Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

The Petition of Telcordia Technologies, Inc. ) WC Docket No. 09-109
To Reform or Strike Amendment 70, to Institute )
Competitive Bidding for Number Portability )
Administration, and to End the NAPM LLC’s )
Interim Role in Number Portability )
Administration Contract Management

COMMENTS OF SPRINT NEXTEL CORPORATION

Sprint Nextel Corporation (“Sprint”) respectfully submits comments in regards to the Telcordia Technologies, Inc. (“Telcordia’s”) petition to reform or strike Amendment 70 to the contract between the North American Portability Management, LLC (“NAPM LLC”) and NeuStar, Inc, (“NeuStar”), the current Local Number Portability Administrator (“LNPA”), to institute competitive bidding for number portability administration, and to end the NAPM LLC’s role in number portability administration contract management.¹

Sprint commends Telcordia’s for its interest in number portability administration; indeed, Telcordia has played an important role in enhancing competition in this space and that this competition is benefiting the telecommunications industry and ultimately the American consumer. Nevertheless, Sprint urges the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission or FCC”) to deny Telcordia’s petition.

¹ See Petition of Telcordia Technologies, Inc. to Reform or Strike Amendment 70, to Institute a Competitive Bidding for Number Portability Administration, and to End the NAPM LLC’s Interim Role in Number Portability Administration Contract Management (filed May 20, 2009).
I. THE COMMISSION SHOULD NOT REFORM OR STRIKE AMENDMENT 70

Telcordia asks that the Commission strike or reform the provisions of Amendment 70, which allow NeuStar to implement Uniform Resource Indicator (URI) fields for Voice, Multimedia Messaging Service ("MMS"), and Short Messaging Service ("SMS") to the Number Portability Administration Center ("NPAC") database. Sprint believes such action would be inappropriate for two reasons.

First, the URI fields serve an important purpose and are within the scope of the existing number portability administration contract; as such, it is appropriate to include these URI fields in the Number Portability Administration Center ("NPAC") database. The NPAC database is designed to synchronize and provision portability and pooled telephone number data for current and future services. More specifically, the NPAC perform four functions: rating, routing, billing and network maintenance. The URI fields will be used to synchronize porting data for the routing of Voice, MMS and SMS services. The Internet addresses and naming protocols associated with URIs are considered call routing information because they are associated with a telephone number. Sprint participated in lengthy, often heated industry debate concerning in what database these fields should be housed. Ultimately, Sprint felt comfortable that the NPAC database was the most logical and efficient place to house these URI fields.

Second, the NAPM LLC’s decision to adopt Amendment 70 concerning these URI fields and associated change orders was done so following the appropriate industry consensus and supermajority procedures. NeuStar, Inc. (the “Administrator”) advised the NAPM LLC on September 8, 2008, that the Administrator wanted to discuss a restructuring of pricing terms in the Master Agreements. As with all unsolicited offers,
whether from the Administrator or potential vendors, the NAPM LLC immediately referred the matter to the Vendor Proposal Advisory Committee (the “VPAC”), a standing subcommittee of the NAPM LLC, and the VPAC recommended the commencement of discussions with the Administrator to ascertain whether substantial reductions in NPAC/SMS pricing could be obtained. Acting upon the recommendation, the NAPM LLC constituted another sub team comprised of all industry segments represented as Members of the NAPM LLC to attend discussion with the Administrator. Pursuant to Section 15.1 of the Master Agreements (as amended by Amendment no. 57 in all United States Service Areas) the commencement of those discussions and the content of those discussions were prohibited from disclosure as Confidential Information while the negotiations were taking place. Those discussions culminated in the January 28, 2009 adoption by the NAPM LLC of Amendment No. 70 and the immediate notification of the NANC and the FCC. In short, the NAPM LLC acted within its authority, charter and organization scope.

II. THE COMMISSION SHOULD NOT REFORM OR END THE NAPM LLC’S ROLE IN NUMBER PORTABILITY CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

Sprint is a committed, active member of the NAPM LLC and maintains that the NAPM LLC serves an important, vital function in number portability contract management. The NAPM LLC has successfully managed the administration of the NPAC through many changes in the telecommunications industry including wireless porting and innovative, data-centric technologies and incredible and ever-increasing porting volumes. The NAPM LLC – relying on the professional, collective judgment of members from all sectors of the telecom industry – has overseen these changes while also developing innovative performance-based metrics designed to improve stability and
quality of service. The NAPM LLC has also always kept one eye to the future to ensure that new technologies reliant on telephone numbers will be supported seamlessly in this dynamic, competitive environment. In addition, Sprint believes the NAPM LLC has always acted in good faith.

In short, the NAPM LLC has and continues to fulfill its important role as the Commission initially directed. As such, the Commission should not reform or end the NAPM LLC’s role in the number portability contract management.

III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should deny Telcordia’s petition to reform or strike Amendment 70, and the Commission should allow the NAPM LLC to continue its role as the number portability administration contract management.

Respectfully submitted,

SPRINT NEXTEL CORPORATION

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