

**REPORT ON FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF  
INTERCONNECTED VOICE OVER INTERNET  
PROTOCOL APPLICANTS**

**By  
The North American Numbering Council**

**June 29, 2017**

## Introduction and Background

In a letter from Kris Montieth, then Acting Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau (“Bureau”) to Betty Ann Kane, Chairman, North American Numbering Council (“NANC”), dated April 24, 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) indicated that the Bureau has received two applications for interconnected VoIP numbering authorization that present an issue involving foreign ownership. The Bureau noted that the Commission’s *Direct Access Order*<sup>1</sup> and Commission rules do not address foreign ownership of applicants for VoIP numbering authorization, nor are applicants required to include foreign ownership information in their applications.

The Bureau requested the NANC to identify and evaluate concerns that may be raised by foreign ownership of VoIP applicants seeking numbering authorization from the FCC, specifically directing the NANC to:

- (1) *Identify what issues foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers seeking to obtain numbering resources may present;*
- (2) *Provide information about NANC member experience with foreign-owned carriers obtaining telephone numbers from the NANP and/or use of those numbers outside the United States, and*
- (3) *Make specific recommendations about how to address foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers that seek to obtain numbers directly.*

The FCC requested the NANC to approve a written report on its findings on these issues at its June 29, 2017 meeting and to transmit that report to the Bureau on the same date. NANC Chairman Kane requested that the NANC’s Numbering Oversight Working Group (“NOWG”), with assistance from the ATIS’s Industry Numbering Committee (“INC”), conduct an assessment of the issues and prepare and submit a draft written report of its findings and any recommendations so that Chairman Kane could transmit it to the NANC membership no later than June 22, 2017.

The NOWG, after discussing the request with FCC staff to obtain additional information about the report, and then recognizing that the broader NANC membership and its Working Groups would likely have valuable input to the Commission’s specific work items, recommended to the Chairman that the request be sent to the NANC members, as well as the other NANC Working Groups, such as the Future of Numbering Working Group (“FoN WG”). The NOWG outlined three questions that the FoN WG might want to consider in providing input:

- *Are there concerns about NPA or NANP exhaust and the future of numbering should foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers obtain numbering resources from the US and its territories for use outside of the NANP?*
- *Are the foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers that have submitted applications partnering with US-based service providers today, and if so, are those partner service providers tracking the use of those resources?*
- *Are there any requirements that apply to foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers that don’t apply to other types of service providers?*

Chairman Kane sent the request with the NOWG questions to the FoN WG, requesting that the FoN WG work with the NOWG to produce a single draft report by June 22, 2017.

The FoN WG met on several occasions to discuss the request. The FoN WG reviewed the *Direct Access Order*, which generally provides a process for interconnected VoIP providers to obtain direct

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<sup>1</sup> See *Numbering Policies for Modern Communications et al.*, WC Docket No. 13-97 et al., Report and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 6839 (2015) “*Direct Access Order*”.

access to numbering resources in lieu of accessing resources indirectly via other providers (e.g. ILEC, CLEC, et al.). Specifically, the FoN WG reviewed what information must be submitted with such an application to the FCC and detailed the regulatory requirements that must be adhered to by the applicant in order to support ongoing stakeholder efforts to conserve numbering resources and other related numbering requirements.<sup>2</sup> The FoN WG also discussed and generally familiarized its Working Group members with the FCC's various Foreign Ownership Rules and Policies.<sup>3</sup>

The INC discussed the request, and indicated its willingness to support the NOWG, should assistance be requested by the NOWG.<sup>4</sup> The NOWG reviewed the FoN WG's input, along with input from the NANPA and the PA.<sup>5</sup> The NOWG focused its analysis on what issues specifically might arise if *foreign-owned* VoIP providers were granted direct access to numbers, where such issues might be unique to foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers versus "domestic" interconnected VoIP providers or other types of providers. This document is the combined effort of the above noted numbering groups.

## Issues Identification and Evaluation<sup>6</sup>

### **Work Item 1: Identify what issues foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers seeking to obtain numbering resources may present.**

#### **Response:**

As a general matter, a foreign-owned interconnected VoIP provider which has filed an application to the FCC for direct access to numbering resources may present some of the following issues or questions:

- Impacts to number conservation requirements and NANP exhaust<sup>7</sup>;
- Questions related to jurisdiction, oversight and enforcement of numbering rules, including area code relief, for-cause audits and reclamation practices;
- Potential additions and modifications to the roles and processes of the NANPA and PA;
- Impacts associated with NANP charges (e.g. Billing & Collection fund, Universal Service Fund, Local Number Portability);
- Consideration of assessment of taxes, fees, and surcharges upon foreign-owned entities; and
- Broad concerns regarding security and law enforcement to protect consumers and U.S. telecommunications network operations (e.g. legal compliance requests, Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) compliance)

The above list is not exhaustive and the NANC believes that there could be additional issues to be considered. Many of these issues, however, may be adequately covered under existing law, regulations, and policies.

The NANC also stresses the importance of foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers following all the same regulatory requirements and industry guidelines that interconnected VoIP provider applicants are required to follow, as outlined in the *Direct Access Order* and any other

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<sup>2</sup> Direct Access Order at ¶150, et seq.

<sup>3</sup> See associated FCC webpage, recently viewed at <https://www.fcc.gov/general/foreign-ownership-rules-and-policies>.

<sup>4</sup> See INC response in Exhibit 5.

<sup>5</sup> See the NANPA and PA response in Exhibit 4.

<sup>6</sup> The following "Work Item Responses" are intended to address both the items presented by the FCC to the NANC, and the questions put forth by the NOWG to the FoN WG.

<sup>7</sup> The NANC notes that such impacts stem from any new entrant and are not limited to foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers.

relevant Commission orders. For example, the following items outlined in paragraph 24 of the *Direct Access Order* require<sup>8</sup>:

*As part of the Commission authorization process, the applicant must:*

- *comply with applicable Commission rules related to numbering, including, among others, numbering utilization and optimization requirements (in particular, filing NRUF Reports); comply with guidelines and procedures adopted pursuant to numbering authority delegated to the states; and comply with industry guidelines and practices applicable to telecommunications carriers with regard to numbering;*
- *file requests for numbers with the relevant state commission(s) at least 30 days before requesting numbers from the Numbering Administrators;*
- *provide contact information for personnel qualified to address issues relating to regulatory requirements, compliance, 911, and law enforcement;*
- *provide proof of compliance with the Commission's "facilities readiness" requirement in section 52.15(g)(2) of the rules;*
- *certify that the applicant complies with its Universal Service Fund (USF) contribution obligations under 47 C.F.R. part 54, subpart H, its Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) contribution obligations under 47 C.F.R. § 64.604(c)(5)(iii), its NANP and local number portability (LNP) administration contribution obligations under 47 C.F.R. §§ 52.17 and 52.32, its obligations to pay regulatory fees under 47 C.F.R. § 1.1154, and its 911 obligations under 47 C.F.R. part 9; and*
- *certify that the applicant has the requisite technical, managerial, and financial capacity to provide service. This certification must include the name of the applicant's key management and technical personnel, such as the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Technology Officer, or equivalent, and state that none of the identified personnel are being or have been investigated by the Commission or any law enforcement or regulatory agency for failure to comply with any law, rule, or order.*

**Work Item 2: Provide information about NANC member experience with foreign-owned carriers obtaining telephone numbers from the NANP and/or use of those numbers outside the United States.**

**Response:**

The NANC has identified the following information and experiences which may be useful to the FCC's considerations:

- The current practice of NANPA and PA is that non-U.S. OCNs<sup>9</sup> are not entered in the NANP Administration System (NAS) or Pooling Administration System (PAS). Thus, a foreign-owned service provider requires some US presence for this purpose.
- Previous requests by foreign-owned entities to the NANPA for access to numbering resources have abandoned those efforts when apprised of regulatory requirements.
- U.S. telecommunications providers, with certain levels of disclosed foreign-ownership, have been vetted, approved and may be required to adhere to applicable security-related requirements.
- While the concern is not unique to interconnected VoIP services, the use or misuse of NANP resources outside of the U.S. and any costs to U.S. consumers would be of significant concern. The FCC should consider whether to condition and monitor such activities to prevent any unintended consequences, including fraud where relevant.

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<sup>8</sup> See also 47 CFR § 52.15 (g)(3)(iv)

<sup>9</sup> i.e., Operating Company Number (OCN) with a non-U.S. based mailing address.

Again, many of these issues may be adequately covered under existing law, regulations, and policies. Further, the NANC has no information to indicate that foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers would use U.S. numbers any differently than U.S.-owned interconnected VoIP providers or other service providers.

The use of domestic telephone numbers outside of the United States exclusively may accelerate exhaust of the NANP, but such use does not appear to be an issue exclusive to foreign-owned carriers. Today domestic numbers may be used outside the U.S. in situations such as international wireless roaming, calling over Wi-Fi, and nomadic VoIP. Such uses should not be restricted because customers have come to know and rely upon such services.

### **Work Item 3: Make specific recommendations about how to address foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers that seek to obtain numbers directly.**

#### **Response:**

The NANC recommends the FCC consider vetting non-numbering related concerns (e.g., call completion requirements, Caller ID or anti-spoofing provisions) before granting foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers authority to obtain numbering resources directly from the NANPA or the PA. In doing so, it should consider whether the concerns underlying its various Foreign Ownership Rules and Policies are relevant to foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers that seek to obtain numbers directly from the NANPA and the PA. The NANC believes that such consideration by the FCC would assist with addressing the issues noted herein.

With regards to numbering concerns, the NANC recommends that foreign-owned interconnected VoIP provider applicants follow all the same regulatory requirements and industry guidelines that other interconnected VoIP provider applicants are required to follow. For example, interconnected VoIP provider applicants requesting authorization to obtain numbers directly are required to provide contact information for its personnel qualified to address issues relating to regulatory requirements, compliance with the Commission's rules, 911 and law enforcement.<sup>10</sup> The NANC recommends, regardless of whether the interconnected VoIP provider applicant is domestic or foreign-owned<sup>11</sup>, that such personnel be available during normal U.S. business hours, and reachable at a NANP telephone number. This should help avoid delays in the resolution of issues or inquiries because of time zone differences.

## **Exhibits**

- Exhibit 1 – April 24, 2017 FCC WCB Letter to NANC Chairman Kane
- Exhibit 2 – April 25, 2017 Chairman Kane E-mail to NOWG and INC Co-Chairs
- Exhibit 3 – May 18, 2017 NOWG E-mail to Chairman Kane
- Exhibit 4 – May 25, 2017 NANPA and PA E-mail to NOWG
- Exhibit 5 – June 2, 2017 INC Letter to NOWG

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<sup>10</sup> 47 CFR § 52.15 (g)(3)(i)(A)

<sup>11</sup> As defined by the FCC.

## Exhibit 1 – April 24, 2017 FCC WCB Letter to NANC Chairman Kane

April 24, 2017

Honorable Betty Ann Kane, Chairman  
Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia  
1333 H Street, N.W., West Tower 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Foreign Ownership of Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Applicants

Dear Chairman Kane,

As you are aware, pursuant to the Commission's *Direct Access Order*,<sup>12</sup> the Commission now has in place a process to grant authorization to interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers to obtain numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators. As part of that process, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) has received two applications for interconnected VoIP numbering authorization that present an issue involving foreign ownership. The *Direct Access Order* and Commission rules do not address foreign ownership of applicants for VoIP numbering authorization and applicants are not required to include foreign ownership information in their applications.

The Bureau is interested in further exploring any concerns that may be raised by foreign ownership of VoIP applicants seeking numbering authorization from the Commission. We believe the North American Numbering Council (NANC) is well-suited to identify and evaluate these issues. Thus, we direct the NANC to:

- (1) identify what issues foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers seeking to obtain numbering resources may present;
- (2) provide information about NANC member experience with foreign-owned carriers obtaining telephone numbers from the NANP and/or use of those numbers outside the United States, and
- (3) make specific recommendations about how to address foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers that seek to obtain numbers directly.

We further direct the NANC to approve a written report on its findings on these issues at its June 29, 2017 meeting and to transmit that report to the Bureau on the same date. If you have questions about the Bureau's referral, please contact Marilyn Jones, the NANC's Designated Federal Officer, by telephone at 418-2357, or by email at [marilyn.jones@fcc.gov](mailto:marilyn.jones@fcc.gov).

Sincerely,

Kris Anne Monteith  
Acting Chief  
Wireline Competition Bureau, FCC

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<sup>12</sup> See *Numbering Policies for Modern Communications et al.*, WC Docket No. 13-97 et al., Report and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 6839 (2015) (*Direct Access Order*).

## Exhibit 2 – April 25, 2017 Chairman Kane E-mail to NOWG and INC Co-Chairs

**From:** Hinton, Cary (PSC) [<mailto:CHinton@psc.dc.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2017 2:41 PM

**To:** Dalton, Laura R; 'Karen Riepenkroger'; Adams, Dyan K; Connie Hartman

**Cc:** Carmell Weathers; 'Alfred Lee'; 'Amy Putnam'; 'Ann Berkowitz'; Ann Stevens; Benjamin Aron; 'Beth Carnes'; 'Beth Choroser'; 'Beth O'Donnell'; 'Betty Sanders'; 'Bill Mason'; Bill Reilly ([bill.reilly@us.pwc.com](mailto:bill.reilly@us.pwc.com)); 'Brendan Kasper'; Brian Ford; 'Brian Lynott'; 'Carolee Hall'; 'Christopher Shipley'; 'Courtney Neville'; Cullen Robbins; 'Daniel Stromsland'; 'David Greenhaus'; Lawrence, Dawn; Tucker, Deborah (TN LNP); 'Don Gray'; 'Doug Davis'; Douglas Pratt; Erik Chuss; 'Garth Steele'; 'Gina Perini'; Greg Chiasson; 'Greg Rogers'; 'Helen Mickiewicz'; 'Henry G. Hultquist'; Kane, Betty Ann (PSC); Hon. Crystal Rhoades; Hon. Karen C. Peterson; 'Hon. Paul Kjellander'; Hon. Scott Rupp; Indra Sehdev Chalk; Jackie Voss; 'Jeffrey S. Lanning'; Jeffrey Steinberg; Jennifer Salhus; 'Jerome Candelaria'; 'Jim Lundeen'; 'Joel Bernstein'; 'John Manning'; 'Jose Jimenez' ([jose.jimenez@cox.com](mailto:jose.jimenez@cox.com)); 'Joseph Cabrera'; 'Karen Reidy'; Kathleen Bakke; 'Kim Wardle'; 'Linda Peterman'; 'Lisa Jill Freeman'; 'Lisa Youngers'; Lynn Slaby ([lynn.slaby@puc.state.oh.us](mailto:lynn.slaby@puc.state.oh.us)); Marilyn Jones; 'Mark Jackson'; 'Mark Lancaster'; 'Matthew Gerst'; 'Michael Riddile'; Michael Scott; 'Michel Murray'; 'Michele K. Thomas'; Michelle Sclater; Nina Gates; 'Paula Jordan'; Rebecca Beaton; Rebecca Murphy Thompson; Richard Shockey; 'Robert McCausland'; Morse, Robert Grant; 'Rosemary Emmer'; 'Sandra Jones'; 'Sandra Merrick'; Sanford Williams; 'Scott Freiermuth'; Scott Seab; 'Shaunna Forshee'; 'Stephen Pastorkovich'; Suzanne M. Addington; Suzanne Smith; 'Thomas Navin'; 'Thomas Pearson'; 'Thomas Soroka, Jr.'; 'Tim Decker'; 'Timothy Kagele'; 'Tom Goode'; 'Valerie Cardwell'; Wayne Jortner; Newkirk, Wendy (PSC)

**Subject:** [E] Referral to the NANC

Hello Laura, Karen, Dyan, and Connie:

On behalf of Chairman Kane, please see the following emails and attachment.

Thank You,

Cary

### **Cary B. Hinton**

Policy Advisor to the Chairman

Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia

1325 G Street, NW

Suite 800

Washington, D.C. 20005

O: 202-626-9186

C: 202-731-3204

Hello Laura, Karen, Dyan and Connie:

Yesterday, I received a referral to the NANC from the FCC regarding potential issues related to foreign owned interconnected VoIP service providers that are seeking the FCC's authorization for direct access to numbering resources (see attachment and following email). The FCC has specifically directed the NANC to:

- (1) Identify what issues foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers seeking to obtain numbering resources may present;
- (2) Provide information about NANC member experience with foreign-owned carriers obtaining telephone numbers from the NANP and/or use of those numbers outside the United States, and
- (3) Make specific recommendations about how to address foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers that seek to obtain numbers directly.

The FCC has further directed: "the NANC to approve a written report on its findings on these issues at its June 29, 2017 meeting and to transmit that report to the Bureau on the same date".

Accordingly, I request that the NANC's Numbering Oversight Working Group, with assistance from the ATIS's Industry Numbering Committee, conduct an assessment of the foregoing issues and prepare a written report of its findings and any recommendations for action by the NANC at the June 29, 2017 meeting. In order to assist the NANC members' review of the NOWG's report I request that you provide me with a draft copy of the report that I can transmit to the NANC membership no later than June 22, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact my Policy Advisor, Cary Hinton @ [chinton@psc.dc.gov](mailto:chinton@psc.dc.gov) or 202-626-9186.

Sincerely,

Betty Ann Kane

Chairman

North American Numbering Council

**From:** Michelle Sclater [<mailto:Michelle.Sclater@fcc.gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2017 12:02 PM

**To:** Kane, Betty Ann (PSC)

**Cc:** Hinton, Cary (PSC); Kris Monteith; Daniel Kahn; Ann Stevens; Sanford Williams; Marilyn Jones; Carmell Weathers

**Subject:** Referral to the NANC

Hon. Chairman Kane,

Attached please find a referral to the NANC regarding foreign ownership of VoIP applicants seeking numbering authorization from the Commission. We believe the North American Numbering Council (NANC) is well-suited to identify and evaluate these issues. We direct the NANC to approve a written report on its findings on these issues at its June 29, 2017 meeting and to transmit that report to the Bureau on the same date.

Sincerely,

Michelle M. Sclater  
Attorney Advisor/ADFO  
Competition Policy Division  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554  
Direct dial--202-418-0388  
[Michelle.Sclater@fcc.gov](mailto:Michelle.Sclater@fcc.gov)

## Exhibit 3 – May 18, 2017 NOWG E-mail to Chairman Kane

**From:** Riepenkroger, Karen S [CTO]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 18, 2017 2:30 PM  
**To:** Hon. Betty Ann Kane ([BAKane@psc.dc.gov](mailto:BAKane@psc.dc.gov)) ([BAKane@psc.dc.gov](mailto:BAKane@psc.dc.gov)) <[BAKane@psc.dc.gov](mailto:BAKane@psc.dc.gov)>; 'Cary B. Hinton' <[chinton@psc.dc.gov](mailto:chinton@psc.dc.gov)>  
**Cc:** Dalton, Laura R ([laura.r.dalton@verizon.com](mailto:laura.r.dalton@verizon.com)) <[laura.r.dalton@verizon.com](mailto:laura.r.dalton@verizon.com)>; Marilyn Jones <[marilyn.jones@fcc.gov](mailto:marilyn.jones@fcc.gov)>; 'jeanann.collins@fcc.gov' <[jeanann.collins@fcc.gov](mailto:jeanann.collins@fcc.gov)>; 'ann.stevens@fcc.gov' <[ann.stevens@fcc.gov](mailto:ann.stevens@fcc.gov)>  
**Subject:** NANC Referral on Foreign Ownership of Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Applications

May 18, 2017

Honorable Betty Ann Kane, Chairman  
Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia  
1333 H Street, N.W., West Tower 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Foreign Ownership of Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Applicants

Dear Chairman Kane,

Thank you for referring the FCC's April 24<sup>th</sup> request to the NOWG. The NOWG co-chairs discussed the request with the FCC staff to obtain additional information about this request, and the NOWG recommends that the request also be sent to the NANC members, as well as the other NANC Working Groups (e.g. FoN WG) for input by June 22<sup>nd</sup> for action by the NANC at its June 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

In its initial review of the request, the NOWG believes that the broader NANC membership and its Working Groups likely have valuable input to the specific questions:

- (1) Identify what issues foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers seeking to obtain numbering resources may present;*
- (2) Provide information about NANC member experience with foreign-owned carriers obtaining telephone numbers from the NANP and/or use of those numbers outside the United States, and*
- (3) Make specific recommendations about how to address foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers that seek to obtain numbers directly.*

For example, the FoN WG may want to consider the following in providing input to the above FCC Questions:

- Are there concerns about NPA or NANP exhaust and the future of numbering should foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers obtain numbering resources from the US and its territories for use outside of the NANP?
- Are the foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers that have submitted applications partnering with US-based service providers today, and if so, are those partner service providers tracking the use of those resources?
- Are there any requirements that apply to foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers that don't apply to other types of service providers?

The NOWG will provide its response to you by June 22<sup>nd</sup>, but the response will be limited to the NOWG's oversight of the NANPA's and the PA's performance and activities with respect to the administration of numbering resources.

Please contact either of us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Laura Dalton  
[Laura.r.dalton@verizon.com](mailto:Laura.r.dalton@verizon.com)

Karen Riepenkroger  
[Karen.s.ripenkroger@sprint.com](mailto:Karen.s.ripenkroger@sprint.com)

Cc: Ann Stevens, FCC; Marilyn Jones, FCC; Jean Ann Collins, FCC

## Exhibit 4 – May 25, 2017 NANPA and PA E-mail to NOWG

**From:** Manning, John [<mailto:john.manning@neustar.biz>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 9:21 AM  
**To:** Riepenkroger, Karen S [CTO]; Dalton, Laura R  
**Cc:** Putnam, Amy; Manning, John  
**Subject:** [E] RE: NANC Referral on Foreign Ownership of Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Applications

Karen,  
NECA assigned the company code with a non-US (a European) mailing address.  
John

**From:** Riepenkroger, Karen S [CTO] [<mailto:Karen.S.Riepenkroger@sprint.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017 12:33 AM  
**To:** Manning, John [[john.manning@neustar.biz](mailto:john.manning@neustar.biz)]; Dalton, Laura R [[laura.r.dalton@verizon.com](mailto:laura.r.dalton@verizon.com)] <[laura.r.dalton@verizon.com](mailto:laura.r.dalton@verizon.com)>  
**Cc:** Putnam, Amy <[amy.putnam@neustar.biz](mailto:amy.putnam@neustar.biz)>  
**Subject:** RE: NANC Referral on Foreign Ownership of Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Applications

Thank you for responding. Can you tell us if NECA assigned the company code with the non-US address or was it attained outside of the U.S.?

Thanks.

**Karen Riepenkroger**  
Network Project/Program Mgr III  
O: 913-315-8546 / M: 816-777-7711  
[karen.s.ripenkroger@sprint.com](mailto:karen.s.ripenkroger@sprint.com)

**From:** Manning, John [<mailto:john.manning@neustar.biz>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2017 3:11 PM  
**To:** Riepenkroger, Karen S [CTO] <[Karen.S.Riepenkroger@sprint.com](mailto:Karen.S.Riepenkroger@sprint.com)>; Dalton, Laura R [[laura.r.dalton@verizon.com](mailto:laura.r.dalton@verizon.com)] <[laura.r.dalton@verizon.com](mailto:laura.r.dalton@verizon.com)>  
**Cc:** Putnam, Amy <[amy.putnam@neustar.biz](mailto:amy.putnam@neustar.biz)>; Manning, John <[john.manning@neustar.biz](mailto:john.manning@neustar.biz)>  
**Subject:** RE: NANC Referral on Foreign Ownership of Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Applications

Karen/Laura,

In respond to your request for input regarding the issue of Foreign Ownership of Interconnected VoIP Applications, please see the bullets below. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy or myself.

- Regardless of ownership, NANPA and PA will assign resources to only those entities that obtain authorization from the appropriate regulatory agency and fulfill the requirements as stated in the INC Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines and Thousands-Blocks Pooling Administration Guidelines.
- The potential exists that foreign-owned interconnected VoIP may use NANP numbering resources outside of the NANP. Such action may or may not be known. Either way, the result may be the advancement of NPA and NANP exhaust. Further, it is inconsistent with industry guidelines<sup>1</sup> that state "It is assumed from a wireline perspective that CO codes/blocks allocated to a wireline service provider are to be utilized to provide service to a customer's premise located in the same rate center that the CO codes/blocks are assigned. Exceptions exist, for example tariffed services such as foreign exchange service." Industry Guidelines also that state NANP resources are expected to be used in conformance with guidelines and related ITU-T recommendations.<sup>2</sup>
- Regulatory oversight/jurisdiction is very important in the administration of numbers. For wireline services, the state provides regulatory authority. For wireless and interconnected VoIP, the FCC provides oversight and direction. With the assignment of numbering resources to foreign-owned interconnected VoIP providers, regulatory oversight is critical to ensuring resources are used in accordance with FCC directives and industry guidelines.

At the May 2017 INC meeting, during discussion of the FCC referral to the NANC, it was noted that there was a foreign entity starting the process to request NANP numbers, who had not yet applied, but did have a Company Code/OCN. The OCN had a European mailing address. In this instance, NANPA advised the entity that an OCN with a non-U.S. mailing address is not entered in the NANP Administration System (NAS), so the entity would not be able to request numbers using this OCN. The

FCC was aware of this instance. NANPA and the PA do not input non-U.S. OCNs in NAS and PAS as we only administer central office codes and thousands-blocks for the U.S.

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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for the Administration of Telephone Numbers (ATIS-0300070), Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines (ATIS-0300051), Thousands-Block Number Pooling Administration Guidelines (ATIS-0300066)

<sup>2</sup> See ITU-T E.156 "Guidelines for ITU-T action on reported misuse of E.164 number resources", located at <http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-E.156/en>

John

**John Manning**

**Neustar, Inc.** / Senior Director, NANPA  
21575 Ridgeway Circle, Sterling, VA 20166

**Office:** +1.571.434.5770 **Fax:** +1.571.434.5502 / [John.Manning@neustar.biz](mailto:John.Manning@neustar.biz) / [www.nanpa.com](http://www.nanpa.com) / [www.neustar.biz](http://www.neustar.biz)

**From:** Riepenkroger, Karen S [CTO] [<mailto:Karen.S.Riepenkroger@sprint.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 19, 2017 4:07 PM  
**To:** Manning, John <[john.manning@neustar.biz](mailto:john.manning@neustar.biz)>; Putnam, Amy <[amy.putnam@neustar.biz](mailto:amy.putnam@neustar.biz)>  
**Cc:** Dalton, Laura R ([laura.r.dalton@verizon.com](mailto:laura.r.dalton@verizon.com)) <[laura.r.dalton@verizon.com](mailto:laura.r.dalton@verizon.com)>  
**Subject:** NANC Referral on Foreign Ownership of Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Applications

The NOWG received the attached referral from Chairman Kane's office regarding Foreign Ownership of Interconnected VoIP Applications. We are reaching out to the NANPA and PA to see if you have any input on this inquiry about foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP applicants that you can provide to the NOWG. We are having a meeting next Thursday, 5/25 to work on our response and would appreciate any input you may be able to provide by that date. I know this is short notice but we have to have our report completed by June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

**Karen Riepenkroger**  
Network Project/Program Mgr III  
O: 913-315-8546 / M: 816-777-7711  
[karen.s.ripenkroger@sprint.com](mailto:karen.s.ripenkroger@sprint.com)

## Exhibit 5 – June 2, 2017 INC Letter to NOWG



1200 G Street, NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005

P: +1 202-628-6380  
W: [www.atis.org](http://www.atis.org)

June 1, 2017

Via E-mail

Numbering Oversight Working Group (NOWG)  
Laura Dalton, Verizon, NOWG Co-Chair  
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RE: Report on Foreign Ownership of Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Provider Applicants

Dear Ms. Dalton and Ms. Riepenkroger:

The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) Industry Numbering Committee (INC) notes the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s April 24, 2017 correspondence to the North American Numbering Council (NANC) requesting that the NANC provide the FCC with a report on issues and recommendations for foreign-owned interconnected VoIP service providers. Specifically, the FCC requested that the NANC:

1. identify what issues foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers seeking to obtain numbering resources may present;
2. provide information about NANC member experience with foreign-owned carriers obtaining telephone numbers from the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) and/or use of those numbers outside the United States, and;
3. make specific recommendations about how to address foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers that seek to obtain numbers directly.

At INC's May 9-11, 2017 meeting, there was discussion regarding the FCC's delegation of this task to the NOWG with a June 22, 2017 deadline to report to the NANC. INC is willing to support the NOWG in providing a report to the NANC Chairman by June 22, 2017, should assistance be requested by the NOWG. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

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