

February 28, 2008

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Patricia Van Gerpen South Dakota Public Utilities Commission 500 E. Capitol Avenue Capitol Building 1st Floor Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

 FEB 2 0 2008
 555 Eleventh Street, N.W., Suite 1000

 Washington, D.C. 20004-1304
 Tel: +1.202.637.2200

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RE: Startec Global Operating Company and Americatel Corporation Notice of a *Pro Forma* Reorganization

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Startec Global Operating Company ("Startec") and Americatel Corporation ("Americatel") (collectively, the "Companies"), by their attorneys pursuant to the rules of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission"), advise the Commission of a *pro forma* corporate restructuring that will result in the merger of the Companies, with Americatel surviving (the "Transaction"). Both companies provide resold interexchange telecommunications services in South Dakota.

In addition, in connection with the Transaction, the Companies request that the Commission cancel Startec's operating authority in South Dakota, effective upon consummation of the Transaction. As explained more fully below, following the Transaction, Startec will cease to exist and Americatel will assume the customers and operations of Startec pursuant to Americatel's authority to provide telecommunications services.

Based on a review of South Dakota law, it is the Companies' understanding that no state regulatory approval to complete the Transaction is required in South Dakota. Accordingly, the Companies submit this letter in order to ensure the continuing accuracy of South Dakota's records. An original and one (1) copy of this letter, along with one (1) further copy for date-stamp and return are enclosed. Please date-stamp the extra copy of this letter and return it in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided for that purpose.

The Companies further state as follows:

I. THE COMPANIES

A. Startec

Startec is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located at 7361 Calhoun Place, Suite 650, Rockville, Maryland 20855, tel. (301) 610-4300. Startec is a wholly owned direct subsidiary of Startec Global Communications Corporation ("SGCC"), also a Delaware corporation. Startec provides long distance, Internet, and other communications services to persons and businesses residing in 49 states (all except Alaska) and the District of Columbia. In South Dakota, Startec is authorized to provide resold interexchange telecommunications service pursuant to authority granted on May 7, 2003.¹ Startec provides its services primarily to customers who place a significant number of calls to international destinations.

B. Americatel

Americatel is a Delaware corporation with principal offices located at 4045 NW 97th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33178, tel. (305) 717-0200. Serving the needs of United States customers with connections to Latin America and the Caribbean, Americatel provides international and domestic facilities-based and resold long distance services, including "dial around" casual calling (*i.e.*, 1010XXX) service and presubscribed 1+ calling services, in each of the 48 contiguous states. In South Dakota, Americatel is authorized to provide resold interexchange telecommunications service pursuant to authority granted in Docket No. TC98-013 on March 28, 1998. Based on its history of successful operations, Americatel has amply demonstrated its qualifications to serve Startec's customers.

C. Ownership of the Companies

Platinum Equity, LLC ("Platinum Equity"), a limited liability company formed under the laws of Delaware and headquartered in Beverly Hills, California, has indirectly held 95 percent of the equity of Americatel since July 2006. Platinum Equity currently holds its 95 percent interest in Americatel through its wholly-owned subsidiary, MTAC Holding Corporation, a Delaware corporation, which in turn, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of EnergyTRACS Acquisition Corp. ("EnergyTRACS"), a Delaware corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of Platinum Equity. Platinum Equity acquired indirect control of Startec on July 12, 2007, when it acquired indirect ownership of 100 percent of the equity in Startec. Platinum Equity currently holds this interest through its wholly-owned subsidiary, SGCC, which in turn, is a wholly-owned, direct subsidiary of Americatel.

¹ The Certificate was originally granted to Startec Global Licensing Company ("SGLC"), a former sister company of Startec, in Docket No. TC02-167 on May 7, 2003. In anticipation of a *pro forma* reorganization, SGLC and Startec filed a replacement tariff to change the name on the Certificate and tariff to Startec. *See* Notice of Startec to the Commission dated (April 9, 2007).

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LATHAM&WATKINS

Platinum Equity is a global firm specializing in the merger, acquisition and operation of companies that provide services and solutions to customers in a broad range of business markets, including information technology, telecommunications, and logistics, manufacturing, and entertainment distribution. Since its founding in 1995, Platinum Equity has acquired more than 75 businesses with more than \$23 billion in annual aggregate revenue at the time of acquisition.

II. DESIGNATED CONTACTS

Inquiries or copies of any correspondence, orders, or other materials pertaining to this Notice should be directed to:

Richard R. Cameron Stefanie Alfonso-Frank LATHAM & WATKINS LLP 555 11th Street, N.W., Suite 1000 Washington, D.C. 20004 (202) 637-2200 (Tel) (202) 637-2201 (Fax) richard.cameron@lw.com stefanie.alfonso-frank@lw.com

Copies of any correspondence should also be sent to the following designated representative of Startec and Americatel:

Robert Felgar, General Counsel Americatel Corporation Startec Global Operating Company 7361 Calhoun Place, Suite 650 Rockville, MD 20855 (301) 610-4646 (Tel) (240) 314-4219 (Fax) Robert.Felgar@startec.com

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE TRANSACTION

As soon as practicable after receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals, and on or about March 31, 2008, the Companies will implement a *pro forma* corporate restructuring in which Startec will be merged with and into Americatel, with Americatel surviving. As a result of the merger, Startec and SGCC, its immediate parent and a holding company, will cease to exist and Americatel will become the operating telecommunications service provider in South Dakota, serving all Americatel and Startec customers. An illustrative chart describing this *pro forma* restructuring is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u>. Upon completion of this *pro forma* corporate restructuring, Americatel will assume the customers and operations of Startec but will continue to use the Startec brand name for those customers, possibly on a co-branded basis and pursuant to a registered assumed name. Americatel will provide service to all of its customers, including

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those served under the Startec brand name, pursuant to its existing operating authority in South Dakota.

The Companies anticipate that this *pro forma* merger will be seamless and transparent to Startec's customers. There will be no change in the ultimate ownership or control of Americatel, which will remain with Platinum Equity, the entity that also currently controls Startec. Service will be provided using the same network, billing systems and customer service operations currently used by Startec. No existing service will be discontinued, reduced, or impaired as a result of the *pro forma* merger. Thus, the Transaction will cause no interruption in service to customers. In addition, Americatel will serve Startec's customers using the same rates, terms, and conditions that currently apply under Startec. Americatel intends to adopt those portions of Startec's tariffs relating to Startec's service offerings and will file a revised tariff after consummation of the transaction or as otherwise directed by the Commission.

Finally, the Companies will comply with the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC's") rules governing the sale of a carrier's customer base, 47 C.F.R. § 64.1120(e). These rules require that every affected subscriber of Startec receive notice of the Transaction as prescribed under the FCC's rules; and that Americatel certify to the FCC that it has provided at least 30 days' written notice to each subscriber affected by this transaction, under 47 C.F.R. § 64.1120(e)(1-3). A copy of the notice provided to all affected Startec subscribers in South Dakota is provided hereto.

IV. REQUEST TO CANCEL STARTEC'S OPERATING AUTHORITY

In connection with the Transaction, the Companies request the Commission cancel Startec's operating authority in South Dakota. *See* Docket No. TC02-167 (May 7, 2003); Notice of Startec to Commission on April 9, 2007. The Companies both currently hold authority to provide resold interexchange service in South Dakota. As explained above, following the Transaction, Startec will cease to exist and Americatel will assume the customers and operations of Startec. Americatel will provide service to all of its customers, including those served under the Startec brand name, pursuant to Americatel's existing operating authority in South Dakota; thereby making Startec's operating authority unnecessary. No customers will be affected by this relinquishment because, as explained above, no existing service will be discontinued, reduced, impaired or interrupted as a result of the *pro forma* merger. Accordingly, the Companies hereby request that the Commission cancel Startec's certificate in South Dakota as of the date of consummation of the Transaction, scheduled to occur on or about March 31, 2008, or as soon as practicable after receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals. The Companies will notify the Commission upon consummation of the transaction.

V. PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT

The Companies submit that the Transaction will serve the public interest. The Transaction will streamline and eliminate inefficiencies from the business and administrative operations of Startec and Americatel. Specifically, the Companies anticipate that the Transaction will allow them

to realize significant cost savings and operational benefits. Such savings are likely to result from network integration, reduced overhead and administrative costs, synergies from information systems integration, and other sources. These cost savings and benefits will cause Americatel to become a stronger competitor in the marketplace and will allow it to continue to provide high quality and low cost telecommunications services to customers.

In addition, the Transaction will strengthen competition in South Dakota by helping Americatel's business to grow and by putting Americatel in a better position to expand its service offerings. As Americatel's presence in South Dakota expands, Americatel will be better able to achieve economies of scale and scope, which will permit it to offer lower prices, maintain and improve service quality, and launch new services. As a result, Americatel will become a stronger competitor, bringing more of the well-recognized benefits of vigorous competition to telecommunications customers throughout South Dakota. Finally, the Transaction will benefit customers by permitting Americatel to integrate Startec's assets into its own services to create new, "best-of-class" offerings. In this way, the sale will ensure that the benefits Startec's customers currently enjoy remain available to them, and also may become available to Americatel's existing customers, benefiting the entire merged customer base.

VI. CONCLUSION

Again, this letter constitutes notification to the Commission of a transaction for which the Companies believe no approval is required. In addition, in connection with the Transaction, the Companies request that the Commission cancel Startec's operating authority in South Dakota upon consummation of the Transaction. Questions regarding this letter may be directed to the undersigned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 28th day of February, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICATEL CORPORATION STARTEC GLOBAL OPERATING COMPANY

By Their Counsel:

Sylvin ayn-find

Richard R/ Cameron (Stefanie Alfonso-Frank Latham & Watkins LLP 555 Eleventh Street, N.W., Suite 1000 Washington, D.C. 20004 (202) 637-2200

<u>Exhibit A</u>

Pro Forma Corporate Restructuring Charts

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Pre-Transaction Corporate Structure of the Companies



Post-Transaction Corporate Structure of the Companies





Thomas H. Perez-Ducy President and Chief Executive Officer

Startec Global Operating Company 477 Peace Portal Dr., #107 Blaine, WA 98230

A Notice from Startec Global Operating Company and Americatel Corporation About Your Long Distance Telephone Service

Dear Valued Customer:

Startec Global Operating Company ("Startec") and Americatel Corporation ("Americatel") are pleased to announce that Startec and Americatel are merging their businesses. As a result of the merger, Americatel will now provide your long distance service using the same great Startec name you know and trust. The anticipated date for the merger of Startec into Americatel is March 31, 2008, or as soon thereafter as Startec and Americatel obtain the necessary regulatory approvals.

To retain your current service, you need do nothing. There will be no cost to you because Americatel will be responsible for any carrier change charges resulting from the merger, nor will the merger change your current calling plan or your rates, service features or terms and conditions. You will simply continue to receive the same services and rates that you enjoy today under your Startec plan. Additionally, although no change in your service is contemplated, you will be notified of any future changes to the rates, terms and conditions of your service in same manner as you always have – in your bill, by mail, or through other lawful means.

If you have placed a preferred carrier freeze on your account, the freeze will remain in place following the merger. We are required by law to inform you that you have the right to select a different preferred long distance carrier, if one is available. If you choose to change to a different preferred long distance carrier, you may first need to lift any freeze you may have placed on your account by calling your local telephone company.

As always, for help with any customer service, billing issue or complaint, we will continue to assist you at our Customer Service toll-free number 1.800.827.3374, before, during and after the merger.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Perez-Ducy President and Chief Executive Officer Americatel Corp. Startec Global Communications