



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET, N.W.
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DA 98-1872

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REALWORLD ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY REQUEST FOR WAIVER

PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

CC Docket No. 96-45

Released Date: September 17, 1998

Comment Date: October 2, 1998

Reply Comment Date: October 13, 1998

In the May 8, 1997 *Universal Service Report and Order*, the Commission directed all interstate telecommunications carriers, payphone providers, and others which provide interstate telecommunications service for a fee to contribute to the Universal Service Funds.¹ Carriers that provide only international telecommunications service are not required to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. By letter dated July 23, 1998, RealWorld Advanced Technology Inc. (RealWorld) requested that the Commission waive sections 54.705, 54.707, 54.709, 54.711, and

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 8776 (1997) (*Universal Service Order*), as corrected by *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Errata*, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 97-157 (rel. June 4, 1997), *consolidated appeal pending sub nom Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel v. FCC and USA*, No. 97-60421 (5th Cir. 1997); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45, 12 FCC Rcd 10095 (rel. July 10, 1997); *Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association Inc.*, *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket Nos. 97-21, 96-45, Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration, 12 FCC Rcd 18400 (1997), as corrected by *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Errata*, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 97-2477 (rel. Dec. 3, 1997); *Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association Inc.*, *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket Nos. 97-21, 96-45, Order on Reconsideration, Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 12 FCC Rcd 12444 (1997); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-160, Third Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 22485 (1997), as corrected by *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Erratum*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-160 (rel. Oct. 15, 1997); *Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.*, *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 97-21, Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket 97-21, 12 FCC Rcd 22423 (1997); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-24, Third Order on Reconsideration, 12 FCC Rcd 22801 (1997); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Access Charge Reform, Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers, Transport Rate Structure and Pricing, End User Common Line Charge*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 96-262, 94-1, 91-213, 95-72, Fourth Order on Reconsideration, 13 FCC Rcd 5318 (1997), as corrected by *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Errata*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 96-262, 94-1, 91-213, 95-72, DA 98-158 (rel. Jan 29, 1998), *appeal pending in Alenco Communications, Inc., et al. v. FCC and USA*, No. 98-60213 (5th Cir. 1998); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Fifth Order on Reconsideration and Fourth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 98-120 (rel. June 22, 1998); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Order and Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 98-160 (rel. July 17, 1998).

54.713 of the Commission's rules.² RealWorld is a reseller of international telecommunications service. RealWorld states that more than 99 percent of its calls originate and terminate abroad, and the remainder terminate in the United States. RealWorld seeks waiver of the rules in order to contribute directly to the Universal Service Fund, based only on the revenue from calls terminating in the United States.

Parties wishing to comment on RealWorld's Request for Waiver are directed to file the comments on or before **October 2, 1998**, to file reply comments on or before **October 13, 1998**, in accordance with section 1.415 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.415, and the procedures set forth below.

Procedure for Filing

All filings should reference: RealWorld Advanced Technology Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 96-45, and should include the DA number shown on this Public Notice. Interested parties must file an original and six copies of their comments with the Office of Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room 222, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Parties should send three copies of their comments to Sheryl Todd, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 2100 M. St, N.W., 8th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20554. Parties should send one copy of their comments to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Copies of documents filed with the Commission, including the RealWorld Advanced Technology Request for Waiver, may be obtained from the International Transcription Service, 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 857-3800. Documents are also available for review and copying at the FCC Reference Center, Room 239, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Parties may also file comments electronically via the Internet at: <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Only one copy of an electronic submission must be submitted. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service mailing address, and the lead docket number for this proceeding, which is Docket No. 96-45. Parties not submitting their comments via the Internet are also asked to submit their comments on diskette. Parties submitting diskettes should submit them to Sheryl Todd at the address noted above. Such a submission should be on a 3.5 inch diskette formatted in an IBM compatible format using WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows or compatible software. The diskette should be accompanied by a cover letter and should be submitted in "read only" mode. The diskette should be clearly labelled with the party's name, proceeding (including the lead docket number in this case, Docket No. 96-45, type of pleading (comment or reply comment)), date of submission, and the name of the electronic file on the diskette. Each diskette should contain only one party's pleadings, preferably in a single electronic file. In addition, parties must send copies to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which *ex parte* communications are permitted subject to disclosure.

² See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.705, 54.707, 54.709, 54.711, and 54.713.

For further information, contact Sheryl Todd or Linda P. Armstrong, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484, or via e-mail: stodd@fcc.gov or larmstro@fcc.gov.

-- Action by Accounting Policy Division --