



DECISION ON INTERCONNECTION RATES FROM THE 36th COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING

At its thirty-sixth meeting held on March 9, 2018, the ECTEL Council of Ministers approved the recommendation for new interconnection rates for telecommunications services in the ECTEL Member States.

Please find attached a summary of the rates and guidelines for the implementation of the decision. If you require any further guidance, please contact the ECTEL Directorate.

IMPLEMENTATION OF COST ORIENTED INTERCONNECTING RATES

1.0 Introduction

The Council of Ministers of ECTEL approved the Directorate's recommendation for the Long Run Incremental Cost (LRIC) models to be used to determine cost-oriented interconnection rates in the ECTEL Member States, at its 36th Meeting of the Council held on Friday March 9, 2018.

2.0 Special Notes to NTRCs and Licensees

The following recommendations do not bind ECTEL or the NTRCs with respect to any rates contained therein. These recommendations represent the culmination of the public consultation process on ECTEL's proposed LRIC model. They provide cost-oriented reference rates against which, ECTEL will assess rates contained in any proposed interconnection agreement between interconnecting licensees.

This notice is intended only to provide a clear statement of ECTEL's determination as to what constitute "cost oriented rates" in the ECTEL Member States, as required by relevant sections of the Telecommunications Act and related Interconnection Regulations. The document is, therefore, intended only to communicate to interested parties, the formal outcome of the Council's decision.

NTRCs and licensees should note that, each new proposed interconnection agreement negotiated in future, will still need to be referred to ECTEL for a formal recommendation prior to approval or rejection by the NTRC, as required by both the Telecommunications Act and Regulations.

Other than the requested actions recommended by ECTEL for the NTRCs and licensees at 4.0, NTRCs are not required to take any further action with respect to this notice.

3.0 The recommendation approved by the Council of Ministers

3.1 Recommend rates for mobile interconnection services

The Council of Ministers approved a one-year phased reduction in the rates for mobile interconnection services. The recommended rates will result in an up to 50 per cent reduction in the wholesale rate for mobile termination in the first year and up to 95 per cent reduction over the three-year period. The impact of this recommendation is expected to be significant reductions in rates for fixed to mobile and mobile to mobile calls over the next three years. The recommended rates are presented in the following tables. The recommended rates are applicable for calls originating domestically and internationally.

Dominica

Dominica Mobile Services (XCD cents/min)	May 15 2018*	May 15 2019	May 15 2020
PLMN Terminating Access Service	12.90	2.01	1.93
Incoming International Call Termination to PLMN Service	12.90	2.01	1.93
SMS Termination	2.41	0.13	0.13
PLMN Transit Service	1.54	0.14	0.14

Table1.1: Cost of services of the mobile model for Dominica. [Source: ECTEL’s BULRIC Model for Mobile Networks]

Grenada

Grenada Mobile Services (XCD cents/min)	May 15 2018*	May 15 2019	May 15 2020
PLMN Terminating Access Service	12.55	1.92	1.83
Incoming International Call Termination to PLMN Service	12.55	1.92	1.83
SMS Termination	1.98	0.07	0.07
PLMN Transit Service	1.03	0.09	0.09

Table1.2: Cost of services of the mobile model for Grenada. [Source: ECTEL’s BULRIC Model for Mobile Networks]

St. Kitts and Nevis

St. Kitts and Nevis Mobile Services (XCD cents/min)	May 15 2018*	May 15 2019	May 15 2020
PLMN Terminating Access Service	14.09	1.45	1.51
Incoming International Call Termination to PLMN Service	14.09	1.45	1.51
SMS Termination	1.76	0.06	0.06
PLMN Transit Service	1.48	0.10	0.09

Table1.3: Cost of services of the mobile model for St. Kitts and Nevis. [Source: ECTEL's BULRIC Model for Mobile Networks]

Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia Mobile Services (XCD cents/min)	May 15 2018*	May 15 2019	May 15 2020
PLMN Terminating Access Service	11.20	1.43	1.40
Incoming International Call Termination to PLMN Service	11.20	1.43	1.40
SMS Termination	1.50	0.06	0.06
PLMN Transit Service	0.93	0.08	0.08

Table1.4: Cost of services of the mobile model for Saint Lucia. [Source: ECTEL's BULRIC Model for Mobile Networks]

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mobile Services (XCD cents/min)	May 15 2018*	May 15 2019	May 15 2020
PLMN Terminating Access Service	12.07	2.53	2.36
Incoming International Call Termination to PLMN Service	12.07	2.53	2.36
SMS Termination	1.65	0.10	0.10
PLMN Transit Service	1.35	0.10	0.10

Table1.5: Cost of services of the mobile model for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. [Source: ECTEL's BULRIC Model for Mobile Networks]

3.2 Recommended rates for fixed interconnection services

The Council of Ministers approved a one-year phased reduction in the rates for most fixed interconnection services. The maximum rates for fixed interconnection services in the ECTEL Member States are presented in the following tables.

Dominica

Dominica Fixed Services (XCD cents/min)	May 15 2018*	May 15 2019	May 15 2020
PSTN Terminating Access Service	2.93	1.04	1.04
Incoming International Call Termination to PSTN Service	2.93	1.04	1.04
PSTN Transit Service	1.54	0.17	0.16
Emergency Services Access Service	7.48	14.92	14.91
National DQ Services	48.50	15.21	15.22
International DQ Services	44.00	15.21	15.22
International Call Origination Service	3.64	1.07	1.07

Table 2.1: Cost of services of the fixed model for Dominica. [Source: ECTEL's BULRIC Model for Fixed Networks]

Grenada

Grenada Fixed Services (XCD cents/min)	May 15 2018*	May 15 2019	May 15 2020
PSTN Terminating Access Service	2.04	0.59	0.60
Incoming International Call Termination to PSTN Service	2.04	0.59	0.60
PSTN Transit Service	1.03	0.10	0.10
Emergency Services Access Service	7.36	14.70	14.69
National DQ Services	46.00	14.78	14.79
International DQ Services	47.50	14.78	14.79
International Call Origination Service	3.05	0.61	0.62

Table 2.2: Cost of services of the fixed model for Grenada. [Source: ECTEL's BULRIC Model for Fixed Networks]

St. Kitts and Nevis

St. Kitts and Nevis Fixed Services (XCD cents/min)	May 15 2018*	May 15 2019	May 15 2020
PSTN Terminating Access Service	1.31	0.75	0.77
Incoming International Call Termination to PSTN Service	1.31	0.75	0.77
PSTN Transit Service	1.48	0.11	0.11
Emergency Services Access Service	7.40	14.78	14.77
National DQ Services	44.00	14.97	14.99
International DQ Services	44.00	14.97	14.99
International Call Origination Service	1.45	0.78	0.79

Table 2.3: Cost of services of the fixed model for St. Kitts and Nevis. [Source: ECTEL's BULRIC Model for Fixed Networks]

Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia Fixed Services (XCD cents/min)	May 15 2018*	May 15 2019	May 15 2020
PSTN Terminating Access Service	1.73	0.53	0.53
Incoming International Call Termination to PSTN Service	1.73	0.53	0.53
PSTN Transit Service	0.93	0.09	0.09
Emergency Services Access Service	7.38	14.74	14.73
National DQ Services	51.50	14.76	14.76
International DQ Services	74.00	14.76	14.76
International Call Origination Service	2.73	0.54	0.54

Table 2.4: Cost of services of the fixed model for Saint Lucia. [Source: ECTEL's BULRIC Model for Fixed Networks]

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Fixed Services (XCD cents/min)	May 15 2018*	May 15 2019	May 15 2020
PSTN Terminating Access Service	2.67	0.82	0.83
Incoming International Call Termination to PSTN Service	2.67	0.82	0.83
PSTN Transit Service	1.35	0.13	0.12
Emergency Services Access Service	7.46	14.89	14.88
National DQ Services	44.00	15.08	15.10
International DQ Services	45.00	15.08	15.10
International Call Origination Service	3.35	0.85	0.86

Table 2.5: Cost of services of the fixed model for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. [Source: ECTEL's BULRIC Model for Fixed Networks]

3.3 Notes

(i) All rates are per minute and denominated in Eastern Caribbean Dollars;

(ii) The composite interconnection charge (i.e. call duration plus interconnect-specific charges) for telecommunications providers should not exceed the recommended rates; and

* This denotes the date proposed by ECTEL for implementation of the new interconnection rates. However, the National Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (NTRC) will determine the specific commencement date in each Member State.

(iii) Telecommunications providers may negotiate lower interconnection rates and may adopt a pricing structure that include peak and off-peak rates.

4.0 Recommended Action by NTRC

4.1 ECTEL hereby recommends that, pursuant to its powers under Regulation 12(3) of the new Interconnection Regulations No. 60 of 2008¹, the NTRC should:

(i) publish, in the Gazette, a notice of the decision of the Council of Ministers on the new interconnection rates;

(ii) direct all parties to currently approved interconnection agreements to submit revised tariff schedules to the Commission, amended in accordance with the foregoing recommendation approved by the Council, within thirty (30) days of the notice from the NTRC; and

(iii) within seven (7) days of receipt from licensees, forward all revised tariff schedules to ECTEL for a formal review and recommendation.

4.2 ECTEL further recommends that the NTRC explicitly advises licensees that:

(a) unless an approved interconnection agreement is due to expire or is in the process of being renegotiated, interconnecting parties **are not required to submit new proposed interconnection agreements;**

(b) parties are required to submit revised tariff schedules only, clearly referencing the appropriate legal framework;

¹ “Where an interconnection agreement is negotiated before the Commission determines any rates, or where, after the conclusion of an interconnection agreement, the Commission establishes new rates for interconnection for any reason, the interconnection agreement shall be amended by the parties to comply with the rates as may subsequently be determined or established,” per section 12(3), Interconnection Regulations, No. 60 of 2008, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

- (c) ECTEL recommends changes **only to the tariff schedules of existing agreements**, in order to ensure currently approved interconnection agreements comply with the legislated requirement to contain “cost-oriented” rates;
- (d) as it relates to the duration of currently approved agreements, any directions to amend tariff schedules shall not affect the agreement in any other regard;
- (e) save for regulator mandated reductions of agreed rates, all currently approved interconnection agreements shall remain unchanged; and parties’ rights under such agreements shall remain unaffected;
- (f) agreements due to expire, for example, in one year or two years, do not need to be re-negotiated or re-submitted to ECTEL for review until three (3) months prior to their expiration, as stipulated by section 34 of the Interconnection Regulations; and
- (g) all rights and obligations outlined in current agreements remain in force and are binding on the parties, unless otherwise directed by the Commission, acting on the recommendation of ECTEL, as a result of, for example, the outcome of a dispute or a lawful regulatory determination (unrelated to tariffs).

ECTEL April 13, 2018