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**BELLSOUTH LAUNCHES LONG DISTANCE SERVICE
TO CUSTOMERS IN FIVE ADDITIONAL STATES**

Customers in Seven of Nine BellSouth States

Now Able to Enjoy New Service Options Designed to Meet Their Personal and Business Calling Needs

(ATLANTA, GA) - September 27, 2002 - BellSouth today unveiled new long distance solutions and announced the launch of BellSouth® Long Distance in five additional states across its region. Today, residential and business customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky and Mississippi can enjoy a better choice in long distance service that delivers simple, easy-to-understand calling plans coupled with competitively low calling rates.

In May of this year, the FCC granted approval for BellSouth to provide long distance in Georgia and Louisiana. The company, earlier this month, received the same approval to provide the service in five additional states, bringing the total to seven of BellSouth's nine states approved to offer long distance. Customers in all seven states can take advantage of BellSouth's enhanced long distance service offers.

"Consumers requested a long distance service that's easy to understand, with one point of contact, one bill and one call to customer service," said Duane Ackerman, chairman and CEO, BellSouth. "We're doing just that by providing consumers the value and convenience of having all of their telecommunications services, including local and long distance, from one company, and paying one bill."

As a long-time provider of multiple services on one bill, BellSouth recently launched BellSouth® Answers, a new multi-product offer strategy that combines on one bill the popular BellSouth® Complete Choice local calling plan with BellSouth Long Distance, data and wireless services. The new packages offer consumers savings on various services of up to 10 percent or more, depending on services selected, such as Internet, wireless – and now long distance across seven states – when purchased with BellSouth's Complete Choice plan.

"With more than two-thirds of our customers saying that they want the ability to have all of their telecom services, like long distance, from one provider, we knew it was important for us to provide this capability in a way that delivers tremendous simplicity and convenience to our customers," said Ike Harris, president of BellSouth Consumer Services. "Our five-state launch allows us to have a complete answer to the calling needs of consumers in the marketplace, and that answer includes long distance from one company, made simple."

BellSouth will begin offering customers in the approved five-states its no-nonsense long distance service plan. The offering will deliver a variety of straightforward calling plans with competitively low rates for both domestic and international calling. In addition, BellSouth's pricing strategy of "any distance dialing" will ensure that the rate that customers see, is the rate they actually pay. For most calling plans, in-state and interstate calls are priced the same.

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In addition to the full-suite of domestic and international calling plans originally introduced in Georgia and Louisiana, the company added two new international plans to its residential service offering for the five-state launch. BellSouth's International Savings 20 Plan and International Savings 40 Plan each provide highly competitive international calling rates and allow consumers to enjoy these rates without a monthly recurring charge.

BellSouth's newest business offering, BellSouth Platinum Preferred, provides significant discounts to companies with high long distance call volumes. Businesses that spend over \$250 a month on long distance can receive a rate as low as 5.8 cents per minute. BellSouth will continue to offer frame relay, DSL, and volume and term long distance packages that allow customers to integrate local and long distance voice and data networks.

BellSouth is committed to bringing innovative data and long distance solutions to mid and large business customers with more complex voice and data networks. Business customers now have a new choice when selecting long distance voice and data communications solutions. BellSouth offers local and long distance voice, data and Internet packages that streamline communications and simplify billing. These packages provide companies end-to-end solutions from a single provider, on a single bill.

"BellSouth is committed to providing industry-leading local and long distance voice and data solutions," said Dick Anderson, president of BellSouth Customer Markets. "BellSouth is constantly evaluating our customer's needs and developing new offers to meet those needs."

BellSouth customers in the newly approved five states will enjoy added promotional savings when they sign up for BellSouth Long Distance. In addition, customers who sign up throughout 2003 for the International Savings 20 Plan or International Savings 40 Plan will enjoy Wal-Mart gift cards valued at \$10 and \$20 respectively, that will be sent once a quarter throughout 2003 to the customer's home. Package minutes will increase by 50 percent for all Talk Plan customers (good through December, 2002). Customer in AL, MS, NC, SC and KY subscribing to the Fixed Rate Global, Fixed Rate Global Plus, Global Solutions or Global Solutions Plus plan will receive 10 percent off their monthly usage through December 2002. Business customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama and Kentucky that sign a term agreement for the BellSouth Preferred Plan or the BellSouth Platinum Preferred Plan can receive a domestic rate of a penny per minute between now and December, 2002.

BellSouth Long Distance is currently available in Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky and Mississippi. The company is making efforts to expand its long distance offerings to Florida and Tennessee by the end of the year.

"BellSouth's entry into long distance is good news for consumers," said Jeff Kagan, telecom industry analyst. "The Bells' entry into long distance has proven to significantly increase competition in every state where it's happened. Customers in those states are the big winners because there are more companies competing for their business, with lower prices and expanded offerings."

To order BellSouth Long Distance, visit www.bellsouthcorp.com/longdistance. For more news and information visit, www.bellsouthcorp.com/longdistancenews.

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About BellSouth Corporation

BellSouth Corporation is a Fortune 100 communications services company headquartered in Atlanta, GA, serving nearly 45 million customers in the United States and 14 other countries.

Consistently recognized for customer satisfaction, BellSouth provides a full array of broadband data and e-commerce solutions to business customers, including Web hosting and other Internet services. In the residential market, BellSouth offers DSL high-speed Internet access, advanced voice features and other services. BellSouth offers long distance service for both business and consumer customers in Georgia and Louisiana.

BellSouth also provides online and directory advertising services, including BellSouth® Real PagesSM.com. BellSouth owns 40 percent of Cingular Wireless, the nation's second largest wireless company, which provides innovative wireless data and voice services.

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