
BellSouth Interconnection Services

675 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30375

Carrier Notification**SN91083511**

Date: December 12, 2002

To: Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs)

Subject: CLECs – BellSouth to Discontinue Enhancements and Issue Final Telecommunications Access Gateway (TAG) Application Program Interface (API) with the Implementation of ENCORE Release 12.0

This is to advise that in response to CLECs requests made during the October 25, 2002 TAG User Forum, BellSouth will extend issuance of the TAG API through ENCORE Release 12.0, tentatively scheduled for implementation on March 30, 2003. The TAG API 9.1, scheduled to be issued with ENCORE Release 12.0, will be the final TAG API issued by BellSouth. The existing TAG APIs will continue to be available to those customers who currently subscribe to them (based on the schedule provided in Carrier Notification letter [SN91082970](#) revised on October 18, 2002), but functionality will be frozen.

Migration to TAG API 9.1 for existing TAG CLECs/Vendors will be permitted through the implementation of ENCORE Release 13.0. CLECs/Vendors deploying TAG for the first time will be required to deploy TAG XML beginning with ENCORE Release 12.0. As in the past, BellSouth recommends that CLECs/Vendors implement the most current version of TAG to experience the benefits of all TAG deployed features and defect corrections. Therefore, upon implementation of ENCORE Release 13.0, CLECs/Vendors will only be allowed to migrate from TAG API to TAG XML, as all new functionality and defect corrections will only be deployed to the TAG XML Schema Specifications. TAG API to TAG API migrations will no longer be permitted once implementation of ENCORE Release 13.0 has completed.

BellSouth recommends that all CLECs/Vendors contact their Electronic Commerce Account Team or Software Vendor Process Team Representative as soon as possible to begin planning migration to TAG XML. BellSouth estimates a minimum requirement of 25 business days to complete the CLEC Electronic Interface testing associated with the migration to TAG XML.

Additionally, all CLECs/Vendors are required to attend 1 to 2 days of TAG XML training prior to implementing or migrating to TAG XML. Only one training class per month will be offered. To secure a seat, CLECs/Vendors should register for training as soon as possible at the following Web site address:

<http://www.interconnection.bellsouth.com/training/html/tag.html>

Please contact your Electronic Commerce Account Team/Software Vendor Process Team Representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY JERRY HENDRIX

Jerry Hendrix – Assistant Vice President
BellSouth Interconnection Service