

TARIFF DISTRIBUTION

FILE PACKAGE NO.: LA-25-0039

DATE: November 3, 2025

STATE: LOUISIANA

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/01/2025

TYPE OF DISTRIBUTION: Approved

PURPOSE: Grandfathering MegaLink (DS1), MegaLink
Channel, MegaLink Plus, MegaLink Light and
LightGate (DS3) Services

<u>TARIFF SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>	<u>PAGE REVISION</u>
H007	1	0005
H007	14	0004
H007	24	0002
H007	50	0002
H007	55	0002

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.1 MegaLink Service

Except as otherwise indicated in this Guidebook for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D effective November 1, 2025 MegaLink Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existent term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

(N)

(N)

B7.1.1 General

- A. MegaLink service is furnished for Private Line IntraLATA communications by the Company.
- B. MegaLink service is a service for the transmission of digital signals only and using only digital transmission facilities.
- C. MegaLink service provides for the simultaneous two-way transmission of isochronous digital signals at DS1 speeds of 1.544 Mbps, where facilities are available.
- D. To ensure satisfactory operation, the terminal equipment provided by the customer must be compatible with the DS1/1.544 Mbps channel facility provided by the Company. The technical specifications and standard network interfaces for MegaLink service are contained in BellSouth Services Technical Reference Publication 73525. This publication is available from BellSouth Services Documentation Operations, North W5A1, 3535 Colonnade Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama 35243.
- E. Unless specified following, the terms and conditions for MegaLink service specified herein apply in addition to the terms and conditions set forth in Section B2.
- F. The rates specified for MegaLink service in B7.1.3 following contemplate the provision of a digital quality facility over existing interoffice carrier equipment and/or exchange cable facilities compatible with this service. If such equipment, new facilities or changes to existing facilities are required for the provision of this service, a special construction charge based on the cost incurred to make the changes will apply in addition to the rates for MegaLink service.

B7.1.2 Terms and Conditions

- A. Description of Service
 - 1. MegaLink service is furnished for the simultaneous two-way transmission of serial, Bipolar Return-to-Zero, isochronous digital signals, except where intentional bipolar violations are introduced by Bipolar with 8 Zero Substitution (B8ZS) format, at a speed of DS1/1.544 Mbps between two-points located within a LATA.
 - 2. Multipoint service is not available.
 - 3. MegaLink service is available on a month-to-month basis or under variable rate periods based on lengths of 12 months³, 24-48 months^{1,2}, 49-72 months¹, or 73-96 months¹ under conditions specified in B2.4. If the customer does not select a new contract option or does not request discontinuance of service, service will be continued under the terms specified in B2.4.
 - 4. Connection of DS1/1.544 Mbps communications systems provided by others may be made on a permissive basis as provided for in Section B2. The Company does not represent its MegaLink service as adapted for such connections, and shall not be responsible for the through transmission of signals, or the quality of such transmission on such connections.
 - 5. A Channel Service Unit (CSU) or appropriate Termination Equipment (TE) provided by the customer is required at a customer's or authorized user's premises to perform such functions as:
 - proper termination of the service
 - amplification
 - signal shaping
 - remote loop-back
 - 6. The design, maintenance, and operation of MegaLink service contemplates communications originating and terminating as (1) a customer premises to customer premises channel via the Company's Serving Wire Center (SWC) - and/or through remote SWCs; (2) a customer premises to the Serving Wire Center - and/or to remote SWCs - partial channel (link); or (3) a Central Office to Central Office (interoffice) partial channel (link).

Note 1: As of October 1, 2013, payment periods greater than 36 months are no longer available for new or renewing subscribers.

Note 2: As of April 5, 2021, the 24-36 Month Contract Term is no longer available for new or renewing subscribers.

Note 3: Effective August 29, 2025, customers may not elect a Term Payment Plan of any length, and existing Term Payment Plans of any length will not be renewed or extended. Upon expiration of any Term Payment Plan, month-to-month rates will apply subject to the Company's right to modify such rates upon notice to customer.

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.3 MegaLink Channel Service

Except as otherwise indicated in this Guidebook for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D effective November 1, 2025 MegaLink Channel Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existent term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

- A. MegaLink channel service is an intraLATA digital service which provides channelization capability for the customer in the Company's central office. MegaLink channel service is provided in packages based on multiple voice grade channel equivalents (DS0) where 24 voice grade channels are equal to a DS1. This service provides local channels and/or interoffice channels for network access, Foreign Exchange, Centrex Type Services station lines, off-premises stations, tie lines, WATS lines, analog data channels, Broadband Exchange lines and digital data services (at 2.4 Kbps, 4.8 Kbps, 9.6 Kbps, 19.2 Kbps, 56 Kbps, 64 Kbps and 1.544 Mbps data rates).
- B. Channelization is provided by D type channel banks which are offered in various basic system capacities and feature activation types. Individual channel services are made available by selecting the specific feature activation equipment desired in a basic system. The customer may channelize all or part of a MegaLink channel service package to activate voice and data facilities for interconnection with the switched network, voice grade and data facilities for private line channels, as well as other MegaLink channel services. The customer may also choose not to channelize all or part of a MegaLink channel service package allowing direct connection to other DS1 services as provided in this Guidebook or the General Exchange Guidebook.
- C. This service is available within a LATA from wire centers where appropriate digital facilities are available as determined by the Company. Also, when exchange services are desired, wire centers must have Local Measured Service available as well as digital facilities. Service inquiries will be necessary to determine availability. Special Construction charges for MegaLink service will apply as specified in B7.1. preceding.
- D. Individual channels within a MegaLink channel service package may be connected with service offered in other sections of the Private Line Guidebook and General Exchange Guidebook as appropriate. The terms, conditions, rates and charges in this Guidebook are applicable for the Megalink channel service component of the customer's end-to-end service. Single channel service components (non-MegaLink channel service links) are subject to the terms, conditions, rates and charges in their respective guidebook sections.
- E. The customer may activate any number or combination of channels within a MegaLink channel service package within the limitations set forth in G. following. Channels may be activated coincident with initial service or at any time subsequent to basic system installation. Once activated, a channel is subject to a minimum service period in accordance with the contract terms. Features (channels) activated under month-to-month rates will have a minimum service period of one month.
- F. The total number of voice grade equivalent channels activated by the customer may not exceed the capacity of the basic system. Additionally, there are some necessary restrictions in total system capacities where certain types of channel services are channelized. For example, some channelizing equipment for SynchroNet¹ service may require two voice equivalent channels per channel provided by the Company. This would reduce a system's stated capacity substantially. The Company will notify the customer when a system's capacity is affected.
- G. Central Office channelization generally provides analog to digital conversion to permit individual exchange services and private line channel services to be transported over digital high capacity facilities. In addition, this equipment permits connection to required testing facilities at designated hub or node locations for some digital offerings, such as SynchroNet¹ service. This channelization is also intended for use at Company locations where different high capacity digital network links terminate in the same central office and must be converted to individual analog or digital channels before individual service links can be cross-connected. System capacities below are provided in groups of 24 voice grade equivalent channels, and are subject to the limits as set forth in G. preceding.

Note 1: Effective June 30, 2021, SynchroNet Service is obsolete. See B107.2 for service availability.

(N)
|
(N)

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.4 LightGate Service

Except as otherwise indicated in this Guidebook for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D effective November 1, 2025 LightGate Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existent term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

(N)

(N)

B7.4.1 General

- A. LightGate service is an intraLATA fiber optic based, digital service which provides channelization capability for the customer in packages based on systems consisting of DS1, DS3, STS-1, OC-3, OC-12, OC-48 and OC-192 channels. It will provide local channels and/or interoffice channels in the following system sizes:

- Asynchronous – LightGate 1
- Synchronous – STS-1, OC-3, OC-12, OC-48 and OC-192 LightGate service

Asynchronous systems are capable of transporting DS1 and DS3 channels. Synchronous systems are capable of transporting all channels. The capacity of each LightGate service System is shown in the following table:

<u>LightGate System</u>	<u>DS1</u>	<u>DS3</u>	<u>STS-1</u>	<u>OC-3</u>	<u>OC-12</u>	<u>OC-48</u>
LightGate 1	28	1				
LightGate STS-1	28		1			
LightGate OC-3	84	3	3	1		
LightGate OC-12	336	12	12	4	1	
LightGate OC-48	1344	48	48	16	4	1
LightGate OC-192	5376	192	192	64	16	4

- B. Channelization is provided by LightGate service Systems which furnish fiber optic transport from the central office to a customer's premises. Channel interfaces are offered to provide individual DS1, Flex DS1, DS3, DS3 (Asymmetrical with DS1/Flex DS1), STS-1, OC-3, OC-12, OC-48, 10 Mbps, 100 Mbps, Fractional 1000 Mbps and 1000 Mbps channels. The customer may channelize all or part of a LightGate service package to activate data facilities for interconnection with the switched network, voice grade and data facilities for private line channels, as well as other LightGate services. The customer may also choose not to channelize all or part of a LightGate service package allowing direct connection to other LightGate services, DS3 or DS1 services as provided in this *Guidebook* or the General *Exchange Guidebook*. (OC-12, OC-48 and OC-192 LightGate service local channel systems and OC-192 interoffice channel systems are only available as channelized.)

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.9 MegaLink Plus Service

Except as otherwise indicated in this Guidebook for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D effective November 1, 2025 MegaLink Plus Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existent term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

(N)

(N)

B7.9.1 General

- A. MegaLink Plus service is furnished for Private Line IntraLATA Communications by the Company.
- B. MegaLink Plus service is a service for transmission of digital signals only and uses only digital transmission facilities.
- C. MegaLink Plus service is a fiber-based high capacity network service providing a 1.544 Mbps transport link with high performance and reliability parameters. This service utilizes structurally diverse loop facilities designed to limit single points of failure between a customer's location and its normal serving wire center.
- D. MegaLink Plus service is available to customer locations where existing loop facilities are fiber-based and utilize structurally diverse routes. For locations where loop facilities are not available to satisfy customer requests for MegaLink Plus service, special construction charges will apply as set forth in Section B5. preceding.
- E. The technical specifications and standard network interfaces for MegaLink Plus service are contained in BellSouth Technical Reference Publication 73525. This publication is available from Regional Documentation Services, 600 North 19th Street, 20th Floor, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

B7.9.2 Terms and Conditions

A. Description of Service

1. MegaLink Plus service utilizes a self-healing diverse fiber-based local channel (loop) transport link between a customer designated premises and the normal serving wire center.
2. MegaLink Plus service is furnished on a link (partial) basis for connection at the normal serving wire center to another MegaLink Plus service, an ESSX service¹, MegaLink channel service, FlexServ service, LightGate service, or SMARTRing service. Connectivity between MegaLink Plus service and these other services may be provided via a MegaLink service Interoffice Channel between central offices.
3. All appropriate rates, charges, *terms and conditions* specified in other *guidebook* sections for connected services are in addition to those for MegaLink Plus service specified in this *guidebook*.
4. Performance objectives for MegaLink Plus service between the customer's location and the serving wire center are as follows:
 - a. Meet or exceed 99.98 percent Circuit Availability.
 - b. Meet or exceed 99.95 percent Error Free Seconds.
 - c. Meet or exceed .010 Severely Errored Seconds.

The objectives apply except when a customer's equipment and/or cabling is disconnected and/or inoperative, or when a MegaLink service Interoffice Channel is used in conjunction with a MegaLink Plus service Local Channel. Consult TR73525 for additional information concerning service performance objectives.

5. Performance guarantees for MegaLink Plus service are as follows:

a. Service Installation

The Company will meet negotiated due date or credit an amount equal to the month-to-month payment plan nonrecurring charge according to the Service Installation Guarantee provisions described in B2.4.17 preceding.

b. Service Continuity

In the event of primary failure, service is guaranteed to switch to an alternate facility path in sixty seconds or less. Failure to meet this guarantee will result in a credit as described in E.3. following where the trouble is in the local loop facility on public right-of-way.

Note 1: Connection from MegaLink Plus service to a Centrex Type service may not be available from all Serving Wire Centers.

B7. DIGITAL NETWORK SERVICE

B7.10 MegaLink Light Service

Except as otherwise indicated in this Guidebook for Wire Centers in Section B2.1.4.D effective November 1, 2025 MegaLink Light Service will no longer be available for purchase by new or existing customers. In addition, requests to move, add, change, or renew existing service arrangements will not be accepted. Following the expiration of a customer's existent term agreement, service will be provided on a month-to-month basis at the applicable Monthly rates until the service is discontinued.

(N)

(N)

B7.10.1 General

- A. MegaLink Light service is furnished for Private Line IntraLATA Communications by the Company.
- B. MegaLink Light service is a service for transmission of digital signals only and uses only digital transmission facilities.
- C. MegaLink Light service is a fiber-based high capacity network service providing a 1.544 Mbps (DS1) transport link.
- D. MegaLink Light service provides for the simultaneous two-way transmission of serial, Bipolar Return-to-Zero (BPRZ) isochronous digital signals, except where intentional bipolar violations are introduced by Bipolar with 8 Zero Substitution (B8ZS) format, at DS1 speeds of 1.544 Mbps, and is available to customer locations where existing loop facilities are fiber-based. The rates specified for MegaLink Light service in B7.10.3 following, contemplate the provision of a digital quality facility via existing exchange facilities compatible with this service. When MegaLink Light service is requested at locations where loop facilities are not available to satisfy customer requests for MegaLink Light service, special construction charges will apply as set forth in Section B5. preceding.
- E. The performance objectives, technical specifications and standard network interfaces for MegaLink Light service are contained in BellSouth Technical Reference Publication 73525. The performance objectives apply except when a customer's equipment and/or cabling is disconnected and/or inoperative, when customer provided power is disconnected and/or inoperative, or when a MegaLink Light service is extended beyond its normal Serving Wire Center. TR 73525 is available from Regional Documentation Services, 600 North 19th Street, 20th Floor, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.
- F. Unless specified following, the **terms and conditions** for MegaLink Light service specified herein apply in addition to the **terms and conditions** set forth in Section B2 preceding.

B7.10.2 Terms and Conditions

- A. Description of Service
 - 1. MegaLink Light service utilizes a fiber-based local channel (loop) transport link between a customer designated premises and its normal serving wire center.
 - 2. MegaLink Light service is furnished on a link (partial channel) basis for connection at the normal serving wire center to Centrex Type Services¹, MegaLink channel service, FlexServ service, LightGate service or SMARTRing service. Connectivity between MegaLink Light service and these other services may be provided via a MegaLink service Interoffice Channel between central offices. Except for MegaLink service and MegaLink Plus service, those services connectable to a MegaLink service Interoffice Channel or a MegaLink Light service Local Channel may be utilized for completion of a customer's point-to-point channel service.
 - 3. All appropriate rates, charges, **terms and conditions** specified in other **guidebook** sections for connected services are in addition to those for MegaLink Light service specified in this **guidebook**.
 - 4. Performance objectives for MegaLink Light service between the customer's location and the serving wire center are as specified in BellSouth Technical Reference Publication 73525.
 - 5. Performance guarantees for MegaLink Light service are as follows:
 - a. Service Installation

The Company will meet negotiated due date or credit an amount equal to the month-to-month payment plan nonrecurring charge according to the Service Installation Guarantee provisions described in B2.4.17 preceding.
 - b. Service Continuity

Service outages in the local loop facility, will result in a credit as described in E.3. following where the trouble is in the local loop facility on public right-of-way.

Note 1: Connection from MegaLink Light service to Centrex Type Services may not be available from all serving wire centers.