BellSouth Interconnection Services
675 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30375

Carrier Notification
SN91083233

Date: August 2, 2002

To: Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) and Software Vendor Providers

Subject: CLECs and Software Vendor Providers – **REVISED -** Telecommunications Access
               Gateway (TAG) Transformation **(originally posted on July 23, 2002)**

As discussed in the TAG User Group Forums that began in March 2002, BellSouth plans to replace the current TAG C++ Application Program Interface (API) with an Extensible Markup Language (XML) technical specification. This technical specification will provide a schema for request and response data for both pre-order and firm order transactions. The initial implementation of XML is tentatively scheduled for ENCORE Release 11.0 on December 8, 2002. Total migration is expected to be complete by December 2003.

The initial version of the XML schemas for pre-order and firm order transactions is being posted on August 2, 2002, to the BellSouth Interconnection Services' Web site at:

http://www.interconnection.bellsouth.com/oss/tag/tag_info.html

Your company must have a user name and password to access this Web site.

With the implementation of XML, BellSouth plans to support multiple transport methods including TCP/IP, CORBA, MQ Series, and HTTPS (only CORBA will be available initially). Also, CLECs may select from a variety of programming languages such as Java, Visual Basic, C# (pronounced "C sharp") and C++.

BellSouth encourages participation of all TAG users in the TAG User Group Forums as these meetings are currently focused on the details of the TAG Transformation. The schedule for the User Group meetings, as well as additional information on the TAG Transformation (overview and draft XML specifications), may be obtained by accessing the BellSouth CLEC Change Control (CCP) Web site at:

http://www.interconnection.bellsouth.com/markets/lec/ccp_live/index.html.

BellSouth Account Teams will be contacting existing TAG users over the next few weeks to discuss specific customer migration plans and to address any outstanding questions regarding the Transformation.

Please contact your BellSouth Local Support Manager with any questions.

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Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY JIM BRINKLEY

Jim Brinkley – Senior Director
BellSouth Interconnection Services