
Press Release

AUSTEL Releases New Interconnection Model

3 April 1995

On 3 April AUSTEL released the final report of the Interconnection Model, which clarifies a framework for carriers and service providers in bringing more advanced services to the market, such as interactive and other intelligent network services, and will result in consumer benefits through the improved range of services offered.

An important outcome of the Model is the establishment of a Network Interfaces Industry Forum. The forum will provide for voluntary self-regulation on interconnection issues, rather than the present formal arbi-

tration path of necessary regulatory intervention, which should be seen as a last resort for industry. AUSTEL Member, Dr Bob Horton said: 'A decrease in AUSTEL's role as arbitrator would be a positive sign that the model is working as intended.'

Dr Horton said the industry forum for resolution of interconnection issues between carriers and connection for service providers is an important step towards a future of plural networks in a highly competitive environment. AUSTEL anticipates that the involvement of the carriers and service providers to explore the potential of self-regulation

will be useful for the future telecommunications environment.

AUSTEL was assisted by Professor Peter Gerrand of the Collaborative Information Technology Research Institute (CITRI), the three carriers, the Service Providers Action Network (SPAN), the Australian Telecommunications Users Group (ATUG), and other interested parties in the development of the new interconnection model.

For further information contact:

*Dr Bob Horton
AUSTEL Member
Tel: (03) 9828 7304*

AUSTEL Finds Telstra's Arrangements in Breach of the Telecommunications Act 1991

28 April 1995

On 28 April 1995 AUSTEL, the telecommunications regulator, released a summary report of its investigation into Telstra's Association Resale Arrangements ('ARAs') and found that the Arrangements were in breach of the *Telecommunications Act 1991*.

The ARAs are marketed by Telstra to industry associations for the purpose of associations then reselling telecommunications services to their members.

AUSTEL's investigation arose from complaints that the ARAs had an adverse and anti-competitive effect on commercial resellers and that Associations were not resellers, but agents of Telstra.

AUSTEL concluded that existing arrangements between Telstra and Associations may continue, but only if the Associations agree to operate as genuine resellers, accepting the full

responsibilities of resellers, thereby complying with the requirements of the *Telecommunications Act 1991*.

For further information please contact:

*Mr John MacMahon
General Manager
Industry Affairs
Tel: (03) 9828 7355*