



**AM TR-NIS-000140-IL**  
**AMERITECH BONA FIDE REQUEST PROCESS -**  
**ILLINOIS**

To: Requesting Carriers

Priority: 1

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**GENERAL**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act") and certain other statutes and regulatory rules (e.g., the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Open Network Architecture (ONA) program), a qualifying telecommunications carrier or service provider (each, a "Requesting Carrier") may request Ameritech \* to provide access to an unbundled network element, interconnection, dialing parity arrangement, collocation arrangement, or service that Ameritech does not already provide to that Requesting Carrier (a "Request"). This document (the "Practice") provides an overview of the Ameritech Bona Fide Request process and also includes the Ameritech Bona Fide Request (BFR) Form. The BFR Form may be reproduced and submitted to Ameritech's BFR Manager listed on the first page of the form. The BFR Form may also be accessed electronically at TCNet.ameritech.com or Requesting Carriers may contact their Ameritech account executive.

**1. THE BONA FIDE REQUEST PROCESS**

A Requesting Carrier initiates its BFR by submitting to Ameritech a BFR Form. Ameritech has established a single point of contact, the BFR Manager, who is responsible for the receipt, tracking and coordination of all BFRs. Ameritech's BFR Manager shall be deemed to have received a BFR from the Requesting Carrier (i) on the business day the manager receives a completed BFR Form, if such form was received by the manager before 3:00 p.m. C.S.T. on that business day or (ii) on the next business day, if the manager receives such BFR Form after 3:00 p.m. C.S.T. on a given business day.

When the BFR Form is received, Ameritech will review it to determine if Ameritech fully understands the Request and that the Requesting Carrier has provided Ameritech with all information necessary to process the Request. If any information necessary to understand or evaluate the Request has not been provided, or Ameritech believes additional information is required to process the Request, the BFR Manager will contact the Requesting Carrier and request the necessary information. Failure to complete the BFR Form, or to immediately provide to Ameritech missing and/or additional information necessary to analyze and/or process the BFR, will delay the processing of the BFR and suspend the assignment or calculation of applicable processing dates.

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\* For purposes of this document "Ameritech" means, individually and collectively, Illinois Bell Telephone Company (Ameritech - Illinois), Ameritech Illinois Metro, Inc. (Ameritech-Illinois Metro), Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated (Ameritech-Indiana), Michigan Bell Telephone Company (Ameritech-Michigan), The Ohio Bell Telephone Company (Ameritech-Ohio), and the Wisconsin Bell, Inc. (Ameritech-Wisconsin).

As soon as feasible after receipt of the BFR, but normally not later than 10 business days \*\* after receipt of the BFR Form, the BFR Manager will provide Requesting Carrier a confirmation notice. This confirmation notice will either (i) state that the BFR is being processed and assign the initial processing dates applicable to the Request or (ii) formally notify the Requesting Carrier that information required to process the Request has still not been provided by the Requesting Carrier, and that the Request will be suspended until the additional information is received by Ameritech. If, for some reason, the BFR cannot be processed or does not qualify for BFR treatment, the Requesting Carrier will be notified of that fact normally within 10 business days of Ameritech's receipt of the BFR Form or as soon thereafter as Ameritech makes that determination.

Within 30 calendar \*\* days of its receipt of a complete BFR Form. Ameritech shall complete a preliminary assessment of the Request (the "Preliminary Analysis"). The results of Ameritech's Preliminary Analysis will be conveyed to the Requesting Carrier in a formal written response (the "Analysis Response"). The Analysis Response will include, as applicable, (i) whether the Request is required to be provided by Ameritech under the Act or applicable regulatory requirements; (ii) whether the Request is technically feasible; (iii) whether the Request is currently available from Ameritech in the form of another Ameritech product or service offering and, (iv) if Ameritech determines that the Request is technically feasible and is otherwise required to be provided by Ameritech, a form by which the Requesting Carrier can authorize Ameritech to further develop the Request.

When submitting the BFR, the Requesting Carrier has two options to compensate Ameritech for its costs incurred to complete its Preliminary Analysis. The Requesting Carrier may either:

1. Include a \$2,000 deposit to cover Ameritech's preliminary costs and Ameritech will guarantee that the preliminary evaluation costs incurred and invoiced to the Requesting Carrier during the 30 day Preliminary Analysis period (the "Analysis Period") will not exceed \$2,000; or
2. Make no deposit and agree to promptly pay the total preliminary evaluation costs incurred and invoiced by Ameritech during the Analysis Period.

If the costs incurred to complete the Preliminary Analysis are less than \$2,000, the balance of the deposit will, at the option of the Requesting Carrier, either be refunded or credited toward additional development costs authorized by the Requesting Carrier after receipt of Ameritech's Analysis Response. The Requesting Carrier may also cancel its BFR during the Analysis Period but shall be responsible to pay the costs incurred by Ameritech to analyze and process the BFR up to and including the date Ameritech receives notice of such cancellation. Finally if at any time during the Analysis Period, Ameritech determines that the BFR cannot be processed or does not qualify for BFR treatment, Ameritech shall refund to Requesting Carrier the balance of the deposit.

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\*\* The intervals set forth in this BFR Form shall apply unless a different interval is specified in the Requesting Carrier - Ameritech Interconnection Agreement, in which case the intervals contained in such agreement(s) shall apply.

After Ameritech provides the Requesting Carrier the Analysis Response, Ameritech will take no further action on the BFR until Ameritech has received the Requesting Carrier's authorization to proceed to develop a price quote for the Request (a "Bona Fide Request Quote"). After receipt of Ameritech's Analysis Response, the Requesting Carrier has the following options:

1. Cancel the BFR; provided, that if the Requesting Carrier elected to not make a \$2,000 deposit, the Requesting Carrier shall compensate Ameritech for any costs it incurred up to and including the date Ameritech received notice of such cancellation; or
2. Authorize Ameritech to prepare a Bona Fide Request Quote conditioned upon Requesting Carrier's agreement to compensate Ameritech for any costs it incurs to prepare such Bona Fide Request Quote.

Unless Ameritech receives written notification that the Requesting Carrier is exercising one of the above options within 30 calendar days\*\* of such carrier's receipt of Ameritech's Analysis Response, the Requesting Carrier shall be deemed to have canceled its BFR.

Ameritech shall provide the Requesting Carrier its Bona Fide Request Quote as soon as feasible, but in any event not more than 90 calendar days\*\* from the date Ameritech receives Requesting Carrier's authorization to develop such quote. Requesting Carrier may, at any time during the 90 calendar day Bona Fide Request Quote period, cancel Ameritech's processing of the Bona Fide Request Quote, but shall pay for Ameritech's costs to process and develop the Request up to and including the date Ameritech received notice of cancellation.

Upon completion, Ameritech will provide the Requesting Carrier with the Bona Fide Request Quote, which shall include proposed rates, ordering intervals, methods and procedures for ordering the product/service and an invoice for the costs incurred to date by Ameritech to develop and process the Request. The development and pricing costs incurred. The requester then has 30 calendar days to submit either firm orders for or cancel the requested capability at the final price quoted by Ameritech (consistent with any volume and/or term commitments), and remit the amount of Ameritech development. Requesting Carrier then has 30 calendar days \*\* after receipt of the Bona Fide Request Quote to (i) either submit firm orders for the Request subject to the Bona Fide Request Quote or cancel its BFR and (ii) remit to Ameritech any invoiced costs as described above.

## 2. BONA FIDE REQUEST INITIATION

The key document in the Bona Fide Request process is the BFR Form. A copy of the form is included at the end of this Practice and available electronically at TCNet.ameritech.com. The BFR Form requires the Requesting Carrier to provide Ameritech detailed and specific information about the Request that will enable Ameritech to adequately evaluate and process the Request. Specifically, the Requesting Carrier must provide answers to the 15 items set forth on the BFR Form.

## 3. BONA FIDE REQUEST FORM

### AMERITECH BONA FIDE REQUEST FORM

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The information requested in this Bona Fide Request Form ("BFR Form") is essential to Ameritech's assessment of your Request. So that Ameritech can timely process your BFR, Requesting Carriers are urged to provide complete and detailed responses to the questions contained in this BFR Form. Requesting Carriers should reference Ameritech Practice AM TR-NIS-000140-IL, Issue 4 August 1998, for a description of the BFR process and to reference the meanings of capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined in this BFR Form.

Please complete the BFR Form in full, and submit via facsimile to the Ameritech Information Industry Services (AIIS) BFR Manager at (248) 483-3738. To contact the BFR Manager directly, please call (248) 443-9900. The BFR Manager is the single point of contact within Ameritech concerning your Request. The BFR Manager is responsible to track and coordinate your Request and will, at a minimum, send the following to you:

1. Written confirmation of receipt of the Request (normally within 10 business days \* );
2. Written status when the Preliminary Analysis is completed (normally within 30 calendar days) and, if applicable, request for authorization to proceed with a Bona Fide Request Quote; and
3. If applicable and requested, a written Bona Fide Request Quote (normally within 90 calendar days of receipt of the Requesting Carriers authorization to proceed).

Should you have any further questions regarding this application or the BFR process, please contact the BFR Manager at the number shown above.

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Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

By submitting this Request, \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to promptly compensate Ameritech for any costs it incurs to process this Request, including costs to analyze, develop, provision, and price the Request, up to and including the date the Ameritech BFR Manager receives our written cancellation. \_\_\_\_\_ also agrees to compensate Ameritech for such costs in accordance with Ameritech Practice AM-TR-NIS-000140-IL, if \_\_\_\_\_ fails to authorize Ameritech to proceed with development of the Request within 30 days of receipt of the 30-day notification, or \_\_\_\_\_ fails to order the Request within 30 days, in accordance with the final product quotation. \_\_\_\_\_ certifies that a copy of the foregoing Practice is available to it.

\_\_\_\_\_

by: \_\_\_\_\_

its: \_\_\_\_\_