

**WIRELESS INTERCONNECTION AND
RECIPROCAL COMPENSATION AGREEMENT**

BY AND BETWEEN

STAR TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

AND

SPRINT SPECTRUM L.P.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Article I**
 - 1. Introduction**
 - 2. Recitals**

- II. Article II**
 - 1. Definitions**
 - 2. Interpretation and Construction**
 - 3. Scope**
 - 4. Service Agreement**
 - 5. Compensation**
 - 6. Notice of Changes**
 - 7. General Responsibilities of the Parties**
 - 8. Term and Termination**
 - 9. Cancellation Charges**
 - 10. Non-Severability**
 - 11. Indemnification**
 - 12. Limitation of Liability**
 - 13. Disclaimer**
 - 14. Regulatory Approval**
 - 15. Change In Law**
 - 16. Miscellaneous**
 - 17. Dispute Resolution**

Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement By and Between Star Telephone Membership Corporation and Sprint Spectrum

I. Article I

1. INTRODUCTION

This Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement ("Agreement") is effective as of the 20th day of March 2014 (the "Effective Date"), by and between Star Telephone Membership Corporation ("Star") with offices at 3900 U.S. Highway 421 North, P.O. Box 348, Clinton, NC 28329-0348 and Sprint Spectrum L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, as agent and General Partner for WirelessCo, LP, a Delaware limited partnership, and as agent for SprintCom, Inc., a Kansas corporation, with offices at 6200 Sprint Parkway, Building 6, Overland Park, KS 66251 ("Sprint").

2. RECITALS

WHEREAS, Star is an incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Sprint is authorized by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to provide Commercial Mobile Radio Services ("CMRS") and provides such service to its end user customers within the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Star and Sprint respectively terminate traffic that is originated on the other's network, and wish to establish Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation arrangements for terminating such traffic as specified below; and

WHEREAS, Star's entry into this Agreement does not waive its right to maintain that it is a rural company exempt from § 251(c) pursuant to § 251(f)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act"), to the extent applicable; and

WHEREAS, §§ 251 and 252 of the Act, have specific requirements for Interconnection, and the Parties intend that this Agreement meets these requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual provisions contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Star and Sprint hereby agree as follows:

II. Article II

1. DEFINITIONS

Special meanings are given to common words in the telecommunications industry, and coined words and acronyms are common in the custom and usage in the industry. Words used in this contract are to be understood according to the custom and usage of the

Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement By and Between Star Telephone
Membership Corporation and Sprint Spectrum

telecommunications industry, as an exception to the general rule of contract interpretation that words are to be understood in their ordinary and popular sense. In addition to this rule of interpretation, the following terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings as specified below:

- 1.1 "Act" means the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 1.2 "Affiliate" means a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "own" means to own an equity interest (or the equivalent thereof) of more than ten percent (10%).
- 1.3 "Bill-and-Keep" arrangements are those in which carriers exchanging Telecommunications traffic do not charge each other for specific transport and/or termination functions or services.
- 1.4 "Central Office Switch" means a switch used to provide Telecommunications Services, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) "End Office Switch" is a switch in which the subscriber station loops are terminated for connection to either lines or trunks. The subscriber receives terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions for a defined geographic area by means of an End Office Switch.
 - (b) "Remote End Office Switch" is a switch in which the subscriber station loops are terminated. The control equipment providing terminating, switching, signaling, transmission, and related functions would reside in a host office. Local switching capabilities may be resident in a Remote End Office Switch.
 - (c) "Host Office Switch" is a switch with centralized control over the functions of one or more Remote End Office Switches. A Host Office Switch can serve as an end office as well as providing services to other remote end offices requiring terminating, signaling, transmission, and related functions including local switching.
 - (d) "Tandem Office Switch" is a switching system that establishes trunk-to-trunk connections. A Tandem Office Switch can provide host office or end office switching functions as well as the tandem functions. A Central Office Switch may also be employed as a combination End Office/Tandem Office Switch.
- 1.5 "Commercial Mobile Radio Services" or "CMRS" means Commercial Mobile Radio Services as defined in 47 C.F.R. Part 20.3.
- 1.6 "Commission" means the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority or the North Carolina Utilities Commission, as appropriate.

Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement By and Between Star Telephone
Membership Corporation and Sprint Spectrum

- 1.7 "Extended Area Service" or "EAS" is defined as traffic that originates in one exchange and terminates in another exchange, where the originating and terminating exchanges have an arrangement between them such that a separate toll charge is not applied. The terms EAS and EAS Exchanges are as defined and specified in Star's then current General Subscriber Service Tariff.
- 1.8 "Effective Date" means the date first above written.
- 1.9 "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 1.10 "Interconnection" for purposes of this Agreement is the indirect and/or direct linking of Star and Sprint networks for the mutual exchange of Non-Access Telecommunications Traffic described in this Agreement.
- 1.11 "InterMTA Traffic" means Telecommunications traffic exchanged between a LEC and a CMRS provider that, at the beginning of the call, originates in one Major Trading Area ("MTA"), as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 24.202(a), and terminates in another MTA.
- 1.12 "Local Service Area" means, with reference to ILEC's state certified service area, the area as set forth in its General Subscriber Services Tariff on file with the Commission, and for Sprint, Major Trading Area Number 6 (Charlotte-Greensboro-Greenville-Raleigh).
- 1.13 "Local Exchange Carrier" or "LEC" is as defined in the Act.
- 1.14 "Major Trading Area" or "MTA" means Major Trading Area as defined by the FCC in 47 C.F.R. § 24.202(a).
- 1.15 "Mobile Switching Center" or "MSC" is a switching facility that is an essential element of the CMRS network which performs the switching for the routing of calls between and among its subscribers and subscribers in other mobile or landline networks. The MSC is used to interconnect trunk circuits between and among End Office Switches and Tandem Switches, aggregation points, points of termination, or points of presence and also coordinates inter-cell and inter-system call hand-offs and records all system traffic for analysis and billing.
- 1.16 "Non-Access Telecommunications Traffic" (IntraMTA Traffic) means Telecommunications traffic exchanged between a LEC and a CMRS provider that, at the beginning of the call, originates and terminates within the same MTA. For purposes of determining originating and terminating points, the originating or terminating point for Star shall be the end office serving the calling or called party, and for Sprint shall be the originating or terminating cell site location which services the calling or called party at the beginning of the call.

Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement By and Between Star Telephone Membership Corporation and Sprint Spectrum

- 1.17 "NPA" or the "Number Plan Area" also referred to as an "area code" refers to the three-digit code which precedes the NXX in a dialing sequence within the North American Numbering Plan (*i.e.*, NPA/NXX-XXXX).
- 1.18 "NXX" means the three-digit code, which appears as the first three digits of a seven-digit telephone number within a valid NPA or area code.
- 1.19 "Party" means either Star or Sprint, and "Parties" means Star and Sprint.
- 1.20 "Point of Interconnection" ("POI") means the technically feasible point(s) of Interconnection between the Parties' respective networks where an originating Party's traffic is deemed to be handed off to the terminating Party's network for the purpose of applying Reciprocal Compensation charges.
- 1.21 "Rate Center" means a geographic area that is associated with one or more NPA-NXX codes that have been assigned to a Telecommunications Carrier for its provision of telecommunications services.
- 1.22 "Reciprocal Compensation" means an arrangement between two carriers in which each receives compensation from the other carrier for the Transport and Termination on each carrier's network facilities of Non-Access Telecommunications Traffic that originates on the network facilities of the other carrier.
- 1.23 "Telecommunications" is as defined in the Act.
- 1.24 "Telecommunications Carrier" means any provider of telecommunications services (as defined in the Act), except that such term does not include aggregators of telecommunications services (as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 226(a)(2)).
- 1.25 "Termination" means the switching of Non-Access Telecommunications Traffic at the terminating carrier's End Office Switch, or equivalent facility, and delivery of such traffic to the called party's premises.
- 1.26 "Transport" means the transmission and any necessary tandem switching of Non-Access Telecommunications Traffic subject to § 251(b)(5) of the Act from the Point(s) of Interconnection between the two carriers to the terminating carrier's End Office Switch that directly serves the called party, or equivalent facility provided by a carrier other than an incumbent LEC.
- 1.27 "Type 2 Service" often referred to as a trunk side connection, is a service that involves interconnection to a telephone company End Office Switch (Type 2-B) or Tandem Office Switch (Type 2-A).

2.0 INTERPRETATION AND CONSTRUCTION

All references to Sections, Exhibits and Schedules shall be deemed to be references to Sections of, and Exhibits and Schedules to, this Agreement unless the context shall otherwise require. The headings of the Sections and the terms are inserted for convenience of reference only and are not intended to be a part of or to affect the meaning of this Agreement. Unless the context shall otherwise require, any reference to any agreement, other instrument or other third party offering, guide or practice, statute, regulation, rule or tariff is for convenience of reference only and is not intended to be a part of or to affect the meaning of a rule or tariff as amended and supplemented from time-to-time (and, in the case of a statute, regulation, rule or tariff, to any successor provision).

3.0 SCOPE

- 3.1 This Agreement is intended, *inter alia*, to describe and enable Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation arrangements between the Parties. This Agreement does not obligate either Party to provide arrangements not specifically provided for herein.
- 3.2 This Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions, and rates under which the Parties agree to interconnect the CMRS network of Sprint and the ILEC network of Star for purposes of mutually exchanging traffic, provided that the service provided by Sprint to its customer is a two-way mobile service as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153(27). Star and Sprint do not agree whether mobile service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153(27), includes the provision of fixed wireless services and therefore disagree on the regulatory treatment applicable to exchange of such traffic. Sprint does not currently provide fixed wireless services in Star's Local Exchange Service Area. Sprint agrees that it will provide Star notice if and when it may launch fixed wireless services in Star's Local Exchange Service Area. Upon Star's receipt of such notice, the Parties agree to negotiate an appropriate agreement or an Amendment to this Agreement, which will address the exchange of such traffic.
- 3.3 Sprint represents that it is a CMRS provider of Telecommunications services to subscribers in MTA No. 6 (Charlotte-Greensboro-Greenville-Raleigh). The NPA/NXXs of Sprint and/or its Network Manager associated with the provision of CMRS service pursuant to Sprint's authority are listed in Telcordia's™ Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") for Operating Company Number ("OCN") 6664 in the State of North Carolina.
- 3.4 This Agreement is limited to Star customers' traffic for which Star has authority to carry. Star's NPA/NXX(s) are listed in the LERG under OCN 0502.

4.0 SERVICE AGREEMENT

Description of Arrangements. This Agreement provides for the following Interconnection and arrangements between the networks of Star and Sprint. Additional arrangements that may be agreed to in the future will be documented in a separate written amendment to this Agreement. Routing of traffic shall be as described in this section, except that, alternatives may be employed in the event of emergency or temporary equipment failure.

The Parties agree that an NPA/NXX assigned to Sprint shall be included in any Local Exchange Service Area or EAS calling scope to the same extent as any Star and/or other incumbent LEC NPA/NXX in the same Rate Center provided that Sprint assigns numbers from such NPA/NXX(s) to customers that are within the Local Exchange Service Area or EAS calling scope of Star and that Sprint has network facilities (*e.g.* towers) within the MTA to serve such customers.

Local Service Area calls from Star customers to Sprint customers with NPA-NXXs associated with a Star exchange or incumbent LEC's exchange with whom Star has EAS shall be routed from Star's Herring End Office Switch (HRNGNCXA564) to Sprint's network.

4.1 Indirect Interconnection:

To the extent that one Party has entered into or may enter into contractual arrangements with a third-party for the delivery of one Party's originated traffic to the other Party's network (*i.e.* traffic exchanged indirectly between the Parties) for termination to the terminating Party's customers, the terminating Party will accept this traffic subject to compensation arrangement as outlined in § 5 below. Sprint may choose to route to Star indirectly those Local Service Area calls that originate on its network within MTA No. 6 on switches other than its switches that have direct interconnection to Star's Herring End Office Switch.

This arrangement for indirect interconnection will be subject to renegotiation if by change of law or for any other reason the third party tandem provider no longer offers the transiting service.

4.2 Direct Interconnection:

Sprint may request establishment of a direct interconnection regardless of the volume of traffic exchanged. For direct interconnection, the POI shall be at any technically feasible point selected by Sprint on Star's network. Once a direct connection is established, the following applies:

Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement By and Between Star Telephone
Membership Corporation and Sprint Spectrum

4.2.1 Trunking

At Sprint's request, trunking will be established as either each party providing their own one-way trunk to deliver traffic to the other, or two-way trunks. Subject to Section 5.3:

4.2.1.1. Where one-way trunks are used, each party is responsible for all costs associated with the Interconnection Facility and trunking to establish such one-way delivery of traffic.

4.2.1.2. Where two-way trunks (or two, one-way trunks on the same Interconnection Facility) are used, the parties will share on a 50/50 basis all costs associated with the Interconnection Facility and trunking within Star's service territory to establish such two-way delivery of traffic.

4.2.2 Landline-to-Wireless:

Local Service Area calls originated on Star's network, or otherwise transited by Star, for termination on Sprint's network shall be routed from Star to Sprint *via* the applicable trunks established pursuant to Section 4.2.1.

4.2.3 Wireless-to-Landline:

Local Service Area calls originated on Sprint's network within MTA No. 6 (Charlotte-Greensboro-Greenville-Raleigh) for termination to users of Star's network that can be reached *via* the connection to the Herring End Office Switch shall be routed from Sprint's network *via* the applicable trunks established pursuant to Section 4.2.1.

4.2.4 Both Parties will use best efforts to route Local Service Area calls to the other Party over the direct interconnection facilities except in the case of an emergency, temporary equipment failure, or blocking of existing direct interconnection facilities. Should either Party determine that the other Party is routing its originated traffic indirectly, the originating Party agrees to update its routing and translations tables to move such traffic to the direct interconnection facilities within five (5) business days.

5.0 COMPENSATION

5.1 Traffic Subject to Reciprocal Compensation.

Pursuant to the FCC's Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 01-92; GN Docket No. 09-51; WC Docket Nos. 03-109, 05-337, 07-135 and 10-90; and WT Docket No. 10-208 as amended (the "USF/ICC Transformation Order"), effective for traffic exchanged on and after July 1, 2012, Bill-and-Keep shall be the compensation methodology for Non-Access Telecommunications Traffic exchanged between Star and Sprint. Under Bill-and-Keep, neither Party bills the other Party for Transport and Termination of Non-Access Telecommunications Traffic.

5.2 InterMTA Traffic.

The Parties agree that traffic that is directly or indirectly delivered, may be rated and recorded as Non-Access Telecommunications Traffic subject to Reciprocal Compensation, but may have originated and terminated in different MTAs and therefore, is InterMTA Traffic. Recognizing that neither Party currently has a way of accurately measuring this InterMTA Traffic, the Parties agree, for the purposes of this Agreement, to an initial factor of zero percent (0%) as an estimate of InterMTA Traffic.

The Parties agree to review the InterMTA Factor on a periodic basis and, if warranted by the actual usage, revise the factor appropriately. Both Parties shall cooperate in exchanging necessary records and information required to conduct such reviews. Once the new InterMTA Factor is established, each Party shall only have the right to conduct a review of the InterMTA Factor no more than one time in a consecutive 12-month period.

Further, the Parties agree that this Agreement is intended primarily for the exchange of IntraMTA Traffic. Because of the mobile nature of Sprint's customers, the Parties acknowledge that a *de minimus* amount of InterMTA Traffic can be delivered directly over the interconnection trunks or indirectly *via* the third party tandem; however, excessive or unreasonable amounts of other identifiable InterMTA Traffic shall not be delivered in this manner and shall not be common practice.

5.3 In accordance with FCC Rule 47 C.F.R. §51.709(c), for Non-Access Telecommunications Traffic exchanged between Star and Sprint, Star will be responsible for "Transport" (as defined in 47 C.F.R. §51.701(c)) to Sprint's interconnection point when it is located within Star's service area. When Sprint's interconnection point is located outside Star's service area, Star's Transport and provisioning obligation stops at its meet point and Sprint is responsible for the remaining Transport to its interconnection point.

5.4 Either party may conduct an audit of the other Party's books and records pertaining to the services provided under this Agreement not more than once per twelve (12) month period to evaluate the other Party's accuracy of billing, data and invoicing

in accordance with this Agreement. Any audit shall be performed as follows: (a) following at least thirty (30) business days prior written notice to the audited Party, (b) subject to the reasonable scheduling requirements and limitations of the audited Party, (c) at the auditing Party's sole expense, (d) of a reasonable scope and duration, (e) in a manner so as not to interfere with the audited Party's business operations, and (f) in compliance with the audited Party's security rules.

5.5 Billing and Disputes

The Parties agree that disputed and undisputed amounts due under this Agreement shall be handled as follows:

5.5.1 If any portion of an amount due to a Party (the "Billing Party") under this Agreement is subject to a *bona fide* dispute between the Parties, the Party billed (the "Non-Paying Party") shall, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the invoice containing such disputed amount, give written notice to the Billing Party of the amounts it disputes ("Disputed Amounts") and include in such notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item. The Non-Paying Party shall pay when due all undisputed amounts to the Billing Party. The Parties will work together in good faith to resolve issues relating to the disputed amounts. If the dispute is resolved such that payment of the disputed amount is required, whether for the original full amount or for the settlement amount, the Non-Paying Party shall pay the full disputed or settlement amounts with interest at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1½%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under North Carolina's applicable law. In addition, the Billing Party may initiate a complaint proceeding with the appropriate regulatory or judicial entity, if unpaid undisputed amounts become more than ninety (90) days past due, provided the Billing Party gives an additional thirty (30) days' notice and opportunity to cure the default.

5.5.2 A Party must submit reasonable and valid billing disputes to the other Party as to any previously paid undisputed amounts within twelve (12) months from the due date of the original amount paid.

5.5.3 Any undisputed amounts not paid when due shall accrue interest from the date such amounts were due at the lesser of (i) one and one-half percent (1½%) per month or (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under North Carolina's applicable law.

5.5.4 Undisputed amounts shall be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice from the Billing Party.

Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement By and Between Star Telephone
Membership Corporation and Sprint Spectrum

5.5.5 Invoices shall be sent to:

Sprint Spectrum LP	Star Telephone Membership Corporation
Sprint Nextel Access Verification KSOPHL0412-4A309 P.O. Box 7942 Overland Park, KS 66207-0942	Star Telephone Membership Corporation 3900 U.S. Highway 421, North P.O. Box 348 Clinton, NC 28328

6.0 NOTICE OF CHANGES

If a Party contemplates a change in its network, which it believes will materially affect the inter-operability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide at least ninety (90) days advance written notice of such change to the other Party.

7.0 GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

- 7.1 The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including The National Network Security Plan and The Emergency Preparedness Plan. Neither Party shall use any service related to or use any of the Services provided in this Agreement in any manner that prevents other persons from using their service or destroys the normal quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's customers, and subject to notice and a reasonable opportunity of the offending Party to cure any violation, either Party may discontinue or refuse service if the other Party violates this provision.
- 7.2 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its customers and to other Telecommunications Carriers.
- 7.3 Each Party is responsible for obtaining Local Exchange Routing Guide ("LERG") listings of the Common Language Location Identifier ("CLLI") assigned to its switches.
- 7.4 SS7 Out-of-Band Signaling (CCS/SS7) shall be the signaling of choice for interconnecting trunks where technically feasible for both Parties. Use of a third-party provider of SS7 trunks for connecting Sprint Spectrum to Star's SS7 systems is permitted. Such connections will meet generally accepted industry technical standards, and the Parties will comply with all FCC rules regarding call signaling, including those set forth in the USF/ICC Transformation Order.
- 7.5 Each Party shall be responsible for its own independent connections to the 911/E911 network.

- 7.6 The Parties agree to comply with finalized FCC rules and orders and FCC adopted North American Numbering Council (NANC) procedures and guidelines concerning numbering and local number portability. If either Party's Operations and Network Planning Publications conflict with the FCC's rules and orders, the FCC's rules and orders will prevail.

8.0 TERM AND TERMINATION

- 8.1 Subject to the provisions of § 14, the initial term of this Agreement shall be for a two-year term ("Term") which shall commence on the Effective Date. This Agreement shall continue in force and effect thereafter, on a month to month basis, until replaced by another agreement or terminated by either Party upon (sixty) 60 days written notice to the other. In the case of renegotiation of this Agreement, the Parties agree that all rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement shall remain in effect until replaced by a subsequent executed agreement.

- 8.2 Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement in accordance with this Section:
- (a) Each Party shall comply immediately with its obligations as set forth in this Agreement;
 - (b) Each Party shall promptly pay all amounts (including any late payment charges) owed under this Agreement;
 - (c) Each Party's indemnification obligations shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

- 8.3 Either Party may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part in the event of a default of the other Party, provided, however, that the non-defaulting Party notifies the defaulting Party in writing of the alleged default and the defaulting Party does not implement mutually acceptable steps to remedy such alleged default within thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice thereof.

9.0 CANCELLATION CHARGES

Except as provided herein, no cancellation charges shall apply.

10.0 SEVERABILITY

- 10.1 If any provision of this Agreement is held by a court or regulatory agency of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, the rest of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be affected unless removal of that provision results in material change to this Agreement. If a material change as described in this paragraph occurs as a result of action by a court or regulatory agency, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith for replacement language subject to the Dispute Resolution § 17.

- 10.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring or permitting either Party to contravene any mandatory requirement of federal or state law, or any regulations or orders adopted pursuant to such law.

11.0 INDEMNIFICATION

- 11.1 Each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall indemnify and hold harmless the other Party ("Indemnified Party") from and against loss, cost, claim liability, damage, and expense (including reasonable attorney's fees) to customers and other third parties for:

- (1) damage to tangible personal property or for personal injury proximately caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnifying Party, its employees, agents or contractors;
- (2) claims for libel, slander, or infringement of copyright arising from the material transmitted over the Indemnified Party's facilities arising from the Indemnifying Party's own communications or the communications of such Indemnifying Party's customers; and
- (3) claims for infringement of patents arising from combining the Indemnified Party's facilities or services with, or the using of the Indemnified Party's services or facilities in connection with, facilities of the Indemnifying Party.

Neither Party shall accept terms of a settlement that involves or references the other Party in any matter without the other Party's approval.

Notwithstanding this indemnification provision or any other provision in the Agreement, neither Party, nor its parent, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, or employees, shall be liable to the other for Consequential Damages (as defined in § 12.3).

- 11.2 The Indemnified Party will notify the Indemnifying Party promptly in writing of any claims, lawsuits, or demands by customers or other third parties for which the Indemnified Party alleges that the Indemnifying Party is responsible under this Section, and, if requested by the Indemnifying Party, will tender the defense of such claim, lawsuit or demand.

- (1) In the event the Indemnifying Party does not promptly assume or diligently pursue the defense of the tendered action, then the Indemnified Party may proceed to defend or settle said action and the Indemnifying Party shall hold harmless the Indemnified Party from any loss, cost liability, damage and expense.

(2) In the event the Party otherwise entitled to indemnification from the other elects to decline such indemnification, then the Party making such an election may, at its own expense, assume defense and settlement of the claim, lawsuit or demand.

(3) The Parties will cooperate in every reasonable manner with the defense or settlement of any claim, demand, or lawsuit.

12.0 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

12.1 No liability shall attach to either Party, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, servants, employees, officers, directors, or partners for damages arising from errors, mistakes, omissions, interruptions, or delays in the course of establishing, furnishing, rearranging, moving, terminating, changing, or providing or failing to provide services or facilities (including the obtaining or furnishing of information with respect thereof or with respect to users of the services or facilities) in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

12.2 Except as otherwise provided in § 11.0, no Party shall be liable to the other Party for any loss, defect or equipment failure caused by the conduct of the first Party, its agents, servants, contractors or others acting in aid or concert with that Party, except in the case of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

12.3 Except as otherwise provided in § 11.0, no Party shall have any liability whatsoever to the other Party for any indirect, special, consequential, incidental or punitive damages, including but not limited to loss of anticipated profits or revenue or other economic loss in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted or done hereunder (collectively, "Consequential Damages"), even if the other Party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

13.0 DISCLAIMER

EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED HEREIN, NEITHER PARTY MAKES ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTY AS TO MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR INTENDED OR PARTICULAR PURPOSE WITH RESPECT TO SERVICES PROVIDED HEREUNDER. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER PARTY ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER PARTY WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD-PARTY.

14.0 REGULATORY APPROVAL

The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement will be filed with the Commission, and to the extent required by FCC rules may thereafter be filed with the FCC. Each Party covenants and agrees to fully support approval of this Agreement by the Commission or the FCC under § 252(e) of the Act without modification. The Parties, however, reserve the right to seek regulatory relief and otherwise seek redress from each other regarding performance and implementation of this Agreement. In the event the Commission or FCC rejects this Agreement in whole or in part, the Parties agree to meet and negotiate in good faith to arrive at a mutually acceptable modification of the rejected portion(s). Further, this Agreement is subject to change, modification, or cancellation as may be required by a regulatory authority or court in the exercise of its lawful jurisdiction.

The Parties agree that their entrance into this Agreement is without prejudice to any positions they may have taken previously, or may take in future, in any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other public forum addressing any matters, including matters related to the same types of arrangements covered in this Agreement.

15.0 CHANGE IN LAW

The Parties acknowledge that the respective rights and obligations of each Party as set forth in this Agreement are based on the text of the Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder by the FCC and the Commission as of the Effective Date ("Applicable Rules"). In the event of any amendment to the Act, any effective legislative action or any effective regulatory or judicial order, rule, regulation, arbitration award, dispute resolution procedures under this Agreement or other legal action purporting to apply the provisions of the Act to the Parties or in which the FCC or the Commission makes a determination that is generally applicable which revises, modifies or reverses the Applicable Rules (individually and collectively, Amended Rules), either Party may, by providing written notice to the other Party, require that the affected provisions of this Agreement be renegotiated in good faith and this Agreement shall be amended accordingly to reflect the pricing, terms and conditions of each such Amended Rules relating to any of the provisions in this Agreement.

16.0 MISCELLANEOUS

16.1 Default Routing

16.1.1 Local Number Portability ("LNP") provides an End User of local exchange Telecommunications Service the ability to retain its existing telephone number when changing from one local exchange Telecommunications Carrier to another. The Parties recognize that some of the traffic to be exchanged under this Agreement may be destined for telephone numbers that have been subsequently ported.

16.1.2 In such cases, when more than one carrier is involved in completing the call, the N-1 carrier has the responsibility to determine if a query is required, to launch the query, and to route the call to the appropriate switch or network in which the telephone number resides.

16.1.3 The Parties shall provide LNP query, routing, and transport services in accordance with rules and regulations as prescribed by the FCC and guidelines set forth by the North American Number Council ("NANC").

16.1.4 For purposes of this Agreement, the Parties agree to fulfill their N-1 carrier responsibilities and perform queries on calls to telephone numbers with portable NXXs.

16.2 Authorization

16.2.1 Star Telephone Membership Corporation is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of North Carolina and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to any necessary regulatory approval.

16.2.2 Sprint Spectrum, LP is a limited partnership duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, subject to any necessary regulatory approval.

16.3 Compliance. Each Party shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations applicable to its performance under this Agreement.

16.4 Independent Contractors. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by Sprint Spectrum or Star Telephone Membership Corporation in compliance with this Agreement, shall be deemed to create an agency or joint venture relationship between Sprint Spectrum and Star Telephone Membership Corporation, or any relationship other than that of co-carriers. Neither this Agreement, nor any actions taken by Sprint Spectrum or Star Telephone Membership Corporation in compliance with this Agreement, shall create a contractual, agency, or any other type of relationship or third party liability between Sprint Spectrum and Star Telephone Membership Corporation end users or others.

16.5 Force Majeure. Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, work stoppages, equipment failure, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major

environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions or any other similar circumstances beyond the reasonable control and without fault or negligence of the Party affected. (collectively, a "Force Majeure Event"). If any Force Majeure condition occurs, the Party delayed or unable to perform shall give immediate notice to the other Party and shall take all reasonable steps to correct the Force Majeure condition. During the pendency of the Force Majeure, the duties of the Parties under this Agreement affected by the Force Majeure condition shall be abated and shall resume without liability thereafter.

16.6 Confidentiality.

16.6.1 Any information such as specifications, drawings, sketches, business information, forecasts, models, samples, data, computer programs and other software and documentation of one Party (a Disclosing Party) that is furnished or made available or otherwise disclosed to the other Party or any of its employees, contractors, or agents (its "Representatives" and with a Party, a "Receiving Party") pursuant to this Agreement ("Proprietary Information") shall be deemed the property of the Disclosing Party. Proprietary Information, if written, shall be clearly and conspicuously marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary" or other similar notice, and, if oral or visual, shall be confirmed in writing as confidential by the Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days after disclosure. Unless Proprietary Information was previously known by the Receiving Party free of any obligation to keep it confidential, or has been or is subsequently made public by an act not attributable to the Receiving Party, or is explicitly agreed in writing not to be regarded as confidential, such information: (i) shall be held in confidence by each Receiving Party; (ii) shall be disclosed to only those persons who have a need for it in connection with the provision of services required to fulfill this Agreement and shall be used by those persons only for such purposes; and (iii) may be used for other purposes only upon such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to in advance of such use in writing by the Parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a Receiving Party shall be entitled to disclose or provide Proprietary Information as required by any governmental authority or applicable law, upon advice of counsel, only in accordance with § 16.6.2 of this Agreement.

16.6.2 If any Receiving Party is required by any governmental authority or by applicable law to disclose any Proprietary Information, then such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible and prior to such disclosure. The Disclosing Party may then seek appropriate protective relief from all or part of such requirement. The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief which such Disclosing Party chooses to obtain.

16.6.3 In the event of the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason whatsoever, each Party shall return to the other Party or destroy all

Proprietary Information and other documents, work papers and other material (including all copies thereof) obtained from the other Party in connection with this Agreement and shall use all reasonable efforts, including instructing its employees and others who have had access to such information, to keep confidential and not to use any such information, unless such information is now, or is hereafter disclosed, through no act, omission or fault of such Party, in any manner making it available to the general public.

- 16.7 Governing Law. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction (primary or otherwise) of the FCC, the exclusive jurisdiction and remedy for all such claims shall be as provided for by the FCC and the Act. For all claims under this Agreement that are based upon issues within the jurisdiction (primary or otherwise) of the Commission, the exclusive jurisdiction for all such claims shall be with the Commission, and the exclusive remedy for such claims shall be as provided for by such Commission. In all other respects, this Agreement shall be governed by the domestic laws of the State of North Carolina without reference to conflict of law provisions.

The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be subject to any and all applicable laws, rules, regulations or guidelines that subsequently may be adopted by any federal, state, or local government authority. Any modifications to this Agreement occasioned by such change shall be effected through good faith negotiations.

- 16.8 Taxes. Each Party purchasing services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees or surcharges levied against or upon such purchasing Party (or the providing Party when such providing Party is permitted to pass along to the purchasing Party such taxes, fees or surcharges), except for any tax on either Party's corporate existence, status or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice. To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation by the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to timely provide such sale for resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party.

- 16.9 Assignment. This Agreement shall be binding upon the Parties and shall continue to be binding upon all such entities regardless of any subsequent change in their ownership. Each Party covenants that, if it sells or otherwise transfers to a third party, unless the Party which is not the subject of the sale or transfer reasonably determines that the legal structure of the transfer vitiates any such need, it will require as a condition of such transfer that the transferee agree to be bound by this Agreement with respect to services provided over the transferred facilities. Except as provided in this paragraph, neither Party may assign or transfer (whether by

Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement By and Between Star Telephone Membership Corporation and Sprint Spectrum

operation of law or otherwise) this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a third party without the prior written consent of the other Party which consent will not be unreasonably withheld; provided that either Party may assign this Agreement to a corporate Affiliate or an entity under its common control or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prior written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void *ab initio*. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.

16.10 Non-Waiver. Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege.

16.11 Notices.

16.11.1 Notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be: (i) delivered personally; (ii) delivered by express delivery service; or (iii) mailed, certified mail, return receipt requested to the following addresses of the Parties:

To: Sprint Spectrum

To: Star Telephone Membership Corporation

Sprint Manager, Carrier Interconnection KSOPHT0101-Z2060 6391 Sprint Parkway Overland Park, KS 66251	Star Telephone Membership Corporation 3900 U.S. Highway 421, North P.O. Box 348 Clinton, NC 28328 Tel: 910-564-7827 Attn: Lyman Horne
With a copy to: Sprint Legal/ Telecom Management Group P.O. Box 7966 Overland Park, KS 66251	

Or to such other address as either Party shall designate by proper notice. Notices will be deemed given as of the earlier of: (i) the date of actual receipt; (ii) the next business day when notice is sent *via* overnight express mail or personal delivery; or (iii) three (3) days after mailing in the case of certified U.S. mail.

16.11.2 In order to facilitate trouble reporting and to coordinate the repair of Interconnection Facilities, trunks, and other interconnection arrangements provided by the Parties under this Agreement, each Party has established contact(s) available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, at telephone numbers to be provided by the Parties. Each Party shall call the other at these respective telephone numbers to report trouble with connection facilities, trunks, and other interconnection arrangements, to inquire as to the status of trouble ticket numbers in progress, and to escalate trouble resolution.

24-Hour Network Management Contact:

For Star Telephone Membership Corporation:

NOC/Repair: 800-945-4233

For Sprint Spectrum:

NOC/Repair: 888-859-1400

E-mail: NOCManager@sprint.com
NOCC-NIM@sprint.com

Before either party reports a trouble condition, it must first use its reasonable efforts to isolate the trouble to the other Party's facilities, service, and arrangements. Each Party will advise the other of any critical nature of the inoperative facilities, service, and arrangements and any need for expedited clearance of trouble. In cases where a Party has indicated the essential or critical need for restoration of the facilities, services or arrangements, the other party shall use its best efforts to expedite the clearance of trouble.

16.12 Publicity and Use of Trademarks or Service Marks. Neither Party nor its subcontractors or agents shall use the other Party's trademarks, service marks, logos or other proprietary trade dress in any advertising, press releases, publicity matters or other promotional materials without such Party's prior written consent.

16.13 Joint Work Product. This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms. In the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

16.14 No Third Party Beneficiaries; Disclaimer of Agency. This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any third-party beneficiary rights hereunder. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party; nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against, in the name of, or on behalf of the other Party, unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no party undertakes to perform any obligation of the

other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

16.15 Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit Sprint from enlarging its CMRS network through management contracts with third-parties for the construction and operation of a CMRS system under the Sprint license. Traffic traversing such extended networks shall be deemed to be and treated under this Agreement as "Sprint Telecommunications traffic" when it originates on such extended network and terminates on Star's network, and as "Star Telecommunications traffic" when it originates upon Star's network and terminates upon such extended network. Telecommunications traffic traversing on such extended networks shall be subject to the terms, conditions, and rates of this Agreement.

16.16 No License. No license under patents, copyrights, or any other intellectual property right (other than the limited license to use consistent with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Agreement) is granted by either Party, or shall be implied or arise by estoppel with respect to any transactions contemplated under this Agreement.

16.17 Technology Upgrades. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit either Parties' ability to upgrade its network through the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise, provided it is to industry standards, and that the Party initiating the upgrade shall provide the other Party written notice at least ninety (90) days prior to the incorporation of any such upgrade in its network which will materially impact the other Party's service. Each Party shall be solely responsible for the cost and effort of accommodating such changes in its own network.

16.18 Entire Agreement. The terms contained in this Agreement and any Schedules, Exhibits, tariffs and other documents or instruments referred to herein are hereby incorporated into this Agreement by reference as if set forth fully herein, and constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written. Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications. This Agreement may only be modified by a writing signed by an officer or duly authorized employee of each Party.

17.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Except as provided under § 252 of the Act with respect to the approval of this Agreement by the Commission, the Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of or relating to this Agreement without, to the extent possible, litigation. Accordingly, except for action seeking a temporary restraining order or an injunction related to the purposes of this Agreement, or suit to **compel compliance** with this dispute resolution process, the Parties

agree to use the following dispute resolution procedures with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.

17.1 Informal Resolution of Disputes. At the written request of a Party, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative, empowered to resolve such dispute, to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement. The Parties intend that these negotiations be conducted by non-lawyer, business representatives. The location, format, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions shall be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative dispute resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and correspondence among the representatives for purposes of these negotiations shall be treated as Confidential Information developed for purposes of settlement, exempt from discovery, and shall not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of all Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications, which are not prepared for purposes of the negotiations, are not so exempted and may, if otherwise discoverable, be discovered or otherwise admissible, be admitted in evidence, in the arbitration or lawsuit.

17.2 Formal Dispute Resolution. If negotiations fail to produce an agreeable resolution within ninety (90) days, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanisms; provided, that upon mutual agreement of the Parties such disputes may also be submitted to binding arbitration. In the case of an arbitration, each Party shall bear its own costs. The Parties shall equally split the fees of any mutually agreed upon arbitration procedure and the associated arbitrator.

17.3 Continuous Service. The Parties shall continue providing services to each other during the pendency of any dispute resolution procedure, and the Parties shall continue to perform their payment obligations including making payments in accordance with this Agreement.

Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement By and Between Star Telephone
Membership Corporation and Sprint Spectrum

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed
as of the dates listed below.

Sprint Spectrum L.P.

By:



Name: Doug B. Ball

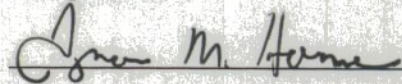
Title: Director of Switched Access

Date:

3-14-2014

Star Telephone Membership
Corporation

By:



Name: Lyman M. Horne

Title: Executive VP & General Manager

Date:

3-31-14