



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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**APPLICATION GRANTED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF
GLOBAL CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA
TO ODIN MOBILE, LLC**

WC Docket No. 17-54

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants the application filed by Global Connection Holdings Corporation (Global Holdings), Global Connection Inc. of America (GCIOA), and Odin Mobile, LLC (Odin Mobile) pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act) and sections 63.03-04 of the Commission's rules,¹ requesting approval to transfer control of GCIOA to Odin Mobile.² The Bureau received no comments in opposition to a grant of the Application.³

Global Holdings does not itself provide telecommunications services but serves as a holding company that wholly owns GCIOA.⁴ GCIOA provides competitive wireline local exchange and long

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 214; 47 CFR § 63.03-04.

² Domestic Section 214 Application to Transfer Control of Global Connection Inc. of America to Odin Mobile, LLC (filed Feb. 22, 2017) (Application). On March 15, 2017, the Bureau established a streamlined pleading cycle and requested comments related to the Application. *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, 32 FCC Rcd 1905 (WCB Mar. 15, 2017). On March 30, 2017, the Bureau removed the Application from streamlined treatment for further consideration of the proposed transaction. *Notice of Removal of Domestic Section 214 Application from Streamlined Treatment*, WC Docket No. 17-54, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 2124 (WCB Mar. 30, 2017). On March 13, 2017, April 16, 2018, and April 30, 2018, Applicants filed supplements to their Application. Applicants also filed applications for the transfer of authorizations associated with international services. *See International Authorizations Granted, Section 214 Applications (47 C.F.R. § 63.18); Section 310(B) Requests*, Report, 32 FCC Rcd 3019 (IB Apr. 13, 2017). Any action on this domestic section 214 application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related, pending applications.

³ GCIOA is a party to another domestic section 214 application pending at the Commission in which it requests approval to transfer control of GCIOA's prepaid wireline customers to Tele Circuit Network Corporation. *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, Public Notice, 32 FCC Rcd 5581 (WCB 2017) (GCIOA/Tele Circuit Application); *see* Letter from Lance J.M. Steinhart, Counsel, 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).

⁴ Global Holdings is ultimately majority owned by Milestone Partners, a U.S.-based private equity entity.

distance services to residential customers in 26 states and is designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to provide Lifeline services to low-income consumers on a wireline basis in 12 states.⁵ While the GCIOA/Tele Circuit Application remains pending, Applicants have clarified that there have been no material changes to the description of GCIOA's wireline business to be included within the scope of the proposed transaction.⁶

Odin Mobile provides prepaid wireless telecommunications services on a resale basis in 49 states and Puerto Rico.⁷ Applicants state that the proposed transaction is a stock purchase agreement in which Odin Mobile will acquire 75 percent of the stock of GCIOA, which will become a majority owned direct subsidiary of Odin Mobile.⁸ Mr. Paul Greene, a U.S. citizen, owns 99 percent of Odin Mobile.⁹ Applicants further state that Global Holdings will retain a 25 percent minority interest in GCIOA.¹⁰

The Bureau finds, upon consideration of the record, that the proposed transfer will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity and, therefore, grants the requested authorization.¹¹ Pursuant to section 1.103 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.103, the consent granted herein is effective upon the release of the Public Notice. For purposes of computation of time when filing a petition for

⁵ Application at 3-4. GCIOA also provides wireless service in 25 states and Puerto Rico. Letter from John T. Heitmann and Joshua T. Guyan, Counsel for Applicants, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 17-54, at 1 (filed Apr. 16, 2018) (Applicants April 16 *Ex Parte* Letter).

⁶ Letter from John T. Heitmann and Joshua T. Guyan, Counsel for Applicants, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 17-54, at 1 (filed Apr. 30, 2018).

⁷ Applicants April 16 *Ex Parte* Letter at 2.

⁸ Application at 7-8.

⁹ *Id.* at 5.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 7-8.

¹¹ *Implementation of Further Streamlining Measures for Domestic Section 214 Authorizations*, CC Docket No. 01-150, Report and Order, 17 FCC Rcd 5517, 5529, para. 22, 5533, para. 30 (2002). Odin Mobile has acknowledged and agreed to comply with "all requirements set forth in Global Connection's consent decree with the Commission adopted on December 22, 2017." Applicants April 16 *Ex Parte* Letter at 5 (citing *Global Connection Inc. of America d/b/a Stand Up Wireless*, File No. EB-IHD-13-00010970, Order, FCC 17-175 (Dec. 29, 2017) (*GCIOA Order and Consent Decree*) (adopting a Consent Decree with GCIOA to resolve the Commission's investigation into whether GCIOA violated rules regulating its receipt of support from the Lifeline program of the Universal Service Fund)). Upon consummation of the proposed transaction, Odin Mobile is bound by GCIOA's required plan addressing future compliance with the Commission's Lifeline rules. *GCIOA Consent Decree* at paras. 14, 26 (outlining the requirements of the compliance plan contained in the Consent Decree and stating that the provisions of the Consent Decree shall be binding on the successors, assigns, and transferees of Global Connections Inc. of America d/b/a Stand Up Wireless, including its affiliates, subsidiaries, predecessors-in-interest, and successors-in-interest). Applicants state that GCIOA has changed its management team since the filing of the Application, including adding a new Chief Operating Officer and Compliance Officer. Applicants April 16 *Ex Parte* Letter at 4. A grant of the Application is without prejudice to any potential enforcement action by the Commission for non-compliance with the Act or the Commission's rules. On April 16, 2018, GCIOA also submitted to the Bureau an amended plan designed to ensure GCIOA's future compliance with the Commission's Lifeline rules and requirements. Commission approval of that plan is pending. Letter from John J. Heitmann, Counsel to Applicants, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42, (filed Apr. 16, 2018).

reconsideration or application for review, or for judicial review of the Commission's decision, the date of "public notice" shall be the release date of this notice.¹²

For further information, please contact Gregory Kwan, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, (202) 418-1193.

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¹² 47 CFR § 1.4 (Computation of time).