



The VON Coalition

For Immediate Release
February 10, 2005

Contact: Jim Kohlenberger
(703) 237-2357

VON Coalition Statement on Access Charge Reform

BACKGROUND: Today the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a further Notice of Further Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeking comment on several proposals to reform the intercarrier compensation system.

In reaction, the following statement can be attributed to Staci Pies, the VON Coalition President.

"We are delighted to see that the FCC today took an important step down the long road of reforming the broken intercarrier compensation regime. While the VON Coalition welcomes this effort to modernize out-dated rules, the FCC must confirm immediately that until reform is complete, VoIP providers should continue to pay cost-based rates. The danger of the old system being applied to new technologies still lurks unless the FCC grants the Level 3 petition. To ensure continued innovation and investment, the FCC must reaffirm that VoIP providers are not subject to inflated, legacy access charges. Doing so will keep the current successful pro-growth, pro-innovation policy in place while the Commission finalizes and implements broader intercarrier compensation reform."

About the VON Coalition:

The Voice on the Net or VON Coalition consists of leading VoIP companies, on the cutting edge of developing and delivering voice innovations over Internet. The coalition, which includes Acceris, AT&T, BMX, BT Americas, CallSmart, Convedia, Covad, Earthlink, IceNet, iBasis, Intel, Intrado, Level 3, MCI, Microsoft, PointOne, Pulver.com, Skype, Teleglobe, Texas Instruments, USA Datanet, VocalData, and Voiceglo, believes that Americans are fundamentally better off with a generally hands off regulatory approach to Internet and Internet based services like VoIP. Since its inception, the VON Coalition has consistently advocated that federal and state regulators maintain current policies of refraining from extending legacy regulations to Internet services, including VoIP. More information about the VON Coalition can be obtained at the following website: <http://www.von.org>