

SUBMISSION BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

On the base of the letters from 16 and 23 July we are sending you information on interconnection and the overview of accounting rates and international call charges in the requested form (enclosure 2).

Experience in interconnection in the Czech Republic is in these two areas:

- a) *Mobile telephone services.* 1 GSM operators, 2 NMT operator;
- b) *Telephone service in unswitched network.* Dominant operator SPT Telecom and 2 other operators in smaller local networks in the scope of pilot projects.

In the Czech Republic, until the year 2000, competition in the telephone service is allowed only in local networks. Negotiations on interconnection with other licence holders in local networks are proceeding. Guidelines for these negotiations are principles determined by Regulatory Authority (enclosure 1).

If operators enter into an agreement on interconnection, the Regulatory Authority does not interfere. The Czech Telecommunication Office is authorised in all matters concerned except domestic tariffs and interconnection charges which belong into the competency of Ministry of Finance.

In case operators do not agree on the conditions of interconnection, they will present their proposals and negotiation minutes for decision to the Regulatory Authority. Until now, except on very rare occasions, operators have come into agreement, but it may be different in the future. Contracts on interconnection of telecommunication networks, including interconnection charges, are not publicly available.

PRINCIPLES ON THE INTERCONNECTION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

A. INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

An agreement on the *interconnection* of telecommunications network must contain:

- a) the type of the equipment that will be *interconnected*, *terminal point*, and related technical arrangements, including:
 - switches (location, type and function);
 - interconnecting circuits (location, number, speed/capacity and type);
 - signalling, routing, synchronisation.
- b) *telecommunications services* provided via the interconnected networks,
- c) the capacity required by the applicant for *interconnection* and the obligations of the Authorisation holder to provide this capacity,
- d) dates, time periods and deadlines for establishing *interconnection*.
- e) testing arrangements and protocols,
- f) measures for the protection of the *JTS* from damage or harm and for ensuring network safety,
- g) additional costs to the Authorisation holder associated with the establishment of the agreed *terminal points* for *connection* of the network of the party requesting *interconnection*,
- h) economic conditions, including *interconnection fees* (access charges and revenue sharing arrangements),
- i) the procedure for settling *interconnection* payments,
- j) an exchange of information about subscriber stations,
- k) a procedure for amending the *interconnection* agreement,
- l) network management,
- m) the common securing of *emergency calls*,
- n) the ensuring of services requiring operator help,
- o) provision of information to *users* and subscribers.

B. TERMINAL POINTS AT THE POINT OF NETWORK INTERCONNECTION

The interconnection agreement shall contain a specific description of the physical location and implementation of the *terminal points* of the networks.

The standard *interface* defined in the relevant technical norms and regulations shall be used at the network terminal point. The list of the norms and regulations shall be recorded and amended as necessary by the Permitting Authority.

C. NETWORK TERMINAL POINT PARAMETERS

The network terminal point shall adhere to the parameters stipulated for the appropriate network level in the network plans, i.e. in the:

- * transmission plan,
- * numbering plan,
- * synchronisation plan,
- * signalling plan,
- * plan for distribution of the total extent of telephone service reliability.

The main binding documents are included in the “List of Binding Technical Norms and Regulations” (Annex 1 to the Authorisation). This list is recorded and amended as necessary by the Permitting Authority. The list is available at the Permitting Authority.

D. LOCAL NETWORK TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Simultaneously with construction of the local network, a local network management structure (TMN) shall also be built to an extent corresponding to existing international recommendations and norms. The management structure shall ensure the following functions:

- * monitoring of the network performance to the extent needed by the *operator* and the regulator,
- * monitoring and locating faults,
- * user of information about the local network by *operators* of interurban and international networks, (to *operators* of connected networks) in the volume and form required by the network *operators* for operation of their networks.

The applicable international recommendations and norms are given in the ITU-T (previously CCITT) recommendations and ETSI norms. These documents are available at the permitting authority.

E. INTERCONNECTION CHARGES

Charges for *interconnection* must be based on actual costs related to the provision of interconnection, operation of the network, and provision of services.