

ORDER NO. 24-022

ENTERED Jan 25 2024

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

CP 1679

In the Matter of

TELCO EXPERTS, LLC

Application for a Certificate of Authority to
Provide Telecommunications Service in
Oregon and Classification as a Competitive
Provider.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: APPLICATION GRANTED

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

INTRODUCTION

Telco Experts, LLC (Applicant) filed the application on January 12, 2024. Applicant requests authority to provide interexchange telecommunications service in Oregon as a competitive provider.

Based on the record in this matter, the Commission makes the following:

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Proposed Operation

Applicant will provide intrastate, interexchange, switched telecommunications service (toll) statewide in Oregon. Applicant indicates that it intends to resell the services of other certified carriers. Applicant may purchase network elements and finished services for resale only from other certified carriers.

Applicant will not directly provide operator services as defined in OAR 860-032-0001 and will not be an "operator service provider" as defined in ORS 759.690(1)(d).

Applicable Law

ORS 759.020 governs Applicant's request to provide telecommunications as a competitive provider. Under ORS 759.020(5), the Commission shall classify Applicant as a competitive provider if Applicant demonstrates that its services are subject to competition, or that its customers or those proposed to become customers have reasonably available alternatives. In making this determination, the Commission must consider the extent to which services are available from alternative providers that are functionally equivalent or substitutable at comparable rates, terms and conditions, existing economic or regulatory barriers to entry, and any other factors deemed relevant.

OAR 860-032-0015 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, Sprint Communications, Qwest Corporation, Ziply Fiber Northwest LLC, and others provide toll and operator services in the service area requested by 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. Conditions applicable to certificate holders include, but are not limited to, the following: OARs 860-032-0007, 860-032-0008, 860-032-0011, 860-032-0012, 860-032-0013, 860-032-0015, 860-032-0020, 860-032-0060, and 860-032-0090. 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. Further, Applicant shall comply with the following conditions:

1. Applicant shall not take any action that impairs the ability of other certified telecommunications service 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 Commission pursuant to ORS 756.310 and 756.320 and OAR 860-032-0095. The minimum annual fee is \$100. Applicant is required to pay the fee for the preceding calendar year by April 1.
4. Applicant shall make quarterly contributions to the Oregon Universal Service Fund based on a Commission approved schedule and surcharge percentage assessed on all retail intrastate telecommunications services sold in Oregon, pursuant to ORS 759.425 and OAR 860-100-0110. If Applicant bills the surcharge to its end-users, Applicant shall show the charges as a separate line item on the bill with the words "Oregon Universal Service Surcharge ____%".*
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 Telco Experts, LLC 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.

* The company must use the most current surcharge rate, which is found at <https://www.oregon.gov/puc/utilities/Pages/OUSF-About.aspx>.

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4. Applicant shall comply with conditions of the certificate.

Made, entered, and effective Jan 25, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nolan Moser".

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under 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 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480 through 183.484.