

**BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY  
ON BEHALF OF**

**BLACKFOOT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**

**CLEC – SECTION A**

Pursuant to Rules 20:10:24:02 and 20:10:32:03 of the Commission's Telecommunications Services Rules, Blackfoot Communications, Inc. (Blackfoot) submits the following registration information:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the applicant.

Applicant: Blackfoot Communications, Inc.

Address: 1221 North Russell Street  
Missoula, MT 59808

Telephone: 406-541-5000

Facsimile: 406-532-1999

Web Page: [www.blackfoot.com](http://www.blackfoot.com)

2. A description of the legal and organizational structure of the applicant's company:

Blackfoot is a corporation registered in the State of Montana on January 27, 1995. A copy of the Articles of Incorporation is attached as Attachment II. Blackfoot is currently in good standing with all regulatory agencies in all jurisdictions where it is registered and certified.

3. The name under which the applicant will provide these services if different than in section 1.

Blackfoot Communications, Inc. will provide services under, "Blackfoot".

4. Location of applicant's principal office and current registered agent:

Blackfoot does not have a principle office located in South Dakota. The name and address of Blackfoot's registered agent is C T Corporation System, 319 South Coteau Street, Pierre, SD 57501.

5. Copy of certificate of authority to transact business in South Dakota from the Secretary of State:

Blackfoot applied for and received a foreign business certificate of authority from the South Dakota Office of the Secretary of State, a copy of which is attached as Attachment III.

6. Description of applicant's experience providing any telecommunications services in South Dakota or in other jurisdictions, including the types of services provided and the dates and nature of state or federal authorization to provide services:

See attachment IV for description of Blackfoot's experience providing telecommunications services.

7. Names and addresses of applicant's Affiliates, subsidiaries, and parent organizations:

See attachment V for the information relating to Blackfoot's parent and subsidiary companies.

8. A list and specific description of the types of services the applicant seeks to offer and how the services will be provided including:

- a. Classes of customers served;

Blackfoot services will be available to business customers only.

- b. Extent and time-frame by which applicant will provide facilities based services;

Blackfoot has not yet identified specific areas in which it intends to deploy services, but is requesting authority to deploy across the state of South Dakota. Blackfoot intends to start providing service upon approval of its application for certificate of authority by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

- c. Description of all facilities that the applicant will utilize to furnish the proposed services, including any facilities of underlying carriers;

Initially, Blackfoot will rely on existing infrastructure, such as leasing fiber or purchasing services on a wholesale basis, for resale, from an existing provider.

- d. Information identifying the types of services it seeks authority to provide by reference to the general nature of the service;

Blackfoot seeks authority to provide VoIP, resold local voice, long distance and resold interstate services.

9. Service area narrative description indicating with particularity the geographic area proposed to be served by the applicant:

Blackfoot has not yet identified specific areas in which it intends to deploy services, but is requesting authority to deploy across the state of South Dakota.

10. Information regarding the technical competence of the applicant to provide its proposed local exchange services:

- a. Description of the education and experience of the applicant's management personnel who will oversee the proposed local exchange services;

See attachment VI for the biographies for the executive personnel overseeing the services subject to this application.

- b. Information regarding policies, personnel, or arrangements made by the applicant which demonstrates the applicant's ability to respond to customer complaints and inquires promptly and to perform facility and equipment maintenance necessary to ensure compliance with any commission quality of service requirements;

Enterprise customers are assigned a dedicated Account Executive and are also supported by a team of Customer Support Specialists. The Account Executive and the Customer Support Specialists are available to assist with any concerns or complaints during normal business hours from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. (Mountain Time) on weekdays. Support is provided via phone, e-mail and on-line chat functions during normal business hours. Outside of normal business hours customers seeking assistance, that are not repair/maintenance related, are able to leave a message or may e-mail their Account Executive.

Should repair be required, Blackfoot provides 24/7 support. Support can be reached by calling a toll free number. Support staff will work with the customer and where applicable the underlying provider to seek timely resolution to any issues.

11. Information explaining how the applicant will provide customers with access to emergency services such as 911 or E911, operator services, interexchange service, directory assistance and TRS:

Blackfoot will provide access to operator services, interexchange service and directory as well as emergency services through its underlying wholesale services providers.

12. Audited financial statements for the most recent 12 month period to include balance sheets, income statements and cash flow statements:

See attachment I for Blackfoot's confidential financial statements.

13. Information detailing the following matters associated with interconnection to provide proposed local exchange services:

- a. Identity of all local exchange carriers with which the applicant plans to interconnect;

Blackfoot expects to interconnect with CenturyLink Communications Company, LLC.

- b. The likely timing of initiation of interconnection service and a statement as to when negotiations for interconnection started or when negotiations are likely to start;

Blackfoot will commence interconnection negotiations upon issuance of the certificate of authority.

- c. A copy of any request for interconnection made by the applicant to any local exchange carrier;

Blackfoot has not requested interconnection in South Dakota.

- 14. A description of how the applicant intends to market its local exchange services, its target market, whether the applicant engages in multilevel marketing, and copies of any company brochures that will be used to assist in sale of the services:

Blackfoot will direct market to business customers through direct and indirect sales channels.

- 15. If the applicant is seeking authority to provide local exchange service in the service area of a rural telephone company, the date by which the applicant expects to meet the service obligations imposed pursuant to 20:10:32:15 and applicant's plans for meeting the service obligations:

Blackfoot does not plan on providing local exchange service in the service area of a rural telephone company.

- 16. A list of states in which the applicant is registered or certified to provide telecommunications services, whether the applicant has ever been denied registration or certification in any state and the reasons for any such denial, a statement as to whether or not the applicant is in good standing with the appropriate regulatory agency in the states where it is registered or certified, and a detailed explanation of why the applicant is not in good standing in a given state, if applicable:

Blackfoot has never been denied registration or certification in a state. Blackfoot is currently registered/certified in Montana, Idaho, and Washington. Blackfoot is in good standing in all three states.

17. The names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and facsimile numbers of the applicant's representatives to whom all inquiries must be made regarding customer complaints and other regulatory matters:

**For regulatory matters:**

Michelle Owens, Carrier and Regulatory Specialist

Blackfoot Communications, Inc.

1221 North Russell Street

Missoula, MT 59808

Telephone: 406-541-5131

Fax: 406-541-5144

E-mail: [regulatory@blackfoot.com](mailto:regulatory@blackfoot.com)

**For complaint matters by Commission:**

Laura Maedche, Customer Operations Manager

Blackfoot Communications, Inc.

1221 North Russell Street

Missoula, MT 59808

Telephone: 406-541-5070

Fax: 406-532-5068

E-mail: [regulatory@blackfoot.com](mailto:regulatory@blackfoot.com)

**For complaint matters by Customer:**

Laura Maedche, Customer Operations Manager

Blackfoot Communications, Inc.

1221 North Russell Street

Missoula, MT 59808

Telephone: 406-541-5070

Fax: 406-532-5068

E-mail: [лмаедче@blackfoot.com](mailto:лмаедче@blackfoot.com)

18. Information concerning how the applicant plans to bill and collect charges from customers who subscribe to its proposed local exchange services:

Blackfoot will enter into contractual agreements with business customers. Statements for services provided under those contractual arrangements will be billed using Blackfoot's existing billing systems.

19. Information concerning the applicant's policies relating to solicitation of new customers and a description of the efforts the applicant shall use to prevent the unauthorized switching of local service customers by the applicant, its employees, or agents:

Blackfoot will direct market to business customers through direct and indirect sales channels. Services will be offered pursuant to contracts signed between business customers and Blackfoot.

20. The number and nature of complaints filed against the applicant with any state or federal commission regarding the unauthorized switching of a customer's telecommunications provider and the act of charging customers for services that have not been ordered:

Blackfoot has received no complaints filed against it with any state or federal commission regarding unauthorized switching of a customer's telecommunications provider.

21. Information concerning how the applicant will make available to any person information concerning the applicants current rates, terms and conditions for all of its telecommunications services:

Blackfoot will enter into contractual agreements with business customers. All rates, terms and conditions for services will be provided in the contracts. Contracts will be entered into, amended or renewed by the customer with their designated Account Executive.

22. Information concerning how the applicant will notify a customer of any materially adverse change to any rate, term, or condition of any telecommunications service being provided to the customer. The notification must be made at least thirty days in advance of the change:

See response to 21 above.

23. Federal tax identification and South Dakota sales tax number:

Blackfoot Communications, Inc. federal tax number is 81-0499119 and its South Dakota sales tax license number is 1030-4001-ST.

Submitted by:



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Michelle Owens