

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT **UAO** AND **FDOT** EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, year of 2000, by and between the **STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**, hereinafter referred to as the "**FDOT**", and Asset Channels - Telecom, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the "**UAO**";

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, the **UAO** owns, or may in the future own, certain utility facilities which are or may in the future be located on any public roads or publicly owned rail corridors, hereinafter referred to as the "Facilities" (said term shall be deemed to include utility facilities as the same may be relocated, adjusted, or placed out of service); and

**WHEREAS**, the **FDOT**, engages in projects which involve constructing, reconstructing, or otherwise changing public roads and other improvements located on public roads or publicly owned rail corridors, hereinafter referred to as either the "Project" or "Projects"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Projects may require the location (vertically and/or horizontally), protection, relocation, adjustment, or removal of the Facilities, or some combination thereof, hereinafter referred to as "Utility Work"; and

**WHEREAS**, the **UAO**, in accordance with and subject to the limitations of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, may be entitled to be reimbursed for some of the Utility Work and may, under the law of the State of Florida, be obligated to perform other Utility Work at the **UAO's** sole cost and expense; and

**WHEREAS**, the **FDOT** and the **UAO** desire to enter into a master agreement which establishes the terms and conditions applicable to the Utility Work, both for Utility Work to be reimbursed and for Utility Work to be performed at the sole cost and expense of the **UAO**, and eliminates the need for an individual agreement on each Project;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants contained herein, the **FDOT** and the **UAO** hereby agree as follows:

**1. Issuance of Utility Order**

In the event that the **FDOT** determines that Utility Work may be necessary for any Project, the following procedure shall apply, provided that the **UAO** and the **FDOT** may mutually agree to combine or eliminate all or any portion of this procedure on any Project:

a. First Contact.

1. The **FDOT** shall send a statutory written notice to the **UAO** specifying the applicable Project, providing the **FDOT's** then current plans for the Project, and specifying the return date by which the **UAO** must comply with subparagraphs 1.a.(2) and (3), which return date shall be no earlier than thirty (30) days from the date of the notice.
2. The **UAO** shall, by the date specified by the **FDOT** in the written notice, return a copy of the **FDOT's** plans on which the location of the existing Facilities is marked or verified to **FDOT's** satisfaction.
3. If the **UAO** believes that the Utility Work is reimbursable under this Agreement, the **UAO** shall, by the date specified by the **FDOT** in the written notice, also return documentation of the basis for entitlement to reimbursement under the provisions of this Agreement, and a preliminary estimate of the cost for the Utility Work. Failure to timely return such documentation shall make the Utility Work not reimbursable.

b. Second Contact.

1. After receipt of the documents required by subparagraphs 1. a. (2) and (3), the **FDOT** shall, at the appropriate time, send a notice to the **UAO**, along with an updated set of plans for the Project,

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT UAO AND FDOT EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

specifying the time and place of a mandatory utility meeting.

2. A representative of the **UAO** familiar with the Project and the Facilities shall attend the meeting and be prepared to discuss the Project and the design for the Utility Work. The representative shall bring to the meeting a copy of the **FDOT's** updated plans marked with any existing Facilities not accurately shown thereon and marked with a preliminary Utility Work design concept.
- c. Third Contact.
1. After the mandatory utility meeting, the **FDOT** shall, at the appropriate time, send the **UAO**:
    - a. Additional updated **FDOT** plans for the Project;
    - b. The **FDOT's** then current Utility Work Schedule form;
    - c. If the Utility Work is reimbursable, the **FDOT's** then current utility estimate summary form;
    - d. If not previously provided, a notice verifying eligibility for reimbursement or verifying that the Utility Work is not reimbursable;
    - e. A notice specifying the return date by which the **UAO** must comply with subparagraph 1.c.(2);
    - f. A notice specifying whether a utility permit will be required for the Utility Work;
    - g. A notice verifying the version of the Utility Accommodation Manual that will apply to the Utility Work;
    - h. The instruction form then being used by the **FDOT** for providing direction in following this process; and
    - i. Such other information the **FDOT** deems pertinent.
  2. Within the time frame specified in this third contact notice, the **UAO** shall return to the **FDOT** the information required on the **FDOT's** forms specified above, along with final plans for the Utility Work, hereinafter referred to as the "Plans". If the Utility Work is reimbursable under this Agreement, the **UAO** shall also return, within said time frame, a detailed cost breakdown for the Utility Work, hereinafter referred to as the "Estimate". Unless otherwise specifically directed in writing, the Plans and the Estimate shall include any and all activities and work effort required to perform the Utility Work, including, but not limited to, all clearing and grubbing, survey work, and applicable permit notices, and shall include a traffic control plan. The **UAO** may not assume that any work will be performed by the **FDOT's** contractor or other parties.
  3. After receipt of a completed Utility Work Schedule form, the Estimate, and the Plans, the **FDOT** will review them for sufficiency, which includes, but is not necessarily limited to, compliance and consistency with the **FDOT's** then current Utility Accommodation Manual, the **FDOT's** Plans and specifications for the Project, and the **FDOT's** instruction form.
  4. In the event that the **FDOT** finds any deficiencies in the completed schedule form, the Estimate, or the Plans, the **FDOT** will notify the **UAO** in writing of the deficiencies and the **UAO** will correct the deficiencies and return corrected documents within the time stated in the notice. The **FDOT's** review and approval of the documents shall not relieve the **UAO** from responsibility for subsequently discovered errors or omissions.
  5. After receipt of a corrected Utility Work Schedule form (hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule"), Estimate, and Plans, the **FDOT** will issue a work order to the **UAO** which authorizes the Utility Work to proceed upon the **UAO** obtaining a utility permit for the Utility Work from the **FDOT**, if applicable.
  6. The **UAO** shall notify the appropriate **FDOT** office in writing prior to beginning the Utility Work and when the **UAO** stops, resumes, or completes the Utility Work.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT UAO AND FDOT EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

**2. Performance of Utility Work**

- a. The **UAO** shall perform the Utility Work in accordance with the Schedule and the Plans. Time shall be of the essence in complying with the total time shown by the Schedule for the Utility Work as well as any and all interim time frames specified therein. The Utility Work shall be performed in a manner and using such methods so as to not cause a delay to the **FDOT** or its contractors in the prosecution of the Project. The **UAO** shall be responsible for all costs incurred as a result of any delay to the **FDOT** or its contractors caused by errors or omissions in the Plans, Schedule, or Estimate (including inaccurate location of the Facilities); failure to perform the Utility Work in accordance with the Plans and Schedule; or failure of the **UAO** to comply with any other obligation under this Agreement or under the law.
- b. All Utility Work shall be performed by the **UAO's** own forces or its contractor. The **UAO** shall be responsible for obtaining any and all permits that may be necessary to perform the Utility Work. The **FDOT's** Engineer (as that term is defined by the **FDOT's** Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction) has full authority over the Project and the **UAO** shall be responsible for coordinating and cooperating with the **FDOT's** Engineer. In so doing, the **UAO** shall make such adjustments and changes in the Plans and Schedule as the **FDOT's** Engineer shall determine are necessary for the prosecution of the Project and shall stop work or modify work upon order of the **FDOT's** Engineer as determined by the **FDOT's** Engineer to be necessary for public health, safety or welfare. The **UAO** shall not be responsible for the cost of delays caused by such adjustments or changes unless they are attributable to the **UAO** pursuant to subparagraph 2 a. All changes shall be documented in writing to the **UAO** by the Engineer.

**3. Claims Against UAO**

- a. In the event the **FDOT's** contractor provides a notice of intent to make a claim against the **FDOT** relating to the Utility Work, the **FDOT** will, in accordance with the **FDOT's** procedure, notify the **UAO** of the notice of intent and the **UAO** will thereafter keep and maintain daily field reports and all other records relating to the intended claim.
- b. In the event the **FDOT's** contractor makes any claim against the **FDOT** relating to the Utility Work, the **FDOT** will notify the **UAO** of the claim and the **UAO** will cooperate with the **FDOT** in analyzing and resolving the claim within a reasonable time. Any resolution of any portion of the claim directly between the **UAO** and the **FDOT's** contractor shall be in writing, shall be subject to written **FDOT** concurrence, and shall specify the extent to which it resolves the claim against the **FDOT**.
- c. If the Utility Work is reimbursable under this Agreement, the **FDOT** may withhold reimbursement to the **UAO** until final resolution (including any actual payment required) of all claims relating to the Utility Work. The right to withhold shall be limited to actual claim payments made by **FDOT** to **FDOT's** contractor.

**4. Reimbursement for Utility Work**

- a. The Utility Work will be reimbursable under this Agreement when the Project is federal aid eligible pursuant to the provisions of Section 337.403(1)(a), Florida Statutes, when a written agreement incidental to a right-of-way acquisition process requires the **FDOT** to compensate the **UAO** for the costs of any subsequent relocation of the Facilities, or when the **UAO** holds a compensable land interest under Florida condemnation law in the existing location of the Facilities at the time of the Project. In any other circumstances, the Utility Work will be performed at the sole cost and expense of the **UAO**. Failure of the **UAO** to timely provide documentation of the basis for reimbursement as required by subparagraph 1.a.(3) of this Agreement shall make the Utility Work not reimbursable. Any costs not included in the approved Plans and Estimate, except such additional costs as would be allowed to be added to a contract by supplemental agreement under Section 337.11, Florida Statutes (1995), and any location work (vertically or horizontally) or other engineering work performed to determine the compensability of the Utility Work shall not be reimbursed by the **FDOT**. The **UAO** shall obtain written approval from the **FDOT** prior to performing Utility Work which exceeds the Estimate or which is not in the Plans.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT **UAO** AND **FDOT** EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

- b. The method to be used in calculating the cost of the Utility Work which is reimbursable shall be one of the following, as specified at the time of the issuance of the work order:
- (1) Actual and related indirect costs accumulated in accordance with a work order accounting procedure established by the **FDOT**.
  - (2) Actual and related indirect costs accumulated in accordance with an established accounting procedure developed by the **UAO** and approved by the **FDOT**. (If this option is selected, the **UAO** shall provide written evidence of such approval).
  - (3) An agreed lump sum as supported by a detailed analysis of estimated costs prepared during the process established by paragraph 1.
- c. In determining the amount of the cost of the Utility Work to be reimbursed, a credit will be required for any increase in the value of the new Facility and for any salvage derived from the old Facility. These credits shall be determined as follows:
1. Increase in value credit.
    - (a) Expired Service Life. If an entirely new Facility is constructed and the old Facility retired, credit for the normally-expected service life of the old Facility applies, and will be mutually determined by the **UAO** and the **FDOT** as of the time of the issuance of the work order. This credit shall be deducted proportionally from each invoice for the Utility Work.
    - (b) Upgrading. A percentage of the total cost of the Utility Work, based on the extent of the betterment obtained from the new Facilities, to be determined as of the time of the issuance of the work order, will be applied equally to each billing for the Utility Work.
  2. Salvage Value. If the Utility Work is reimbursable under this Agreement, the **FDOT** shall receive salvage value credit for any salvage which shall accrue to the **UAO** as a result of the above Utility Work. It is the **UAO's** responsibility to ensure recovery of salvageable materials and to report the fair market value of same to the **FDOT**. This Salvage Value credit shall be applied as provided in subparagraph 5 c.

**5. Invoice Procedures For Reimbursable Work**

If the Utility Work is reimbursable under this Agreement, the following terms and conditions apply to all invoices submitted pursuant to this Agreement for reimbursement of the costs of the Utility Work:

- a. The **UAO** may, unless reimbursement is on a lump sum basis pursuant to subparagraph 4. b. (3) hereof, at monthly intervals, submit progress invoices for all costs incurred for the period covered by the invoice. In addition to deductions for applicable credits, which deductions shall be shown on the invoice, the **FDOT** will retain ten (10%) percent of such progress invoices. Retainage will be paid with the final invoice. If reimbursement is on a lump sum basis pursuant to subparagraph 4. b. (3) hereof, the lump sum invoice shall be submitted as a final invoice pursuant to subparagraph 5. b. below.
- b. The **UAO** shall submit a final invoice to the **FDOT** for payment of all Utility Work within one hundred and eighty (180) days after written notification from the **FDOT** of final acceptance of the Utility Work. The **UAO** waives all right of reimbursement for invoices submitted more than one hundred eighty (180) days after written notification of final acceptance of the Utility Work. The **FDOT** does not waive its right to reject future untimely invoices by acceptance and payment of any invoices not submitted within one hundred eighty (180) days after written notification of final acceptance of the Utility Work.
- c. All invoices shall be arranged in the order of items contained in the Estimate submitted pursuant to

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT **UAO** AND **FDOT** EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

paragraph 1. The totals for labor, overhead, travel expenses, transportation, equipment, materials and supplies, handling costs and all other services shall be shown in such a manner as will allow ready comparison with the approved Plan and Estimate. Materials shall be itemized where they represent major components. Salvage credits from recovered and replaced permanent and recovered temporary materials shall be reported in relative position with the charge for the replacement or the original charge for temporary use.

- d. All invoices shall be submitted in triplicate and shall show the description and site of the project and the location where the records and accounts invoiced can be audited. Adequate reference shall be made in the invoicing to the **UAO's** records, accounts, and other relevant documents.
- e. All cost records and accounts shall be maintained in the auditable condition for a period of eight hundred twenty (820) days after final payment is received by the **UAO** and shall be subject to audit by a representative of the **FDOT** at any reasonable time during this eight hundred twenty (820) day period.
- f. Invoices for fees or other compensation for services or expenses shall be submitted in detail sufficient for a proper preaudit and postaudit thereof. Such detail shall include, but not be limited to, a separation of costs for work performed by **UAO's** employees and work performed by **UAO's** contractor.
- g. Invoices for any travel expenses shall be submitted in accordance with Section 112.061, Florida Statutes. A state agency may establish rates lower than the maximum provided in Section 112.061, Florida Statutes.
- h. Upon receipt of an invoice, the **FDOT** has thirty (30) days to inspect and approve the goods and services. The **FDOT** has twenty (20) days from the latter of the date the invoice is received or the goods or services are received, inspected and approved to deliver a request for payment (voucher) to the Department of Banking and Finance or to return the invoice to the **UAO**.
- i. If a warrant in payment of an invoice is not issued within forty (40) days from the latter of the date the invoice is received or the goods or services are received, inspected and approved, a separate interest penalty, as established pursuant to Section 215.422, Florida Statutes, will be due and payable in addition to the invoice amount, to the **UAO**. Interest penalties of less than one (1) dollar will not be enforced unless the **UAO** requests payment. Invoices which have to be returned to the **UAO** because of **UAO's** preparation errors, will result in a delay in the payment. The invoice payment requirements do not start until a properly completed invoice is provided to the **FDOT**. In the event of a bona fide dispute, the **FDOT's** voucher shall contain a statement of the dispute and authorize payment only of the undisputed amount.
- j. In accordance with Section 287.0582, Florida Statutes, the State of Florida's performance and obligation to pay under this contract is contingent upon an annual appropriation by the legislature.
- k. A Vendor Ombudsman has been established within the Department of Banking and Finance. The duties of this individual include acting as an advocate for vendors who may be experiencing problems in obtaining timely payment(s) from a state agency. The Vendor Ombudsman may be contacted at (850) 414-5321 or by calling State Comptroller's Hotline, 1-800-848-3792.
- l. In accordance with the Florida Statutes, the **FDOT**, during any fiscal year, shall not expend money, incur any liability, or enter into any contract which, by its terms, involves the expenditure of money in excess of the amounts budgeted as available for expenditure during such fiscal year. Any contract, verbal or written, made in violation of this subsection is null and void, and no money may be paid on such contract. The **FDOT** shall require a statement from the comptroller of the **FDOT** that funds are available prior to entering into any such contract or other binding commitment of funds. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the making of contracts for periods exceeding one (1) year, but any contract so made shall be executory only for the value of the services to be rendered or agreed to be paid for in succeeding fiscal years; and this paragraph shall be incorporated verbatim in all contracts of the **FDOT** which are for an amount in excess of \$25,000.00 and which have a term for a period of more than one (1) year. For this purpose, the individual work orders shall be considered to be the binding commitment of funds.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT UAO AND FDOT EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

- m. **PUBLIC ENTITY CRIME INFORMATION STATEMENT:** A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017, Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY TWO for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

6. **Out of Service Facilities**

No Facilities shall be left in place on **FDOT's** Right of Way after the Facilities are no longer active (hereinafter "Placed out of service/Deactivated") unless specifically identified as such in the Plans. The following terms and conditions shall apply to Facilities Placed out of service/Deactivated, but only to said Facilities Placed out of service/Deactivated:

- a. The **UAO** acknowledges its present and continuing ownership of and responsibility for Facilities Placed out of service/Deactivated.
- b. The **FDOT** agrees to allow the **UAO** to leave the Facilities within the right of way subject to the continuing satisfactory performance of the conditions of this Agreement by **UAO**. In the event of a breach of this Agreement by **UAO**, the Facilities shall be removed upon demand from the **FDOT** in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph 6. e. below.
- c. The **UAO** shall take such steps to secure the Facilities and otherwise make the Facilities safe in accordance with any and all applicable local, state or federal laws and regulations and in accordance with the legal duty of the **UAO** to use due care in its dealings with others. The **UAO** shall be solely responsible for gathering all information necessary to meet these obligations.
- d. The **UAO** shall keep and preserve all records relating to the Facilities, including, but not limited to, records of the location, nature of, and steps taken to safely secure the Facilities and shall promptly respond to information requests concerning the Facilities that are Placed out of service/Deactivated of the **FDOT** or other permittees using or seeking use of the right of way.
- e. The **UAO** shall remove the Facilities upon 30 days prior written request of the **FDOT** in the event that the **FDOT** determines that removal is necessary for **FDOT** use of the right of way or in the event that the **FDOT** determines that use of the right of way is needed for other active utilities that cannot be otherwise accommodated in the right of way. In the event that the Facilities that are Placed out of Service/Deactivated would not have qualified for reimbursement under this Agreement, removal shall be at the sole cost and expense of the **UAO** and without any right of the **UAO** to object or make any claim of any nature whatsoever with regard thereto. In the event that the Facilities that are Placed out of service/Deactivated would have qualified for reimbursement only under Section 337.403 (1)(a), Florida Statutes, removal shall be at the sole cost and expense of the **UAO** and without any right of the **UAO** to object or make any claim of any nature whatsoever with regard thereto because such a removal would be considered to be a separate future relocation not necessitated by the construction of the project pursuant to which they were Placed out of service/Deactivated, and would therefore not be eligible and approved for reimbursement by the Federal Government. In the event that the Facilities that are Placed out of service/Deactivated would have qualified for reimbursement for other reasons, removal of the out of service Facilities shall be reimbursed by the **FDOT** as though the Facilities had not been Placed out of service/Deactivated. Removal shall be completed within the time specified in the **FDOT's** notice to remove. In the event that the **UAO** fails to perform the removal properly within the specified time, the **FDOT** may proceed to perform the removal at the **UAO's** expense pursuant to the provisions of Sections 337.403 and 337.404, Florida Statutes.
- f. Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph e. above, the **UAO** agrees that the Facilities shall forever remain the legal and financial responsibility of the **UAO**. The **UAO** shall reimburse the **FDOT** for any and all costs of any nature whatsoever resulting from the presence of the Facilities within the right of way. Said costs shall include, but shall not be limited to, charges or expenses which may result from the future need

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT **UAO** AND **FDOT** EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

to remove the Facilities or from the presence of any hazardous substance or material in the Facilities or the discharge of hazardous substances or materials from the Facilities. Nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to require the **UAO** to indemnify the **FDOT** for the **FDOT's** own negligence; however, it is the intent that all other costs and expenses of any nature be the responsibility of the **UAO**.

**7. Default**

- a. In the event that the **UAO** breaches any provision of this Agreement, then in addition to any other remedies which are otherwise provided for in this Agreement, the **FDOT** may exercise one or more of the following options, provided that at no time shall the **FDOT** be entitled to receive double recovery of damages:
- (1) Terminate this Agreement if the breach is material and has not been cured within 60 days from written notice thereof from **FDOT**.
  - (2) Pursue a claim for damages suffered by the **FDOT** or the public.
  - (3) If the Utility Work is reimbursable under this Agreement, withhold reimbursement payments until the breach is cured. The right to withhold shall be limited to actual claim payments made by **FDOT** to third parties.
  - (4) If the Utility Work is reimbursable under this Agreement, offset any damages suffered by the **FDOT** or the public against payments due under this Agreement for the same Project. The right to offset shall be limited to actual claim payments made by **FDOT** to third parties.
  - (5) Suspend the issuance of further permits to the **UAO** for the placement of Facilities on **FDOT** property if the breach is material and has not been cured within 60 days from written notice thereof from **FDOT** until such time as the breach is cured.
  - (6) Pursue any other remedies legally available.
  - (7) Perform any work with its own forces or through contractors and seek repayment for the cost thereof under Section 337.403(3), Florida Statutes.
- b. In the event that the **FDOT** breaches any provision of this Agreement, then in addition to any other remedies which are otherwise provided for in the Agreement, the **UAO** may exercise one or more of the following options:
- (1) Terminate this Agreement if the breach is material and has not been cured within 60 days from written notice thereof from the **UAO**.
  - (2) If the breach is a failure to pay an invoice for Utility Work which is reimbursable under this Agreement, pursue any statutory remedies that the **UAO** may have for failure to pay invoices.
  - (3) Pursue any other remedies legally available.
- c. Termination of this Agreement shall not relieve either party from any obligations it has pursuant to other agreements between the parties nor from any statutory obligations that either party may have with regard to the subject matter hereof.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT **UAO** AND **FDOT** EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

**8. Indemnification**

**FOR GOVERNMENT-OWNED UTILITIES,**

To the extent provided by law, the **UAO** shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the **FDOT** and all of its officers, agents, and employees from any claim, loss, damage, cost, charge, or expense arising out of any acts, action, error, neglect, or omission by the **UAO**, its agents, employees, or contractors during the performance of the Agreement, whether direct or indirect, and whether to any person or property to which **FDOT** or said parties may be subject, except that neither the **UAO**, its agents, employees, or contractors will be liable under this section for damages arising out of the injury or damage to persons or property directly caused by or resulting from the negligence of the **FDOT** or any of its officers, agents, or employees during the performance of this Agreement.

When the **FDOT** receives a notice of claim for damages that may have been caused by the **UAO** in the performance of services required under this Agreement, the **FDOT** will immediately forward the claim to the **UAO**. The **UAO** and the **FDOT** will evaluate the claim and report their findings to each other within fourteen (14) working days and will jointly discuss options in defending the claim. After reviewing the claim, the **FDOT** will determine whether to require the participation of the **UAO** in the defense of the claim or to require the **UAO** to defend the **FDOT** in such claim as described in this section. The **FDOT's** failure to notify the **UAO** of a claim shall not release the **UAO** from any of the requirements of this section. The **FDOT** and the **UAO** will pay their own costs for the evaluation, settlement negotiations, and trial, if any. However, if only one party participates in the defense of the claim at trial, that party is responsible for all costs.

**FOR NON-GOVERNMENT-OWNED UTILITIES,**

The **UAO** shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the **FDOT** and all of its officers, agents, and employees from any claim, loss, damage, cost, charge, or expense arising out of any acts, action, error, neglect, or omission by the **UAO**, its agents, employees, or contractors during the performance of the Agreement, whether direct or indirect, and whether to any person or property to which **FDOT** or said parties may be subject, except that neither the **UAO**, its agents, employees, or contractors will be liable under this section for damages arising out of the injury or damage to persons or property directly caused by or resulting from the negligence of the **FDOT** or any of its officers, agents, or employees during the performance of this Agreement.

The **UAO's** obligation to indemnify, defend, and pay for the defense or at the **FDOT's** option, to participate and associate with the **FDOT** in the defense and trial of any damage claim or suit and any related settlement negotiations, shall arise within fourteen (14) days of receipt by the **UAO** of the **FDOT's** notice of claim for indemnification to the **UAO**. The notice of claim for indemnification shall be served by certified mail. The **UAO's** obligation to defend and indemnify within fourteen (14) days of such notice shall not be excused because of the **UAO's** inability to evaluate liability or because the **UAO** evaluates liability and determines the **UAO** is not liable or determines the **FDOT** is solely negligent. Only a final adjudication or judgment finding the **FDOT** solely negligent shall excuse performance of this provision by the **UAO**. The **UAO** shall pay all costs and fees related to this obligation and its enforcement by the **FDOT**. The **FDOT's** delay in notifying the **UAO** of a claim shall not release **UAO** of the above duty to defend.

**9. Force Majeure**

Neither the **UAO** nor the **FDOT** shall be liable to the other for any failure to perform under this Agreement to the extent such performance is prevented by an act of God, war, riots, natural catastrophe, or other event beyond the control of the non-performing party and which could not have been avoided or overcome by the exercise of due diligence; provided that the party claiming the excuse from performance has (a) promptly notified the other party of the occurrence and its estimate duration, (b) promptly remedied or mitigated the effect of the occurrence to the extent possible, and (c) resumed performance as soon as possible.

**10. Miscellaneous**

a. If the Utility Work is reimbursable under this Agreement, the **UAO** shall fully comply with the provisions of



STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT UAO AND FDOT EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and any subsequent revisions thereto in connection with the Utility Work covered by this Agreement, and such compliance will be governed by one of the following methods as determined at the time of the issuance of the work order:

- (1) The UAO will perform all or part of such Utility Work by a contractor paid under a contract let by the UAO, and the Appendix "A" of Assurances transmitted with the issued work order will be included in said contract let by the UAO.
  - (2) The UAO will perform all of its Utility Work entirely with UAO's forces, and Appendix "A" of Assurances is not required.
  - (3) The Utility Work involved is agreed to by way of just compensation for the taking of the UAO's facilities on right-of-way in which the UAO holds a compensable interest, and Appendix "A" of Assurances is not required.
  - (4) The UAO will perform all such Utility Work entirely by continuing contract, which contract to perform all future Utility Work was executed with the UAO's contractor prior to August 3, 1965, and Appendix "A" of Assurances is not required.
- b. The Facilities shall at all times remain the property of and be properly protected and maintained by the UAO in accordance with the then current Utility Accommodation Manual and the current utility permit for the Facilities.
- c. Pursuant to Section 287.058, Florida Statutes, the FDOT may unilaterally cancel this Agreement for refusal by the UAO to allow public access to all documents, papers, letters, or other material subject to the provisions of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and made or received by the UAO in conjunction with this Agreement.
- d. This Agreement constitutes the complete and final expression of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, or negotiations with respect thereto, except that the parties understand and agree that the FDOT has manuals and written policies and procedures which shall be applicable at the time of the Project and the relocation of the Facilities and except that the UAO and the FDOT may have entered into joint agreements for Utility Work to be performed by FDOT's highway contractor. To the extent that such a joint agreement exists, this Agreement shall not apply to Facilities covered by the joint agreement. Copies of FDOT manuals, policies, and procedures will be provided to the UAO upon request.
- e. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida. Any provision hereof found to be unlawful or unenforceable shall be severable and shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.
- f. Time is of essence in the performance of all obligations under this Agreement.
- g. All notices required pursuant to the terms hereof may be sent by first class United States Mail, facsimile transmission, hand delivery, or express mail and shall be deemed to have been received by the end of five business days from the proper sending thereof unless proof of prior actual receipt is provided. The UAO shall have a continuing obligation to notify each District of the FDOT of the appropriate persons for notices to be sent pursuant to this Agreement. Unless otherwise notified in writing, notices shall be sent to the following addresses:

If to the UAO:

Thomas M. Benedict, Vice President, System Integration  
Asset Channels-Telecom, Inc  
244 Elm Street  
New Canaan, CT 06840-5309

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT UAO AND FDOT EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

If to the FDOT:

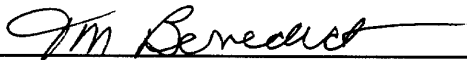
Florida Department of Transportation  
Roadway Design / Office of Utilities  
605 Suwannee Street, MS 32  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

11. **Certification**

This document is a printout of an FDOT form maintained in an electronic format and all revisions thereto by the UAO in the form of additions, deletions, or substitutions, are reflected only in an Appendix entitled "Changes To Form Document" and no change is made in the text of the document itself. Hand notations on affected portions of this document may refer to changes reflected in the above-named Appendix but are for reference purposes only and do not change the terms of the document. By signing this document, the UAO hereby represents that no change has been made to the text of this document except through the terms of the Appendix entitled "Changes To Form Document."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement effective the day and year first written.

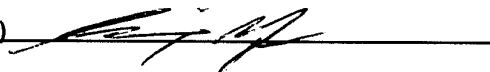
UTILITY: Asset Channels - Telecom, Inc

BY: (Signature)  DATE: 12 July 2000  
(Typed Name: Thomas M. Benedict)  
(Typed Title: Vice President, System Integration)

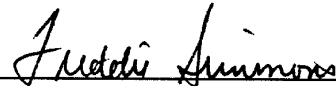
Recommend Approval by the State Utility Engineer

BY: (Signature)  DATE: 8/22/2000

FDOT Legal Review

BY: (Signature)  DATE: 8-14-00

STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BY: (Signature)  DATE: 8/21/00  
(Typed Name: Freddie Simmons, P.E.)  
(Typed Title: State Highway Engineer)

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UTILITY MASTER AGREEMENT**  
(AT UAO AND FDOT EXPENSE COMBINED)

Form No. 710-010-20  
UTILITIES  
Rev. 03/00

---

---

**FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (if applicable)**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Typed Name: \_\_\_\_\_)

(Typed Title: \_\_\_\_\_)