



PUBLIC NOTICE

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DA 26-246
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**DOMESTIC 214 APPLICATION GRANTED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF
EPIC TOUCH CO., INC. AND ELKHART TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.
TO IDEATEK TELECOM, LLC**

WC Docket No. 25-301

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants, as conditioned, an application filed by the Bob Boaldin Revocable Trust, Dian Boaldin Revocable Trust, Bob Boaldin Irrevocable Epic Trust, and Dian Boaldin Irrevocable Epic Trust (collectively, the Trusts) and IdeaTek Telecom, LLC (IdeaTek, together with the Trusts, Applicants), pursuant to section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and section 63.04 of the Federal Communication Commission's (Commission) rules,¹ requesting consent for the transfer of control of Epic Touch Co., Inc. (Epic Touch) and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Elkhart Telephone Company, Inc. (Elkhart), from the Trusts to IdeaTek.²

On January 13, 2026, the Bureau released a public notice seeking comment on the Application.³ We did not receive comments or petitions in opposition to the Application.

The Trusts, all organized under the laws of Alaska, wholly own Epic Touch, a Kansas corporation and holding company that does not provide domestic telecommunications services.⁴ Epic Touch wholly owns Elkhart, also a Kansas corporation, that provides service as a rural incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) in and around the community of Elkhart, Kansas, which also includes a small portion of northwest Oklahoma.⁵

IdeaTek, a Kansas limited liability company, provides interstate and intrastate local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services, along with broadband services, to residences and businesses

¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a); 47 CFR § 63.04.

² Domestic Section 214 Application for the Transfer of Control of Epic Touch Co., Inc. and Elkhart Telephone Company to IdeaTek, WC Docket No. 25-301 (filed Sept. 29, 2025) (Application). On December 18, 2025, Applicants filed a supplement to the Application. Letter from Stephen E. Coran, Counsel for IdeaTek Telecom, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 25-301 (filed Dec. 18, 2025) (Supplement). Any action on the domestic 214 application is without prejudice to Commission action on other related applications.

³ *Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of Epic Touch Co. Inc. and Elkhart Telephone Company, Inc. to IdeaTek Telecom, LLC*, WC Docket No. 25-301, Public Notice, DA 26-45 (WCB 2026).

⁴ Application at 2.

⁵ *Id.* Applicants state that Elkhart is designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) and that it receives Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support (CAF-BLS) and High-Cost Loop Support (HCLS) (both forms of legacy support). *Id.* at 2 and 9; see also *id.* at 14 (indicating that Elkhart receives this support for its Kansas Study Area Code 411764); Supplement at 1 (Elkhart also provides service in Oklahoma). Applicants state that, due to the de minimis area served, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission does not regulate Elkhart's services, and neither Epic Touch nor Elkhart receives high-cost support for any area of Oklahoma. Supplement at 1.

in rural Kansas and Missouri, via fiber optic and fixed wireless technologies.⁶ IdeaTek is directly, wholly owned by IdeaTek Holdings, LLC (IT Holdings), a Kansas limited liability and holding company, which, in turn, is directly wholly owned by LDI, a Delaware limited liability company and investment fund.⁷ LDI is indirectly and wholly owned by Last Dance Holdings, L.P. (Last Dance Holdings), a Delaware limited partnership and investment fund.⁸ Last Dance Holdings is primarily owned and controlled by funds and entities affiliated with Oak Hill Capital Management (Oak Hill)⁹ and Pamlico Capital Management (Pamlico), which are private equity funds based in the United States.¹⁰ Applicants state that the equity in the Oak Hill and Pamlico funds is held through passive limited (and insulated) partnership interests held by numerous, primarily U.S.-based investors, including individuals, trusts, institutions, and business entities, and that control of these funds ultimately rests in U.S.-organized entities or citizens.¹¹

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, IdeaTek will acquire all of the outstanding voting and equity interests in Epic Touch. Applicants assert, upon consummation of the proposed transaction, Elkhart will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of IdeaTek and an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Last Dance Intermediate III, LLC (LDI), a Delaware limited liability company, that is primarily owned and controlled by funds and entities affiliated with Oak Hill and Pamlico.¹²

Applicants assert that the proposed transaction is in the public interest, convenience, and necessity.¹³ Applicants state that Elkhart will benefit from the financial and operational expertise under IdeaTek's ownership and that IdeaTek seeks to build on Elkhart's existing network, support investment in new infrastructure, and continue to offer innovative and high-quality services to customers.¹⁴ Applicants

⁶ Applicants state that IdeaTek operates primarily in Kansas, where it is authorized to provide local exchange and interexchange services and is designated as an ETC. *Id.* at 3. IdeaTek is also authorized to provide local exchange, interexchange, and interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol services in Missouri. *Id.* IdeaTek also holds approximately 75 wireless non-common carrier licenses issued by the Commission. *Id.* Applicants state that IdeaTek currently receives CAF Phase II Auction (CAF Phase II) support and Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) support. *Id.* at 3-4 and 9.

⁷ *Id.* at 13.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Application at 13; *see also* Supplement (Revised Current Ownership Structure of IdeaTek Telecom, LLC) at 2; Application, Exh. B (Post-Transaction Ownership Structure) at 5-6. Applicants provide information on various providers of domestic telecommunications services that are affiliates of Last Dance Holdings and Oak Hill. Application at 13-16.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 13.

¹¹ *Id.* Following the consummation of the proposed transaction, the following Delaware entities and U.S. citizens will hold a 10% or greater interest in Last Dance Holdings: (1) OHDOP Last Dance Aggregator, L.P. (OHDOP Last Dance Aggregator) (approximately 41.03% equity and voting); (2) Pamlico Last Dance Aggregator, L.P. (Pamlico Last Dance Aggregator) (approximately 32.24% equity and voting); and (3) George A. Pfenenger (approximately 12.82% equity and voting). Supplement (Revised Current Ownership Structure of IdeaTek Telecom, LLC) at 4. The general partner of Last Dance Holdings will be Last Dance Holdings GP, LLC, in which OHDOP Last Dance Aggregator and Pamlico Last Dance Aggregator will each hold 50% of the voting and equity interest. *Id.* OHDOP Last Dance Aggregator is ultimately held by Scott A. Baker, Brian N. Cherry, Benjamin Diesbach, Stratton R. Heath, III, John R. Monsky, Steven G. Puccinelli, and Tyler J. Wolfman, each of whom are U.S. citizens. Application, Exh. B at 9. Pamlico Last Dance Aggregator is ultimately held by Scott B. Perper, L. Watts Hamrick III, Frederick W. Eubank II, Arthur C. Roselle, Scott R. Stevens, Walker C. Simmons, and Eric J. Wilkins, all U.S. citizens. *Id.*, Exh. B at 10.

¹² Application at 4. Applicants state that, in addition to the transfer of control and in connection with the proposed transaction, Elkhart will convert to a Kansas limited liability company immediately before closing, and Epic Touch will convert to a Delaware limited liability company immediately after closing. *Id.* at 1-2.

¹³ *Id.* at 5-8.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 6-7.

further assert that the proposed transaction “will not result in any changes to management, technology, debt, or other matters that would compromise the support recipients’ ability to meet their service obligations under the high-cost and Lifeline programs, as well as other responsibilities as an ETC designee or under the Commission’s rules and the Communications Act.”¹⁵ Applicants assert that the proposed transaction will have no adverse impact on the customers or operations of Elkhart nor result in service disruption, contract termination, or customer confusion.¹⁶ Applicants also assert that, post-consummation, Elkhart plans to continue to provide its services at the same rates, terms, and conditions, as governed by existing contracts, as applicable, without changes to service offerings, billing or other aspects of service to current customers.¹⁷ Accordingly, Applicants affirm that the proposed transaction is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.¹⁸

Applicants request approval to consummate a transaction involving companies that receive high-cost universal service support under the different support mechanisms of fixed support and cost-based support (a mixed support transaction).¹⁹ Elkhart receives legacy support as a cost company and IdeaTek receives both CAF Phase II support and RDOF support; in addition, through Oak Hill, IdeaTek is affiliated with many other carriers receiving different types of fixed high-cost support.²⁰ The Commission has found that this type of mixed support transaction could result in potential harm to its goal of ensuring that limited universal service funding is distributed efficiently and effectively.²¹ When a company receiving a fixed level of support acquires or is acquired by a cost company, the combined companies could, and in some instances are likely to, shift costs from the fixed support company to the cost

¹⁵ *Id.* at 7.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.* at 5-8.

¹⁹ This transaction does not involve Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric locations where one party to the transaction receives high-cost support and the other party to the transaction already makes fixed broadband service available at 100/20 Mbps or greater.

²⁰ See *supra* note 5; see also Application at 15-17; Supplement at 1-2 (stating that other affiliates of IdeaTek receive fixed support); High Cost Support Projected by State by Study Area - 2Q2026, <https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/fcc-filings/#results>.

²¹ *Joint Application of W. Mansfield Jennings Limited Partnership and Hargray Communications Group, Inc. for Consent to the Transfer of Control of ComSouth Corporation Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934*, WC Docket 18-52, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 4780, 4784, para. 19 (2018) (*Hargray/ComSouth Order*). Although, when granting 214 authority for a previous transaction, the Bureau determined that a newly created relationship between IdeaTek and a former cost-based support affiliate of Oak Hill qualified for the Commission’s *Dobson* exception to the Hargray/ComSouth condition, Ideatek has not sought the same exception with respect to its (or its affiliates) newly formed relationships with Elkhart, as per its current Application. See Application at 17-19 (acknowledging that the Hargray/ComSouth condition is triggered through this transaction); *Domestic 214 Application Granted for the Transfer of Control of Ideatek Telcom, LLC to Last Dance Intermediate III, LLC*, WC Docket No. 25-129, Public Notice, DA 25-389, n.15 (WCB 2025) (determining that the Last Dance Intermediate II could not engage in improper cost shifting between Ideatek and its post-transaction cost-based support affiliate and a former cost-based affiliate of Oak Hill); see also *Domestic 214 Application Granted for the Transfer of Control of Socket Telecom, LLC to Last Dance Intermediate II, LLC*, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 25-7, Public Notice, DA 25-221, n.16 (WCB 2025) (determining that the Last Dance Intermediate II could not engage in improper cost shifting between Socket Telecom and the only post-transaction cost-based affiliate of Oak Hill); see *Domestic Section 214 Application for the Transfer of Control of Lavaca Telephone Company, Inc. to Dobson Technologies Inc.*, Order on Reconsideration, WC Docket No. 20-389, 36 FCC Rcd 8859, 8864, para. 14 (2021) (stating that the Bureau should “exclude specific affiliates in a mixed support transaction from the [HargrayComSouth condition] if no potential public interest harm could occur because of the lack of majority control and common costs, cost sharing, and/or consolidation of financial accounts”).

company.²² If cost shifting were to occur, the combined company, post-transaction, could obtain more high-cost universal service support than the two companies did as separate entities, not because of any new investment, expense, or buildout, but rather solely because of the application of accounting procedures.²³ Such an outcome is inconsistent with the Commission's general expectation that transactions generate efficiencies that reduce the combined company's costs.²⁴ Moreover, providing additional universal service support to a company as a result of cost shifting solely because it acquired or merged with another company is not an efficient use of limited universal service resources.²⁵

In the *Hargray/ComSouth Order*, in which the Commission approved a mixed support transaction, it sought to prevent cost shifting and to protect the finite resources of the high-cost universal service fund by imposing a limited condition that capped high-cost universal service support based on the operating expenses of cost companies.²⁶ The Commission directed the Bureau to apply the *Hargray/ComSouth* condition where necessary to remedy a potential public interest harm caused by a mixed support transaction.²⁷ Accordingly, to mitigate the potential for cost shifting, we grant the Application subject to the condition adopted in the *Hargray/ComSouth Order*.²⁸ The combined operating expenses of all cost company affiliates (covered companies) and any future acquired cost company affiliates²⁹ shall be capped at the averaged combined operating expenses of the three calendar years preceding the transaction's closing date for which the operating expense data are available.³⁰ This cap

²² *Hargray/ComSouth Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 4785-86, para. 20.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.* at 4786, para. 21.

²⁶ *Id.* at 4788-90, paras. 26-31.

²⁷ *Id.* at 4789 n.72 (“We direct the Bureau to apply the condition where necessary to remedy a potential public interest harm caused by a mixed support transaction.”); *see also Domestic Section 214 Application for the Transfer of Control of Lavaca Telephone Company, Inc. to Dobson Technologies Inc.*, WC Docket No. 20-389, Order on Reconsideration, 36 FCC Rcd 8859, 8864, para. 14 (2021) (reaffirming the Commission's delegation to the Bureau to continue to apply the mixed support condition where necessary).

²⁸ *Hargray/ComSouth Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 4788-90, paras. 26-31. Several 214 transactions involving the Oak Hill affiliates and applying the *Hargray/ComSouth* condition have sunset as of the recent divestment of the only remaining Oak Hill affiliate receiving cost-based support, Climax Telephone Company d/b/a CTS Telecommunications, Inc. *Domestic Section 214 Application Granted for the Transfer of Control of Subsidiaries of Metronet Holdings, LLC to Metronet Systems Holdings, LLC*, WC Docket No. 24-244, Public Notice, DA 25-601 (WCB July 9, 2025) (transferring control of Climax and certain other 214 license holders from Metronet Holdings, an Oak Hill affiliate, to MetroNet Systems, a joint venture controlled and co-managed by T-Mobile USA, Inc. and indirectly, by KKR Metro Parent LLC, subject to the *Hargray/ComSouth* condition); *Hargray/ComSouth Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 4790, para. 29 (providing that the *Hargray/ComSouth* condition would sunset if all rate-of-return subsidiaries become model-based support companies at any point during the seven-year period). The following grant public notices imposed the *Hargray/ComSouth* condition based on Oak Hill's affiliation with Climax. *See Domestic 214 Application Granted for the Transfer of Control of Ideatek Telecom, LLC to Last Dance Intermediate III, LLC*, WC Docket No. 25-129, Public Notice, DA 25-389 (WCB May 6, 2025); *Domestic Section 214 Application Granted for the Transfer of Control of NTS Communications, LL d/b/a Vexus Fiber to Q-Comm Python Corporation*, WC Docket 22-58, Public Notice, 37 FCC Rcd 4808 (WCB 2022); *Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of Climax Telephone Company to MetroNet Systems Holdings, LLC*, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 21-377, 36 FCC Rcd 16151, 16151 n.4 (WCB 2021).

²⁹ *See* 47 U.S.C. § 153(2).

³⁰ The cap applies to cost recovery under both CAF-BLS and HCLS and will be applied proportionately to each affiliate's accounts used to determine the affiliate's eligible operating expense for HCLS and CAF-BLS. *Hargray/ComSouth Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 4788-89, paras. 27-28. The cap will apply to the combined operating expenses of cost company rate-of-return affiliates of the post-consummation company and any other existing rate-

(continued....)

shall remain in effect for seven years from the consummation of the transaction.³¹ The condition will sunset if all of a post-consummation company's rate-of-return affiliates become fixed support companies at any point during the seven-year period.³²

Grant of Application

We find, upon consideration of the record, that granting the Application, subject to compliance with the condition, will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.³³

Therefore, pursuant to section 214 of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 214, and sections 0.91, 0.291, 63.03, and 63.04 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, 63.03, and 63.04, the Bureau hereby grants the Application discussed in this Public Notice, subject to compliance with the condition described above.³⁴

Pursuant to section 1.103 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.103, the grant is effective upon release of this Public Notice. Petitions for reconsideration under section 1.106 or applications for review under section 1.115 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.106, 1.115, may be filed within 30 days of the date of this Public Notice.

of-return affiliates that it may acquire during the time in which the condition is in effect (together, covered entities). Further, any recipient of average schedule support that parties may acquire in the future will trigger the application of the *Hargray* condition anew if the average schedule company were to convert to cost company status. To allow for the monitoring of compliance with the *Hargray/ComSouth* condition, we direct the covered entities to submit their relevant cost data to the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), to the extent the entities do not already do so. We direct NECA to provide the dollar amount of the operating expense costs that will be capped pursuant to this Public Notice to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) within 30 days following submission of any covered entity's cost data. We further direct NECA to provide USAC with the reductions in CAF-BLS and HCLS for any covered entity pursuant to this Public Notice for each year following the effective date of this Public Notice. USAC shall validate all calculations received from NECA before making disbursements subject to any such support reductions. We also direct all covered entities to provide USAC with an annual certification of compliance on or before December 31 of each year for the duration of the condition. With the certification, each covered entity must also submit its latest audited financial statements to USAC, including all notes and consolidating statements, on an annual basis, by December 31 of each year. *Id.* at 4790, para. 31. The cap will apply to cost recovery under CAF-BLS and HCLS and will be applied proportionately to each affiliate's accounts used to determine the affiliate's eligible operating expense for CAF-BLS and for HCLS. For example, if the cap requires that a post-consummation company's eligible operating expense be reduced by 10%, then each account used to determine each rate-of-return affiliate's eligible operating expenses shall be reduced by 10%. For purposes of this cap, operating expenses shall include maintenance, network support/network operations/general, benefits, rent expenses, and corporate operations, while depreciation, return on investment, and taxes shall be excluded. *See id.* at 4789, para. 28. For all covered entities, the new cap shall also include an annual adjustment for inflation based on the Gross Domestic Product-Channel Price Index (GDP-CPI) for the years in which the new cap remains in effect. *Id.* at 4790, para. 30.

³¹ The Commission found seven years to be an appropriate period over which to monitor enforcement of the condition and to ensure that the combined entity, which will continue to receive support, does not shift costs from year-to-year. *Hargray/ComSouth Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 4789-90, para. 29 n.78.

³² *Hargray/ComSouth Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 4789-90, para. 29.

³³ *See* 47 U.S.C. § 214(a); 47 CFR § 63.03.

³⁴ We direct Applicants to submit in the domestic section 214 docket (WC Docket No. 25-301) a notice that the proposed transaction has closed with the consummation date and also provide a courtesy copy of the notice to hcinfo@usac.org. Applicants must also submit a copy of the consummation notice via email to Gregory.Kwan@fcc.gov and Nissa.Laughner@fcc.gov. These filings must be submitted within 30 days of the consummation.

For further information, please contact Gregory Kwan, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, (202) 418-1191; Nissa Laughner, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, (202) 418-1358.

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