



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
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DA 17-674  
July 13, 2017

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN  
ASSETS OF GLOBAL CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA  
BY TELE CIRCUIT NETWORK CORPORATION**

**NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED**

**WC Docket No. 17-170**

**Comments Due: July 27, 2017**

**Reply Comments Due: August 3, 2017**

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment from interested parties on an application filed by Global Connection Inc. of America (GCIOA) and Tele Circuit Network Corporation (Tele Circuit) (collectively, Applicants), pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 63.03 of the Commission's rules, requesting approval for the transfer of certain wireline customers of GCIOA to Tele Circuit.<sup>1</sup>

GCIOA, a Georgia corporation, provides prepaid wireline local exchange and long distance services to residential customers in 26 states.<sup>2</sup> GCIOA is also designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to provide Lifeline services to low-income consumers on a wireline basis in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. GCIOA is a wholly owned subsidiary of Global Holdings, a Georgia corporation, which does not itself provide telecommunications services but serves as a holding company for GCIOA.

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<sup>1</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 214; 47 CFR § 63.03. GCIOA is a party to another Section 214 application pending at the Commission in which it requests approval to transfer control of the company to Odin Mobile, LLC. See *Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of Global Connection Inc. of America to Odin Mobile, LLC*, WC Docket No. 17-54, Public Notice, DA 17-25 (WCB Mar. 15, 2017); *Notice of Removal of Domestic Section 214 Application from Streamline Treatment*, WC Docket No. 17-54, Public Notice, DA 17-304 (WCB Mar. 30, 2017). On July 5, 2017, Applicants filed a supplement to their domestic Section 214 application in WC Docket No. 17-170. See Letter from Lance J.M. Steinhart, Counsel to Applicants, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 17-170 (filed July 5, 2017) (explaining the relationship between the applications filed by GCIOA in WC Docket Nos. 17-54 and 17-170).

<sup>2</sup> Applicants attach as Exhibit A to their application a list of the 26 states in which GCIOA provides local and interexchange services. GCIOA also provides wireless services and is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to provide Lifeline services in 23 states and Puerto Rico. Applicants attach as Exhibit B a chart of the current corporate structure of GCIOA, including all entities and individuals holding a 10 percent greater equity or voting interest in GCIOA.

Tele Circuit, a Georgia corporation, provides competitive local exchange and/or interexchange telecommunications services in 15 states.<sup>3</sup> Tele Circuit is also designated as an ETC to provide Lifeline services on a wireline basis in Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Applicants state that Tele Circuit is wholly owned by Ashar Syed, a U.S. citizen, and that no other entity or individual directly or indirectly holds any ownership interests in Tele Circuit.

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, GCIOA intends to transfer its prepaid wireline customers located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas to Tele Circuit. Applicants state that these customers currently receive local exchange and intrastate/interstate long distance services from GCIOA and that, post-consummation, Tele Circuit will provide services to these customers pursuant to its own authorizations.<sup>4</sup> Applicants assert that this transaction is in the public interest because Tele Circuit will provide the same level of service to these customers as previously delivered by GCIOA and subject to the same rates. Although Applicants request streamline processing, due to the public interest review associated with this proceeding, the application is not subject to streamline treatment.<sup>5</sup>

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Acquisition of Certain Assets of  
Global Connection Inc. of America by Tele Circuit Network Corporation,  
WC Docket No. 17-170 (filed June 19, 2017).

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The application referenced herein has been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing as a non-streamlined application. The Commission reserves the right to return any transfer application if, upon further examination, it is determined to be defective and not in conformance with the Commission's rules and policies. Pursuant to Section 63.03(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 63.03(a), interested parties may file comments **on or before July 27, 2017**, and reply comments **on or before August 3, 2017**. Pursuant to Section 63.52 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 63.52, commenters must serve a copy of comments on the Applicants no later than the above comment filing date.

Pursuant to Section 63.03 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 63.03, parties to this proceeding should file any documents using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS): <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.

**In addition, e-mail one copy of each pleading to each of the following:**

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<sup>3</sup> Applicants attach as Exhibit C to their application a list of the 15 states in which Tele Circuit provides local exchange and/or interexchange services.

<sup>4</sup> Applicants state that about one third of these customers currently receive Lifeline services through GCIOA and that, post-consummation, the majority of these customers will receive these benefits through Tele Circuit. In the states in which Tele Circuit currently lacks the respective state authorizations (*i.e.*, Mississippi, and ETC designations in Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Texas), Applicants propose that the transfer of these Lifeline customers will be delayed until Tele Circuit receives its own authorizations. Applicants state that during this interim period, these customers will continue to receive service from GCIOA.

<sup>5</sup> See 47 CFR § 63.03(c)(1).

- 1) Myrva Charles, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, [myrva.charles@fcc.gov](mailto:myrva.charles@fcc.gov);
- 2) Gregory Kwan, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, [gregory.kwan@fcc.gov](mailto:gregory.kwan@fcc.gov);
- 3) Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel, [jim.bird@fcc.gov](mailto:jim.bird@fcc.gov);

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), 1-888-835-5322 (tty).

The proceeding in this Notice shall be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules. Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter’s written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b), 47 CFR § 1.1206(b). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.

For further information, please contact Myrva Charles at (202) 418-1506 or Gregory Kwan at (202) 418-1191.

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