

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER No. 2 of 2023

In the matter of interconnection by and between public telecommunications service providers GTT Inc. and U-Mobile (Cellular) Inc. trading as Digicel as prescribed by the Telecommunications (Interconnection and Access) Regulations 2020.

DECISION

Section 2 (b) of the Public Utilities Act No. 19 of 2016 makes provision for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) hereinafter referred to as the 'Commission' which is a multi-sector regulator to have regulatory oversight of telecommunications undertakings. Telecommunications undertakings is defined by section 2 (1) of the Telecommunications Act No 18 of 2016 as 'any operator, service provider or any other person whose activities are subject to the Act.'

Pursuant to individual licences issued to the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company Limited (GTT Inc.) and U-Mobile (cellular) Inc. (Digicel) on the 5th day of October 2020, the former company is authorized to install and operate fixed and mobile public telecommunications networks in addition to the provision of public telecommunications services. Whilst Digicel is authorized to install and operate a domestic mobile public telecommunications network and the provision of mobile public telecommunications services together with an individual licence for the landing and installation of a submarine cable.

Enshrined in the aforementioned licenses is the requirement for interconnection which is captured in paragraph 1 of the respective licences for the purpose of authorizing the companies to interconnect the Licenced Network to any other public telecommunications networks operated under a licence or exemption granted by the Minister in accordance with the Act and which encompasses the tenets of the Telecommunications (Interconnection and Access) Regulations 2020 which further prescribes the procedures/processes for negotiating, concluding and implementing interconnection agreements.

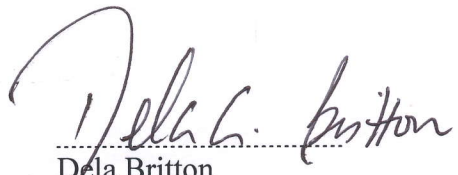
As part of the review and approval process for every interconnection agreement the Commission is required to direct that all Telecommunications Undertakings cause the aforementioned Agreement to be

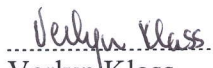
executed by the relevant parties and 'come into force, and interconnection or access shall be effected, within the twenty-one-day period provided for in regulation 13 (3).' It is further mandated in the Regulations that the parties must 'submit the executed agreement and written verification of the effectiveness of interconnection or access to the Commission within the seven days following such execution and the effectiveness of interconnection or access.'

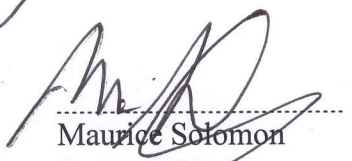
The Commission received the *GTT-Digicel Interconnect Agreement* on the 20th day of June 2023, which was dated June 6, 2023, and which agreement contains *Annex A (Definitions) - June 6, 2023, Annex B (Services) - June 6, 2023, Annex C (Rates Schedule) - June 6, 2023, and Annex D (Joint Working Manual) - June 1, 2023.*

HAVING reviewed the *GTT-Digicel Interconnect Agreement* and in keeping with the powers granted to it under regulation 14 (11) (d) of the Telecommunications (Interconnection and Access) Regulations 2020, the Commission hereby grants its approval for the interconnection agreement which terms and conditions shall become effective on/ before the 25th day of July 2023.

FURTHER pursuant to regulation 14 (12) of the Telecommunications (Interconnection and Access) Regulations 2020, **the parties hereto are ordered and directed to submit an executed Agreement together with written verification of the effectiveness of interconnection on or before 2nd of August 2023.**


Dela Britton
Chairman


Verlyn Klass
Commissioner


Maurice Solomon
Commissioner


Dr. Nanda Gopaul
Commissioner



Dated this 4th day of July 2023