of the voltages and currents impressed on Company-provided equipment and wiring by the connection, operation, or maintenance of such equipment and wiring shall be such as not to cause damage to the Company-provided equipment and wiring or injury to the Company's employees or to other persons. Any additional protective equipment required to prevent such damage or injury shall be provided by the Company at the customer's expense.

Issue Date

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 2.16 Customer Equipment and Channels (Cont'd)
  - 2.16.3 Interconnection of Facilities
    - 2.16.3.1 Any special interface equipment necessary to achieve compatibility between the facilities and equipment of the Company used for furnishing communications services and the channels, facilities, or equipment of others shall be provided at the customer's expense.
    - 2.16.3.2 Communications Services may be connected to the services or facilities of other communications carriers only when authorized by, and in accordance with, the terms and conditions of the tariffs of the other communications carriers which are applicable to such connections.
    - 2.16.3.3 Facilities furnished under this tariff may be connected to customer-provided terminal equipment in accordance with the provisions of this tariff. All such terminal equipment shall be registered by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to Part 68 of Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations; and all user-provided wiring shall be installed and maintained in compliance with those regulations.
    - 2.16.3.4 Users may interconnect communications facilities that are used in whole or in part for interstate communications to services provided under this tariff only to the extent that the user is an "end user" as defined in Section 69.2(m). Title 47. Code of Federal Regulations.

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 2.16 Customer Equipment and Channels (Cont'd)
  - 2.16.4 Inspections
    - 2.16.4.1 Upon suitable notification to the customer, and at a reasonable time, the Company may make such tests and inspections as may be necessary to determine that the customer is complying with the requirements set forth above for the installation, operation, and maintenance of customer-provided facilities, equipment, and wiring in the connection of customer-provided facilities and equipment to Company-owned facilities and equipment.
    - 2.16.4.2 If the protective requirements for customer-provided equipment are not being complied with, the Company may take such action as it deems necessary to protect its facilities, equipment, and personnel. The Company will notify the customer promptly if there is any need for further corrective action. Within ten days of receiving this notice, the customer must take this corrective action and notify the Company of the action taken. If the customer fails to do this, the Company may take whatever additional action is deemed necessary, including the suspension of service, to protect its facilities, equipment and personnel from harm.

Issue Date

Effective Date:

# 2.17 Allowances for Interruptions in Service

Interruptions in service, which are not due to a customer's negligence or noncompliance with the provisions of this tariff or the operation or malfunction of the facilities, power or equipment provided by the customer, will be credited to the customer as set forth below for the part of the service that the interruption affects.

# 2.17.1 Credit for Interruptions

- 2.17.1.1 A credit allowance will be made when an interruption occurs because of a failure of any component furnished by the Company under this tariff. An interruption period begins when the customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be interrupted and releases it for testing and repair. An interruption period ends when the service, facility or circuit is operative. If the customer reports a service, facility or circuit to be inoperative but declines to release it for testing and repair, it is considered to be impaired, but not interrupted.
- 2.17.1.2 For calculating credit allowances, every month is considered to have 30 days.
- 2.17.1.3 The Company will make appropriate adjustments or refunds to a customer when service to the customer is interrupted for reasons other than the negligence or willful act of the customer or remains interrupted for more than twenty-four hours after being reported or found to be out of order.
- 2.17.1.4 If service is interrupted by a natural or other disaster beyond the control of the telecommunications carrier, the Company will make adjustment and refunds to its affected customers if service is not restored within forty-eight hours.
- 2.17.1.5 The adjustment or refund is the prorated part of the month's charge for the days that service or facilities remained inoperative.
- 2.17.1.6 The refund may be made in the form of a credit on a subsequent bill.

Issue Date

Effective Date:

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

# 2.17 Allowances for Interruptions in Service (Cont'd)

# 2.17.2 Limitations on Allowances

No credit allowance will be made for:

- (A) interruptions due to the negligence of, or noncompliance with the provisions of this tariff by, the customer, authorized user, joint user, or other common carrier providing service connected to the service of the Company;
- interruptions due to the negligence of any person other than the Company, including, but not limited to, the customer or other common carriers connected to the Company's facilities;
- (C) interruptions due to the failure or malfunction of non-Company equipment;
- interruptions of service during any period in which the Company is not given full and free access to its facilities and equipment for the purpose of investigating and correcting interruptions;
- (E) interruptions of service during a period in which the customer continues to use the service on an impaired basis:
- (F) interruptions of service during a period when the customer has released service to the Company for maintenance purposes or for implementation of a customer order for a change in service arrangements.

Issue Date:

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

# 2.18 Ownership of Facilities

Title to all facilities provided in accordance with this tariff remains in the Company, its agents or contractors.

#### 2.19 Prohibited Uses

- 2.19.1 The services the Company offers shall not be used for any unlawful purpose or for any use as to which the customer has not obtained all required governmental approvals, authorizations, licenses, consents and permits.
- 2.19.2 The Company may require applicants for service who intend to use the Company's offerings for resale and/or for shared use to file a letter with the Company confirming that their use of the Company's offerings complies with relevant laws and Commission regulations, policies, orders, and decisions.
- 2.19.3 The Company may require a customer to immediately shut down its transmission of signals if said transmission is causing interference to others.
- 2.19.4 A customer or authorized user may not assign, or transfer in any manner, the service or any rights associated with the service without the written consent of the Company. The Company will permit customer to transfer its existing service to another entity if the existing customer has paid all charges owed to the Company for regulated communications services. Such a transfer will be treated as a disconnection of existing service and installation of new service, and non-recurring installation charges will apply.

Issue Date:

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 2.20 Unauthorized Use of the Network

Unauthorized use of the network occurs when a person or entity that does not have actual, apparent, or implied authority to use the network, obtains the Company's services provided under this tariff.

# 2.20.1 Liability for Calling Card Fraud

- 2.20.1.1 The customer is liable for the unauthorized use of the network obtained through the fraudulent use of a Company calling card, provided that the unauthorized use occurs before the Company has been notified.
- 2.20.1.2 A Company calling card is a telephone calling card issued by the Company at the customer's request, which enables the customer or user(s) authorized by the customer to place calls over the network and to have the charges for such calls billed to the customer's account.
- 2.20.1.3 The customer must give the Company written notice that an unauthorized use of the Company calling card has occurred or may occur as a result of loss their or other reasons.
- 2.20.1.4 The customer is responsible for payment of all charges for services furnished to the customer or to users authorized by the customer to use service provided under this tariff. This responsibility is not changed due to any use, misuse, or abuse of the customer's service or customer-provided equipment by third parties, the customer's employees, or the public.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 2.20 Unauthorized Use of the Network (Cont'd)
  - 2.20.1 Liability for Calling Card Fraud (Cont'd)
    - 2.20.1.5 The customer is liable for all charges incurred as a result of unauthorized use of the network, including incidental and consequential damages. In addition, the customer is responsible for payment of any charges related to the suspension and/or termination of service and any charges for recommenction of service.
  - 2.20.2 Liability for Credit Card Fraud and Other Unauthorized Use
    - 2.26.2.1 The customer is liable for the unauthorized use of the network obtained through the fraudulent use of a credit card, provided: (a) the card is an accepted credit card, and (b) the unauthorized use occurs before the Company has been notified.

An accepted credit card is any credit card that a cardholder has requested or applied for and received, or has signed, used, or authorized another person to use to obtain credit. Any credit card issued as an renewal or substitute in accordance with this paragraph is an accepted credit card when received by the cardholder.

- 2.20.2.2 The liability of the customer for unauthorized use of the network by credit card fraud will not exceed the lesser of \$50 or the amount of money, property, labor, or services obtained by the unauthorized user before notification to the Company.
- 2.20.2.3 The customer must give the Company written notice that an unauthorized use of the credit card has occurred.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

#### 2.21 Resale of Shared Use of Service

Any service provided under this tariff may be resold to or shared with other persons at the option of customer, subject to compliance with any applicable laws or Commission regulations governing such resale or sharing. The customer remains solely responsible for all use of services ordered by it or billed to its telephone number(s) pursuant to this tariff, for determining who is authorized to use its services, and for notifying the Company of any unauthorized use.

## 2.22 Transfers and Assignments

Neither the Company nor the customer may assign or transfer its rights or duties in connection with the services and facilities provided by the Company without the written consent of the other party, excent that the Company may assign its rights and duties:

- (A) to any subsidiary, parent Company or affiliate of the Company; or
- (B) pursuant to any sale or transfer of substantially all the assets of the Company; or
- (C) pursuant to any financing, merger or reorganization of the Company.

# 2.23 Shortage of Equipment or Facilities

The Company reserves the right to limit or to allocate the use of existing facilities, or of additional facilities offered by the Company, when necessary because of lack of facilities, or due to some other cause beyond the Company's control.

The furnishing of service under this tariff is subject to the availability on a continuing basis of all the necessary facilities and is limited to the capacity of the Company's facilities as well as facilities the Company may obtain from other carriers to furnish service from time to time as required at the sole discretion of the Company.

Issue Date: Effective Date:

# 2.24 Operator Services

Operator Services will be provided in accordance with all the laws and regulations applicable to operator service providers.

# 2.25 Change of Service Provider

Solicitations by the Company or its agents, of customer authorization for termination of service with an existing carrier and the subsequent transfer to a new carrier shall include the Company's current rate information, and current information on terms and conditions of service. The Company shall comply with applicable Commission requirements.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

# SECTION 3 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

# 3.1 Timing of Calls

The Customer's long distance usage charge is based on the actual usage of GST Net, Inc.'s services. Usage begins when the called party picks up the receiver, and ends when the calling party hangs up. Calls are measured by Underlying Carriers, whose services are resold by GST Net, Inc., in accordance with its own Tariff.

# 3.2 Minimum Call Completion Rate

A Customer can expect a call completion rate (number of calls completed/number of calls attempted) of not less than 99%.

# 3.3 Service Offerings

GST Net, Irc. offers switched and dedicated access MTS and 800 interexchange services by the resale of the services of Underlying Carriers.

# 3.4 Time Periods

Charges apply 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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## SECTION 4 MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES (MTS) AND 8XX SERVICE

#### 4.1 Message Telecommunications Service (MTS)

Message Telecommunications Service (MTS) is a communications service which is available for use by customers twenty-four (24) hours a day. MTS enables a user of an exchange access line to place calls to any station on the public switched telecommunications network bearing an NPA-NXX designation associated with points outside the customer's Local Calling Area, but within the State of South Dakota. Operator, Calling Card, and Directory Assistance services are available to Customers of the Company's MTS service subject to the provisions contained within this tariff.

MTS calls will be billed in 6 second increments with a minimum initial billing period of 6 seconds.

The service is offered in two variations depending upon the method the Customer employs to gain access to the Company's network for use of the service:

4.1.1 Switched MTS is offered in Feature Group D (FGD) exchanges whereby the Customer's local telephone lines are pre-subscribed by the local exchange Company (LEC) to the Company's MTS service, such that "1+" interLATA calls are automatically routed to the Company's network; or the Customer dials the 10+XXX+1 or 101+XXXX+1 prefix followed by the telephone number desired to reach the Company's MTS Service. For Basic Exchange Subscribers, their "1+" intraLATA calls are automatically routed to the Company's network.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

## MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES (MTS) AND 8XX SERVICE

- 4.1 Message Telecommunications Service (MTS) (Cont'd)
  - 4.1.2 <u>Dedicated MTS</u> is offered to the extent facilities are available in those cases where the Company and the Customer jointly arrange for the establishment of dedicated access facilities connecting the Customer's trunk-compatible PBX or other suitable equipment to the Company's POP. The Customer shall be responsible for all costs and charges associated with the dedicated access facilities.

Issue Date: Effective Date:

## MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES (MTS) AND 8XX SERVICE

#### 4.2 8XX Service

8XX Service will be billed per call based on the duration of the call. Each call will be billed in 6 second increments with a minimum initial billing period of 6 seconds.

8XX Service is offered in two variations depending upon the method the Customer employs to access the Company's network for use of the service:

- 4.2.1 <u>Switched</u> 8XX service calls are originated via normal shared use facilities and are terminated via the Customer's local exchange service access line.
- 4.2.2 <u>Dedicated 8XX</u> service calls are originated via normal shared use facilities and are terminated via dedicated access facilities connecting the Customer's premises and the Company's POP. This service is offered to the extent facilities are available and where the Company and the Customer jointly arrange for the establishment of dedicated access facilities connecting the Customer's trunk-compatible PBX or other suitable equipment to the Company's POP. The Customer shall be responsible for all costs and charges associated with the dedicated access facilities.

Issue Date: Effective Date:

### MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES (MTS) AND 8XX SERVICE

#### 4.3 Miscellaneous Services (Cont'd)

#### 4.3.1 Calling Card Service

#### A) Description

Calling Card Service is provided to Customers for use when away from their established service location. Access to the service is gained by dialing a Company-designated 8XX access number (8XX-NXX-XXXX), plus the Customer's/User's Calling Card authorization number and the called telephone number. The Calling Card can also be used to place an operator-assisted and directory assistance calls, subject to the application of additional charges.

Calling Card calls are billed in six second increments, with a one minute minimum.

#### B) Operator-Assisted Calls

Not Available.

#### C) Directory Assistance Calls

The Calling Card can be used to place calls for Directory Assistance. A flat charge will apply per requested number (Requested Number Charge).

Issue Date: Effective Date:

#### SECTION 5 RATES

#### 5.1 Rate Regulations

#### 5.1.1 Applicability

The regulations set forth in this section govern the application of rates for services contained in other sections of this Tariff.

#### 5.1.2 Method of Applying Rates

#### 5.1.2.1 Charges Based on Duration of Use

Where charges for a service are specified based on the duration of use, such as the duration of a telephone call, the following regulations apply:

- A) Calls are measured in durational increments identified for each service. All calls which are fractions of a measurement increment are rounded-up to the next whole unit.
- B) Timing on completed calls begins when the call is answered by the called party. Answering is determined by hardware answer supervision in all cases where this signaling is provided by the terminating local carrier and any intermediate carrier(s). Timing for operator service person-to-person calls start with completion of the connection to the person called or an acceptable substitute, or to the PBX station called.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

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#### RATES

#### 5.1 Rate Regulations (Cont'd)

#### 5.1.2 Method of Applying Rates (Cont'd)

- 5.1.2.1 Charges Based on Duration of Use (Cont'd)
  - C) Timing terminates on all calls when the calling party hangs up or the Company's network receives an off-hook signal from the terminating carrier.
  - Calls originating in one time period and terminating in another will be billed in proportion to the rates in effect during different segments of the call.
  - E) All times refer to local time.

#### 5.1.2.2 Charges Based on Distance

Where charges for a service are specified based upon distance, the following regulations apply:

A) Distance between two points is measured as airline distance between the rate centers of the originating and terminating telephone lines. The rate center is a set of geographic coordinates, as referenced in the Local Exchange Routing Guide issued by Bellcore, associated with each NPA-NXX combination (where NPA is the area code and NXX is the first three digits of a seven-digit telephone number). Where there is no telephone number associated with an access line on the Company's network (such as a dedicated 8XX or WATS access line), the Company will apply the rate center of the Customer's main billing telephone number.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

#### 5.1 Rate Regulations (Cont'd)

#### 5.1.2 Method of Applying Rates (Cont'd)

#### 5.1.2.2 Charges Based on Distance (Cont'd)

- B) The airline distance between any two rate centers is determined as follows:
  - Obtain the "V" (vertical) and "H" (horizontal coordinates for each Rate Center from the above-referenced Bellcore document.
  - (2) Compute the difference between the "V" coordinates of the two rate centers; and the difference between the two "H" coordinates
  - (3) Square each difference obtained in step (b) above.
  - (4) Add the square of the "V" difference and the square of the "H" difference obtained in step (c) above.
  - (5) Divide the sum of the squares by 10. Round to the next higher whole number if any fraction is obtained.
  - (6) Obtain the square root of the whole number result obtained above. Round to the next higher whole number if any fraction is obtained. This is the airline mileage.
  - (7) FORMULA:  $\sqrt{\frac{(VI V2)^2 + (HI H2)^2}{10}}$

Issue Date

Effective Date:

#### 5.2 Rates and Charges

#### 5.2.1 Rates Per Minute

Outbound and Inbound services carry an initial billing minimum of 6 seconds. After the initial call minimum, calls will be rounded to the next six second increment.

An additional discount of 2% below the listed rates is applicable when a customers commits to a 12 month term plan and a discount of 5% below the listed rates is applicable when a customer commits to a 24 month term plan.

Monthly dollar volume discounts may also apply.

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

#### 5.2 Rates and Charges (Cont'd)

#### 5.2.2 Switched OnePlus Service

Inclusive of all time periods

Per minute, based on monthly volume

\$ 0 - 200	\$0.208
201 - 500	0.164
501 - 2000	0.159
2001 - 3500	0.155
3501 - 5000	0.151
5001 +	0.147

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

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#### RATES

#### Rates and Charges (Cont'd) 5.2

#### 5.2.2 Switched OnePlus Service

Inclusive of all time periods

Per minute, based on monthly volume

\$ 0 - 200	\$0.208
201 - 500	0.164
501 - 2000	0.159
2001 - 3500	0.155
3501 - 5000	0.151
5001 +	0.147

Issue Date

Effective Date:

Issued by: Jane Z. Delahanty

#### 5.2 Rates and Charges (Cont'd)

#### 5.2.3 Switched 800 Service

Inclusive of all time periods

Per Minute, based on monthly volume

\$ 0 - 200	\$0.218
201 - 500	0.171
501 - 2000	0.166
2001 - 3500	0.162
3501 - 5000	0.158
5001 +	0.153

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

#### 5.2 Rates and Charges (Cont'd)

#### 5.2.4 Dedicated OnePlus Service

Inclusive of all time periods

Per minute, based on monthly volume

\$500 - 5000	\$0.100
5001 - 10,000	0.097
10,001 - 20,000	0.095
20,001 - 50,000	0.092
50 001 - 100 000+	0.000

Issue Date

Effective Date:

#### 5.2 Rates and Charges (Cont'd)

#### 5.2.5 Dedicated 800 Service

Inclusive of all time periods

Per Minute, based on monthly volume

\$500 - 5000	\$0.136
5001 - 10,000	0.132
10,001 - 20,000	0.128
20,001 - 50,000	0.125
50.001 - 100.000+	0.122

Issue Date

Effective Date:

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#### RATES

#### 5.2 Rates and Charges (Cont'd)

#### 5.2.6 Calling Card Service

Inclusive of all time periods

Per minute, based on monthly volume

\$ 1 - 200	\$0.300
201 - 500	0.250
501 - 2,000	0.250
2,001 - 3,500	0.250
3,501 - 5,000	0.250
5,001 - 10,000	0.250
10,001 - +	ICB

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

#### 5.2 Rates and Charges (Cont'd)

#### 5.2.7 Operator Assistance

5.2.7.1 The Company does not provide alternative operator services. Operator assisted calls are limited to live operator or automated operator functions provided by the Underlying Carriers for the processing of telephone services such as completion of person to person, operator assisted station calls, dialing instructions and emergency call handling. Billing is based on a flat rate per service in addition to tariffed per minute call rates. Access to the operator is obtained by dialing, from a phone presubscribed to the Company, 0 plus the desired number or 00. Access for this service is via Feature Group D facilities. All 0 plus and 0 minus intral.ATA calls are routed to the appropriate Local Exchange Carrier.

5.2.7.1.1	Switched 0+	Per Call
	Intrastate	
	Station to Station, direct	\$2.05
	Person to Person, direct	\$3.50
	Station to Station, collect	\$2.50
	Person to Person, collect	\$7.00
5.2.7.1.2	Travel Card	
	Intrastate	
	Station to Station, direct	\$2.50
	Person to Person, direct	\$3.50
	Station to Station, collect	\$5.00
	Person to Person, collect	\$5.50

Issue Date

Effective Date

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\$0.75

#### RATES

5.2 Rates and Charges (Cont'd)

5.2.8 Directory Assistance

5.2.8.1 Switched 1+

Intrastate

5.2.8.2 Travel Card

Intrastate \$0.80

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

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# John Warta President & CEO GST Telecommunications, Inc., Vancouver, WA

Corporate Office

John Warta is President and Chief Executive Officer of GST Telecommunications, Inc., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GST Telecom, Inc. and was elected to GST's lead of Directors in April, 1995 Mr. Warta has over 20 years of experience in telecommunication and information services.

In 1987 Mr. Warta founded Pacwest Network, Inc. identifying and developing telecommunications opportunities with over 20 utility companies. Pacwest Network assisted electric utilities in strategic planning, business plan development and entry into telecommunications ventures. Through this experience, he recognized the potential for competitive access services in several major western markets and founded Electric Lightwave, Inc. (ELI). Mr. Warta spent the next 5 years as President and Chief Executive Officer of ELI, ELI has gained national recognition as the first CAP to deploy all SONET services and to implement LAN and ATM communications.

In June of 1993, Mr. Warta left Electric Lightwave, Inc. and reactivated Pacwest Network, Inc. He developed metropolitan area networks in San Bernardino/Riverside and Tucson Shortly thereafter Pacwest Network purchased an interistand telecommunications system from Tel-Net/DTI in the Hawaiian Islands.

In June of 1994, Mr. Warta orchestrated an agreement between Pacwest Network and Greenstar Telecommunications (now GST Telecommunications) to form a joint venture. GST Telecommunications, Inc. transferred ownership of joint venture. Mr. Warta has also coordinated a \$120M equity/debt package through a December 1995, completed a \$180M financing arrangement to complete developing networks in California, Hawaii, Arizona and Tucson and to deploy digital switching equipment.

Prior to founding Pacwest Network, Mr. Warta was Senior Vice President of Corporate Development and Marketing and Sales of NorLight, a regional fiber optic carrier owned by 5 midwestern electric utilities. In this role he sold over \$35 million in communication services. Carrier involved in long distance, shared tenant, voice mail, and cellular communication services. Other employment experiences included management positions with Pacific Telecom, a Pac.ficCorp company, and Electronic Data Systems (EDS).

Mr. Warta, an active member of the communities GST serves, is also a Regent for St. Mary's College of California.

#### Clifford Sander Senior Vice President & Treasurer GST Telecommunications, Inc., Vancouver, WA

Corporate Office

Mr. Sander was elected Senior Vice President and Treasurer of GST Telecommunications in March 1995. He is also the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of GST Telecom. Sander has played a critical role in the development of GST's subsidiaries including Pacific Lightwave, Tucson Lightwave, and GST Pacwest Telecom Hawaii.

In addition to his role in the formation of GST Telecom, a joint venture between Pacwest Network, Inc. and GST Telecommunications, Inc., Mr. Sander has made substantial contributions to the raising of \$120M debt/equity package with a major international trading firm

Mr. Sander has been a CPA since 1961. He was Senior Partner and Founder of Sander, Perkins & Company, which became one of the largest local accounting firms Oregon. During that time he was involved in vanous large business transactions such as the formation of the largest aluminum smelting company in Oregon, one of the first large leveraged ESOP buyouts in Oregon, acquisition of a multimillion doltar printing firm and was a consultant for many large businesses both on the West Coast and internationally. Mr. Sander was part of the organization team, together with Mr. Warta, in the formation of Electric Lightwave, Inc. and served as the CFO and financial advisor to that company until January, 1994. Mr. Sander has served in various local and national CPA committees, and has served on advisory boards for both civic and charitable organizations. Mr. Sander is a graduate of Lewis and Clark College.

#### Biographical Sketch

# Stephen Irwin Vice Chairman of the Board GST Telecommunications, Inc., Vancouver, WA

Stephen Irwin has been Vice Chairman of the Board and a director of GST since September 1995 and has been the Secretary of GST since November 1992.

Mr. Irwin is a graduate of Cornell Law School and is now an attorney specializing in corporate matters, including finance, securities regulation, international business, mergers, and acquisitions Further, Mr. Irwin has been counsel to the New York law firm of Otshan Grundman Frome & Rosenzweig LLP since 1990. He was a senior partner in Greenburg, Irwin & Weisinger, a New York law firm specializing in securities, business and corporate matters, from 1998 to 1990.

November 1995

TC 97-033



4th Plain Branch 1308 NE Auto Mail Dr

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GST NET, INC. 4317 N.E. THURSTON WAY VANCOUVER, WA 98662

DATE 14 FEB 97 AMOUNT 250.00

TO THE South Dakota Public Service Commission ORDER OF

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South Dakota Public Utilities Commission State Capitol 500 E. Capitol Pierre, SD 57501-5070 Phone: (800) 332-1782 Fax: (605) 773-3809

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE FILINGS

 $03/28/97\ through\ 04/03/97$  If you need a complete copy of a filing based, overhight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Defaire Kolbo within five days of this filing

DOCKET NUMBER	TITLE/STAFF/SYNOPSIS	DATE FILED	INTERVENTION DEADLINE
	NEGOTIATED SERVICE RESALE AGREEMENT FILING		
TC97-032	FirsTell and U.S.WEST Communications, inc. jointly filed a negotiated service resale agreement with the Commission for its approval. Any person wishing to comment on the parties' request for approval may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than April 21. 1997. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than May 12. 1997.	03/31/97	Responses Due 04/21/97
	REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY		
TC97-033	Application by GST Net lind for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a telecommunications company within the state of South Davota (Staff TSKC) "GST Net initially intends to provide the following intrastate services message telecommunications service 800 service, ealing card services and prepad calling cards":	04/02/97	04.18/97

Important Notice. The Commission is companing a his of infernet addresses. If you have an internet address please holfs, the Commission by Elimating if in Terry Notion at ... deline if you have so to the address forthe at 605-113-3809

#### REFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ) ORDER GRANTING GST NET. INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES SOUTH DAKOTA

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

TC97-033

On April 2, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20 10 24 02 received an application for a certificate of authority from GST Net. Inc (GST Net)

GST Net proposes to provide message telecommunications service, 800 service, calling card services and prepaid calling cards. A proposed tariff was filed by GST Net. The Commission has classified long distance service as fully competitive.

On April 3, 1997, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 18, 1997, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed and at its regularly scheduled May 13, 1997, meeting, the Commission considered GST Net's request for a certificate of authority. Commission Staff recommended granting a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that GST Net not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Chapter 49-31, specifically 49-31-3 and ARSD 20 10 24 02 and 20 10 24 03. The Commission finds that GST Net has met the legal requirements established for the granting of a certificate of authority. GST Net has, in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3, demonstrated sufficient technical, financial and managerial capabilities to offer telecommunications services in South Dakota. The Commission approves GST Net's application for a certificate of authority, subject to the condition that GST Net not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that GST Net's application for a certificate of authority is hereby granted. effective June 2, 1997, subject to the condition that GST Net not offer a prepaid calling card or require deposits or advance payments without prior approval of the Commission. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that GST Net shall file informational copies of tariff changes with the Commission as the changes occur

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3/ at day of May, 1997

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list by first class mail in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereor

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Chairman

PAM NELSON Commissioner

## SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

#### CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

To Conduct Business As A Telecommunications Company Within The State Of South Dakota

Authority was Granted May 13, 1997, effective June 2, 1997 Docket No. TC97-033

This is to certify that

#### GST NET, INC.

is authorized to provide telecommunications services in South Dakota.

This certificate is issued in accordance with SDCL 49-31-3 and ARSD 20.10.24.02, and is subject to all of the conditions and limitations contained in the rules and statutes governing its conduct of offering telecommunications services.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21 th day of Sharp. 1997

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC

\$10.00 \$10.00 \$10.00

JAMES A BURG Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner