

**ORDER NO. 03-274**

**ENTERED MAY 01 2003**

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**OF OREGON**

CP 1121

In the Matter of the Application of Startec Global        )  
Licensing Company for Authority to Provide            )  
Telecommunications Service in Oregon as a             )  
Competitive Provider.                                        )                        **ORDER**

**DISPOSITION: GRANTED**

NOTE: By issuing this certificate, the Commission makes no endorsement or certification regarding the certificate holder's rates or service.

**INTRODUCTION**

Startec Global Licensing Company (Applicant) filed the application on November 21, 2002. Applicant requests authority to provide interexchange telecommunications service statewide in Oregon as a competitive provider.

The Commission served notice of the application on the Commission's telecommunications mailing list on December 12, 2002. The Commission did not receive any protests.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Based on the application and the Commission's records, the Commission makes the following findings of fact:

**The Proposed Operation**

The Applicant will provide intrastate, interexchange, switched telecommunications service (toll) statewide in Oregon. Applicant will resell the services of other certified carriers. Applicant will not operate as a facilities based carrier.

Operator services are part of switched telecommunications service. Applicant will not directly provide operator services as defined in OAR 860-032-0001. Applicant will not be an "operator services provider" as defined in ORS 759.690(1)(d). Commission rule OAR 860-032-0007 and Oregon statute ORS 759.690 establish conditions regarding provision of operator services.

Applicant is affiliated with Startec Global Communications Corporation and Startec Global Operating Company which provide exclusively interstate and international long distance service.

Applicant previously held two certificates of authority to provide telecommunications service in Oregon. *See* Order No. 97-068 and Order No. 99-007. Those certificates were cancelled for failure to file requested information. *See* Order No. 01-955. The company has now filed the requested reports.

## OPINION

### Applicable Law

Applications to provide telecommunications service and for classification as a competitive telecommunications services provider are filed pursuant to ORS 759.020. ORS 759.020 provides that:

(1) No person [or] corporation . . . shall provide intrastate telecommunications service on a for-hire basis without a certificate of authority issued by the Public Utility Commission under this section.

\* \* \*

(5) The commission may classify a successful applicant for a certificate as a . . . competitive telecommunications services provider. If the commission finds that a successful applicant for a certificate has demonstrated that services it offers are subject to competition or that its customers or those proposed to become customers have reasonably available alternatives, the commission shall classify the applicant as a competitive telecommunications services provider \* \* \* For purposes of this section, in determining whether telecommunications services are subject to competition or whether there are reasonably available alternatives, the commission shall consider:

- (a) The extent to which services are available from alternative providers in the relevant market.
- (b) The extent to which the services of alternative providers are functionally equivalent or substitutable at comparable rates, terms and conditions.
- (c) Existing economic or regulatory barriers to entry.
- (d) Any other factors deemed relevant by the commission.

OAR 860-032-0015(1) authorizes the Commission to suspend or cancel the certificate if the Commission finds that (a) the holder made misrepresentations when it filed the application, or (b) the certificate holder fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the certificate.

## **Resolution**

**Existence of Alternatives.** AT&T, WorldCom, Sprint Communications Company, Qwest Corporation, and others provide toll and operator services in the service area requested by the Applicant.

**Suitability of Alternatives.** Applicant's customers or those proposed to become customers have reasonably suitable alternatives to Applicant's services. Subscribers to Applicant's services can buy comparable services at comparable rates from other vendors.

**Barriers to Entry.** The level of competition in the market shows that both economic and regulatory barriers to entry are relatively low.

## **CONDITIONS OF THE CERTIFICATE**

There are several conditions listed in the application. Oregon Administrative Rules relating to certificates of authority are generally included in OAR chapter 860, division 032. Condition applicable to certificate holders include, but are not limited to the following: OAR 860-032-0007, 860-032-0008, 860-032-0011, 860-032-0012, 860-032-0013, 860-032-0015, 860-032-0045, 860-032-0060, 860-032-0090, and 860-032-0095. The conditions listed in the application and those contained in Oregon Administrative Rules are adopted and made conditions of this certificate of authority. A condition of this certificate of authority is that Applicant shall comply with applicable laws, Commission rules, and Commission orders related to provision of telecommunications service in Oregon.

1. Applicant shall not take any action that impairs the ability of other certified telecommunications services providers to meet service standards specified by the Commission.
2. Applicant shall comply with all conditions listed in the application.
3. Applicant shall pay an annual fee to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon pursuant to ORS 756.310, 756.320, and 756.350 and OARs 860-032-0008, 860-032-0080, 860-032-0090, and 860-032-0095. By November 1 of each year, the Commission will set the fee level that is to be based on gross retail intrastate revenues for the following calendar year. The minimum annual fee is \$100. Applicant is required to pay the fee for the preceding calendar year by April 1.

4. The certificate holder shall pay a quarterly amount to the Oregon Universal Service Fund based on a Commission approved surcharge percentage assessed on all retail telecommunications services sold in Oregon pursuant to ORS 759.425(4).
5. If Applicant provides services to a subscriber who, in turn, resells the services, including operator services, then Applicant and the subscriber must comply with ORS 759.690 and OAR 860-032-0007.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Applicant has met the requirements for a certificate to provide telecommunications service as a competitive provider. The application should be granted.

**ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The application of Startec Global Licensing Company for authority to provide interexchange switched (toll) telecommunications service is granted.
2. Applicant is designated as a competitive telecommunications provider.
3. Applicant may provide authorized services statewide in Oregon.
4. Applicant shall comply with conditions of the certificate.

Made, entered, and effective \_\_\_\_\_.

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John Savage  
Director  
Utility Program

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order pursuant to applicable law.