

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the matter of the Public Utilities  
Commission Act 1990 (No. 26 of  
1990)

- and -

In the matter of an application by  
GT&T to facilitate the termination  
of the **IRIDIUM** Calls - re: **Rates**.

PRESENT:

Mr Prem Persaud	-	Chairman
Mr Badrie Persaud	-	Commissioner
Mr John Caesar	-	Commissioner
Mr Maurice Solomon	-	Commissioner
Ms Jennifer Ganpatsingh	-	Secretary (ag)

REPRESENTATION:

Guyana Telephone & Telegraph Company

Mr M. Fitzpatrick, S.C,	-	Attorney-at-Law
Ms S. Jagan	-	Chief Executive Officer
Mr G. Statia	-	Consultant
Mr G. Evelyn	-	Director (Rates)

On 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2003 GT&T applied for the Commission's approval to terminate Iridium calls. This service is based in the USA and operates as follows:

On 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2003 GT&T applied for the Commission's approval to terminate Iridium calls. This service is based in the USA and operates as follows:

A customer of the service would own a specific type of satellite phone. Calls via this service are made in two stages; the first call is made to a Stratos automated satellite phone centre in the USA; and the call is then sent to the called party via a satellite. The call to the phone centre attracts the PUC approved rates to the USA. There is however another charge called the "hubbing rate" which is levied by the phone centre. The PUC has no control over this rate.

Three carriers in the USA operate the service, namely, AT&T; Sprint and MCI.

It immediately suggests that the service is an expensive one and only a few persons showed interest. It is expected that total calls would average about one hundred minutes per month. GT&T will not share in the hubbing charge, but will collect same and remit to the appropriate phone centre in the USA.

Of the three companies which operate the service, MCI is charging the most reasonable rate for the hubbing service. The related hubbing charges are as follows:

	<u>8816</u>		<u>8817</u>
	US\$		US\$
AT&T .....	1.2058	.....	2.30
Sprint .....	1.046	.....	1.978
MCI .....	1.40	.....	1.40

The Commission approves of this Iridium service and orders that GT&T will use its best efforts to route all calls through MCI as this is the cheapest average cost. Only where this process is not possible will GT&T use the next cheaper route as its secondary carrier with the costliest as its last alternative.

It is also ordered that charges associated with this service must be itemised on the consumer's bill as is customary with international calls.

This service shall be effective as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2003.

.....(Sgd)..... Prem Persaud	-	Chairman
.....(Sgd)..... Badrie Persaud	-	Commissioner
.....(Sgd)..... John Caesar	-	Commissioner
.....(Sgd)..... Maurice Solomon	-	Commissioner