

**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
BUREAUS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY  
AND CONSUMER FRAUDS AND PROTECTION**

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**In the Matter of LYON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.,  
d/b/a U.S. BANCORP BUSINESS EQUIPMENT FINANCE  
GROUP,**

**Respondent.**

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**ASSURANCE OF DISCONTINUANCE  
PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE LAW §63(15)**

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 22-A of the General Business Law (“GBL”) and Section 63 of the Executive Law (“EL”), ELIOT SPITZER, Attorney General of the State of New York, caused an investigation to be made into the business practices of NORVERGENCE, Inc. and NORVERGENCE CAPITAL LLC, including the assignment and procurement of certain Equipment Rental Agreements to and for several leasing companies, including respondent is LYON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., d/b/a U.S. BANCORP BUSINESS EQUIPMENT FINANCE GROUP. Based upon his investigation, the Attorney General has made the following findings:

1. NorVergence, Inc. is a New Jersey corporation with its principal place of business located at 550 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102. Prior to the filing of an involuntary bankruptcy proceeding on June 30, 2004 (Docket 04-32079-RG), NorVergence, Inc. was engaged in the business of offering for sale and reselling telecommunications service, together with the provision of certain telecommunications equipment, to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in the State of New York.

2. NorVergence Capital LLC is a limited liability corporation and a subsidiary of NorVergence, Inc., with offices at 550 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102. NorVergence Capital LLC is a debtor, along with NorVergence, Inc. in the bankruptcy proceeding, Docket 04-32079-RG. Prior to the bankruptcy, NorVergence Capital LLC, together with NorVergence, Inc., was engaged in the business of offering for sale and reselling telecommunications service, together with the provision of certain telecommunications equipment, to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in the State of New York. NorVergence, Inc. and NorVergence Capital LLC are hereinafter collectively referred to as “NorVergence.”

3. Respondent Lyon Financial Services, Inc., d/b/a U.S. Bancorp Business Equipment Finance Group (hereinafter “US Bancorp”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota, with its principal place of business located at 1310 Madrid Street, Marshall, MN 56258. US Bancorp is one of the leasing companies which held Equipment Rental Agreements with NorVergence customers in the State of New York and elsewhere.

### **NorVergence’s Fraudulent Business Scheme**

4. Since at least 2002 and continuing until shortly before the NorVergence bankruptcy filing in June 2004, NorVergence was in the business of offering to sell and reselling telecommunications services as integrated long-term packages, including local and long distance telephone, cellular and high speed Internet access. NorVergence marketed its services principally to small businesses and not-for-profit organizations with high credit ratings, and which, for the most part, did not have in-house counsel or technology personnel. NorVergence’s salespeople personally visited these entities, offering to provide telecommunications services at greatly

reduced prices compared to the prices charged by the customers' then current service providers.

5. NorVergence represented that customers would receive over a five year period, dramatic savings of 20-60% on telecommunications services and unlimited free minutes.

NorVergence claimed to be offering these services through its purported alliances with Nortel Networks and Qwest Communications. NorVergence further represented that its highly beneficial service offering was made possible by a purportedly proprietary, technologically innovative, and carrier neutral "black box" called, the "Matrix Solution," that would be installed on the customer's premises. In fact, the "Matrix Solution" did not eliminate per minute charges or make cost savings possible.

6. The cost savings in NorVergence's proposal had nothing to do with the "black box" or other innovative technology touted by NorVergence. Rather, NorVergence constructed its cost savings proposals simply by applying a discount of 20-30% to the potential customer's current cost for telecommunications services. In fact, NorVergence chose this discounted price without regard to the actual cost of providing the services (which was generally much higher).

7. The promised savings were set forth in the form of a "Cost Savings Proposal," and were represented as a monthly cost for an integrated service package, including the cost of telecommunications services and rental of related hardware.

8. Through deceptive and high pressure sales tactics and outright trickery, NorVergence salespeople signed customers up, putting the bulk (*i.e.*, at least 80%) of the service agreement into an equipment finance lease, designated "Equipment Rental Agreement," purportedly for the Matrix box. The rental payments due on the Equipment Rental Agreements varied from approximately \$200 to \$5,700 per month (or \$12,000 to over \$340,000 over a 60

month lease), while the actual price of the Matrix was not greater than \$1,500. Customers were not provided the option to purchase the box.

9. Potential customers were told falsely by the NorVergence salespeople that they needed to “qualify” for NorVergence’s telecommunications services, which were in high demand and available only to a limited number of applicants. The NorVergence salespeople further told the customers that the forms were non-binding and no-risk, and merely served to reserve the circuitry and hardware, while the customers’ “qualifications” were being investigated.

10. The Equipment Rental Agreements that were included in the stack of supposedly non-binding forms were, in actuality, noncancellable agreements. Contrary to the customers’ understanding of the transaction as presented by NorVergence’s salespeople, the Agreements, under these circumstances, were fraudulently characterized as UCC Article 2A finance leases for the Matrix box. As such, these Agreements were designed to obtain the special protections applicable to equipment finance leases.

11. Under the circumstances, the Equipment Rental Agreements are unconscionable in that they contain terms that are unreasonably and unfairly harsh and one-sided in favor of NorVergence and the leasing companies. In fact, included in the fine print of the Equipment Rental Agreements are provisions that purported to:

- a. remove any obligations by assignees of NorVergence to the customers;
- b. in many cases require that all legal actions relating to the agreement be brought in a forum distant from the customer's place of business, and in other cases, in a forum where the leasing company that would take an assignment was located, which was unknown at the time the customer signed the contract (the latter being known as “floating jurisdiction clauses”);

- c. characterize the vast majority of the total fees agreed to by the customer as payments for the Matrix box which grossly exceeded its actual price and value;
- d. characterize the Equipment Rental Agreement as a finance lease under Article 2A of the Uniform Commercial Code in a fraudulent and unconscionable attempt to gain the protections of equipment finance leases. In fact, the Agreement was for an integrated telecommunications service offering, although the service component was not documented in the Agreements. Moreover, the equipment purportedly financed under the Agreement was not first offered for sale to the customers or offered in a buy-out to the customer at the end of the Agreement's five-year term;
- e. suggest that the customers were given information about the comparative costs of purchasing and renting the Matrix box that enabled them to make a reasoned decision to rent rather than purchase (*i.e.*, "You understand that the Equipment may be purchased for cash or it may be rented."), when, in fact, the customers had no opportunity to purchase the Matrix, and were not provided any information about the costs of the box; and
- f. waive all the customer's defenses to demands for payment, even if the promised services were not provided ("hell or high water clauses").

12. Soon after the customers signed the Equipment Rental Agreements, NorVergence assigned the Agreements to one of the leasing companies. In some cases, the NorVergence salesperson had the customer sign an Equipment Rental Agreement directly with the leasing company as "owner."

13. The leasing companies paid NorVergence the full five year Equipment Rental Agreement value less a "lease factor" such that NorVergence received approximately 75-85% of

the value of the Equipment Rental Agreements up front.

14. The NorVergence business plan was a “Ponzi” scheme. NorVergence deceived small, unsophisticated businesses into signing sham equipment finance leases with unconscionable terms, and obtained up front payments from the assignment or procurement of those sham leases. NorVergence then used these payments to purchase the telecommunications services it resold to its customers. Yet even with those monies, the NorVergence business plan was doomed to fail before NorVergence could fulfill the five year term it promised to provide service to the customers because (a) NorVergence was selling unlimited local, long distance, high speed Internet and wireless service for a fixed monthly price, while it was actually liable to Qwest, T-Mobile, and other carriers on a per minute toll basis; (b) the cost of providing the unlimited service NorVergence was selling far exceeded the small payments that customers were required to make directly to NorVergence for their telecommunications service, together with the monies NorVergence received from the leasing companies; and (c) NorVergence had promised the customers long-term (*i.e.*, five year) service, but had no long-term contracts in place to provide that service.

15. Less than three years after NorVergence put its scheme into effect, NorVergence failed to pay its obligations to its carriers and suppliers, triggering the filing of an involuntary Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding against it. Service to the customers was turned off on or about July 15, 2004.

16. Although NorVergence had represented to its customers that its Matrix box could be used with any carrier of their choice, after the termination of telecommunications service, the customers could not find carriers who would use the Matrix box to provide service to them. In

fact, the customers were required to pay significantly more for their telecommunications services despite their having the Matrix box which NorVergence had touted as a cost savings solution.

17. Even after the termination of telecommunications service to the customers, and while the customers were required to pay higher costs for alternative telecommunications services provided by other carriers which had no use for the Matrix and Soho boxes, the leasing companies, including US Bancorp, improperly continued to enforce the Equipment Rental Agreements as against the customers.

18. The practices which NorVergence engaged in as set forth in paragraphs 4 through 15 are fraudulent, deceptive and misleading under Article 22-A of the General Business Law and under Executive Law § 63(12), and the Equipment Rental Agreements NorVergence entered into with its customers are unconscionable under Executive Law § 63(12) and Uniform Commercial Code (“UCC”) 2-302. Accordingly, the Equipment Rental Agreements should be rescinded as of the date that telecommunications services to NorVergence’s customers was terminated.

19. It now appears that respondent is willing to enter into this Assurance of Discontinuance ("Assurance") for purposes of settlement only, and does not admit to, and expressly denies, any violation of law, factual findings, and legal conclusions contained herein; and the Attorney General accepts this Assurance pursuant to Executive Law § 63(15) in lieu of commencing a statutory or other proceeding against respondent pursuant to Article 22-A of the General Business Law and Section 63(12) of the Executive Law.

## **AGREEMENT**

**IT IS HEREBY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED** by and between Lyon Financial Services, Inc., d/b/a U.S. Bancorp Business Equipment Finance Group and the

Attorney General that:

1. This Assurance of Discontinuance shall be binding upon and extend to LYON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., d/b/a U.S. Bancorp Business Equipment Finance Group (“US Bancorp”), its principals, officers, directors, agents (including, but not limited to third party collection agents), employees, successors and assigns, and any entity or device through which it may now or hereafter act, as well as any persons who have authority to control or who, in fact, control and direct its business. US Bancorp is entering into this Assurance without waiver of its arguments, in any case other than the NorVergence matter, that, as an operating subsidiary of a national bank, (i) it is subject to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency’s (“OCC’s”) exclusive visitorial jurisdiction, and (ii) state laws are preempted.

2. As to each customer listed on the chart annexed hereto as Exhibit A which elects to participate in the settlement terms agreed to herein and any participating guarantor for such customer (hereinafter collectively referred to as a “participating New York customer”), US Bancorp agrees to the following:

a. forgive 90% of the aggregate rental payments remaining under the participating New York customer’s US Bancorp Equipment Rental Agreements as of July 15, 2004 as set forth on Exhibit A;

b. forgive any late fees or penalties assessed on the participating New York customer’s accounts on or after July 15, 2004;

c. forgive any insurance charges assessed on the participating New York customer’s accounts on or after July 15, 2004;

d. fully credit the participating New York customer for any payments it has made to

US Bancorp on or after July 15, 2004, and issue refunds to participating New York customers whose payments have exceeded the sum of (i) 10% of the aggregate rental payments remaining and (ii) any unpaid late fees, penalties and insurance charges assessed prior to July 15, 2004; and

e. within thirty (30) calendar days of the customer's acceptance of the proposed settlement, withdraw any and all adverse credit reports filed with any company or agency as to customers who stopped making payments on the US Bancorp Equipment Rental Agreements on or after July 15, 2004, by notifying in writing each of the companies and agencies to whom they furnished information that the reports are to be withdrawn. Respondent shall furnish customers with copies of such letters by mailing the copies to such customers' last known addresses.

3. US Bancorp agrees to accept, in full satisfaction of any participating New York customer's obligations to US Bancorp under the US Bancorp Equipment Rental Agreements, the amounts provided for in paragraph 2 of this Assurance (hereinafter "Settlement Balance") to be paid in accordance with paragraphs a. or b. below:

a. If the New York customer's Settlement Balance is equal to \$5,000 or less, it shall either make a lump sum payment of the entire Settlement Balance or pay off the Settlement Balance in up to twelve (12) monthly installment payments, at the customer's election, with the first installment payment to be due on a date at least thirty days after the date of mailing of an invoice by US Bancorp following the customer's or guarantor's acceptance of the Settlement Program

b. If the New York customer's Settlement Balance is greater than \$5,000, it shall either make a lump sum payment of the entire Settlement Balance or pay off the Settlement Balance in up to twenty-four (24) monthly installment payments, at the customer's election, with

the first installment payment to be due on a date at least thirty days after the date of mailing of an invoice by US Bancorp following the customer's or guarantor's acceptance of the Settlement Program.

c. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs a. and b. above, nothing in this Assurance will be construed to preclude US Bancorp in its sole discretion from entering into mutually acceptable alternative payment schedules with New York customers.

4. US Bancorp represents that it has not assigned any Equipment Rental Agreements or the rights thereto to other leasing companies.

5. On or before January 31, 2005, US Bancorp shall

(a) mail a letter in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit B to each New York customer and any guarantor for such customer listed on Exhibit A who would be required to pay a Settlement Balance if they elected to participate in the Settlement Program. Such letter shall inform the New York customers and guarantors of the opportunity to participate in the settlement described herein, of the Settlement Balance due from that customer and/or guarantor, and of the customer's and/or guarantor's options for paying the Settlement Balance if they elect to participate in the settlement.

(b) mail a letter in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit C to each New York customer and any guarantor for such customer listed on Exhibit A who would be entitled to a refund (other than any customer or guarantor who has agreed to an independent settlement with US Bancorp) if they elected to participate in the Settlement Program. As to any New York customer and/or guarantor who has agreed to an independent settlement with US Bancorp after July 15, 2004 and prior to the Effective Date of this Assurance, US Bancorp will mail a letter offering that customer

and/or guarantor the opportunity to revise its settlement to achieve terms equivalent to the Settlement Programs.

6. Each New York customer and/or guarantor who elects to participate in the settlement described herein and pay the Settlement Balance shall complete, execute and deliver to US Bancorp within 60 days of the mailing of the letter referenced in paragraph 5 of this Assurance a document entitled “Settlement and Mutual Releases,” in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit D, which shall be included with the letter to New York customers, whereby the participating New York customer shall (a) elect and agree to pay the Settlement Balance in accordance with one of the payment options described in paragraph 3; and (b) release US Bancorp of any and all claims arising out of the customer’s US Bancorp Equipment Rental Agreement. If the customer and/or guarantor is entitled to a refund under the Settlement Program a “Settlement and Mutual Releases” in the form annexed hereto as Exhibit E will be mailed. Any New York customer and/or guarantor who expressly declines to participate in the Settlement Program, who initiates or continues any legal action against US Bancorp that is inconsistent with the Release required by the Settlement Program, or who fails to respond to the Settlement Program within 90 days of the mailing of the letter referenced in paragraph 5 of this Assurance shall be deemed to have declined to participate in the Settlement Program (hereinafter referred to as a “non-participating New York customer”).

7. As to any participating New York customer that executes the Settlement and Mutual Releases described in paragraph 6 above, US Bancorp agrees completely to settle and release any and all claims that US Bancorp has or may have had prior to the Effective Date of this Assurance against the New York customer and all of its subsidiaries, parents, affiliates,

predecessors, successors, assigns, officers, directors, employees, shareholders, agents and guarantors for any and all damages, restitution, equitable relief, costs, attorneys' fees and penalties related to, based upon or arising out of the participating New York customer's US Bancorp Equipment Rental Agreement. US Bancorp further agrees that it will not institute any civil action against the participating New York customer for breach of the Equipment Rental Agreement or otherwise seek to enforce the Equipment Rental Agreement against the participating New York customer, provided that the customer satisfies its obligations under the terms of the Settlement and Mutual Releases described in paragraph 6 herein.

8. As to any non-participating New York customer or any participating New York customer which thereafter defaults under the Settlement and Mutual Releases described in paragraph 6 above, US Bancorp shall not institute legal proceedings in any court outside the State of New York, unless the customer takes the position that it is subject to jurisdiction only in a forum other than the State of New York.

9. US Bancorp shall provide a copy of this Assurance to all current and future employees, agents and/or independent contractors involved in invoicing and servicing US Bancorp's portfolio of Equipment Rental Agreements with NorVergence customers who shall be bound by its terms.

#### **AFFIDAVITS OF COMPLIANCE**

10. Within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date of this Assurance, US Bancorp shall submit an affidavit to the Attorney General, subscribed to by an officer of the corporation, attesting that it sent the letters to the New York customers and guarantors listed in Exhibit A in accordance with the terms of paragraph 5 of this Assurance, and providing an accounting of the

customers and guarantors who elected as of that date to participate in the settlement, including the customers' Settlement Balances and payment schedules elected or agreed upon. Within one year thereafter, US Bancorp shall submit to the Attorney General an affidavit setting forth its compliance with the provisions of this Assurance, together with an accounting of the New York customers and guarantors who elected to participate in the Settlement Program, including the terms of their payment schedules and payments made. Subsequently, on or after the second anniversary of the date of this Assurance, the Attorney General may request in writing a further updated affidavit setting forth US Bancorp's compliance with the provisions of this Assurance and an updated accounting of the New York customers and guarantors who elected to participate in the Settlement Program, including the terms of their payment schedules and payments made, and US Bancorp shall submit such an affidavit within forty-five (45) calendar days of any such request.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

11. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as relieving US Bancorp of the obligation to comply with all applicable state and federal laws, regulations or rules, nor shall any of the provisions of this Assurance be deemed permission to engage in any act or practice prohibited by such law, regulation or rule.

12. The acceptance of this Assurance by the Attorney General shall not be deemed approval by the Attorney General of any of US Bancorp's business practices, and US Bancorp shall make no representation to the contrary.

13. Unless otherwise provided, all notices as required by this Assurance shall be provided as follows:

**To the Attorney General:  
Shahla F. Ali, Assistant Attorney General  
New York State Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Telecommunications and Energy  
120 Broadway, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10271  
tel. (212) 416-6343  
fax. (212) 416-8877**

**To Lyon Financial Services, Inc.:  
Joseph H. Andersen  
Deputy General Counsel  
Lyon Financial Services, Inc.  
US Bancorp Center, BC-MN-H21R  
800 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
tel. (612) 303-7800  
fax. (612) 303-7886**

#### **RIGHTS OF CUSTOMERS**

14. Nothing in this Assurance shall be construed to prevent any customer from pursuing any right or remedy at law which any customer may have against respondent, except to the extent that a customer executes a Settlement and Mutual Releases pursuant to this Assurance.

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

15. This Assurance shall be effective on the date that it is signed by an authorized representative of the Attorney General's Office ("Effective Date").

**VIOLATION AS PRIMA FACIE PROOF OF LAW VIOLATION**

16. If Respondent violates this Assurance, such violation shall constitute *prima facie* proof of violation of the applicable laws in any civil action or proceeding thereafter commenced by the Attorney General.

**ENTIRE ASSURANCE OF DISCONTINUANCE**

17. The terms stated herein constitute the entire terms of this Assurance.

**WHEREFORE**, the following signatures are affixed hereto this \_\_ day of December, 2004.

**LYON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.,  
d/b/a U.S. Bancorp Business Equipment  
Finance Group**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ELIOT SPITZER, ATTORNEY  
GENERAL OF THE STATE OF  
NEW YORK**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**By: Joy Feigenbaum  
Assistant Attorney General  
Bureau of Consumer Frauds  
and Protection**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**By: Shahla F. Ali  
Assistant Attorney General  
Bureau of Telecommunications  
and Energy**

[Exhibit B]

**NOTICE TO FORMER NEW YORK NORVERGENCE CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE N  
EQUIPMENT RENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH LYON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.,  
d/b/a U.S. BANCORP EQUIPMENT FINANCE GROUP, AND TO ANY GUARANTORS**

[Date]

Dear [name of New York Lessee and/or Guarantor]:

You are receiving this notice because the records of Lyon Financial Services, Inc., d/b/a U.S. Bancorp Business Equipment Finance Group ("US Bancorp") reflect that [Lessee] entered into an Equipment Rental Agreement (referred to herein as the "Rental Agreement") with US Bancorp, either directly or by assignment from NorVergence, Inc. ("NorVergence") in connection with its prior service from NorVergence, Inc. Pursuant to an agreement with the Attorney General of the State of New York (the "Attorney General"), US Bancorp is offering you the opportunity to participate in a Settlement Program in which you may pay off any outstanding balance on the Rental Agreement at a substantial discount and settle any and all disputes between you and US Bancorp arising from the Rental Agreement.

**The Settlement Program Offered By US Bancorp**

If you elect to participate in this Settlement Program, US Bancorp will (a) forgive ninety percent (90%) of the remaining aggregate rental payments due under [Lessee's] Rental Agreement as of July 15, 2004; (b) forgive any late fees or penalties assessed on [Lessee's] account on or after July 15, 2004; (c) forgive any insurance charges assessed on [Lessee's] account on or after July 15, 2004 and (d) fully credit you for any payments that you have made to US Bancorp on or after July 15, 2004.

In exchange for the benefits provided above, you must agree to release US Bancorp from any claims concerning your Rental Agreement, as described more fully below. You must also agree to pay the "Settlement Balance," which is the amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the aggregate rental payments remaining under the Rental Agreement as of July 15, 2004, plus any unpaid late fees, penalties and insurance charges assessed prior to July 15, 2004, minus any payments made on Lessee's account on or after July 15, 2004. You may elect to pay the Settlement Balance in one of the following ways:

(a) If your Settlement Balance is equal to \$5,000 or less, you may either make a lump sum payment of the entire Settlement Balance or (ii) paying off the Settlement Balance in up to twelve (12) equal monthly installment payments, with the first installment payment to be due on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005. US Bancorp will mail you an invoice for the first installment payment, no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date such payment is due.

(b) If your Settlement Balance is greater than \$5,000, you may either make a lump sum payment of the entire Settlement Balance or pay off the Settlement Balance in up to twenty-four (24) equal monthly installment payments, with the first installment payment due

\_\_\_\_\_, 2005. US Bancorp will mail you a bill for the first installment payment, no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date such payment is due.

If you have any questions about these payment options, please call US Bancorp at [dedicated telephone number].

You will also have the right at any time to prepay the remainder of the Settlement Balance without penalty.

To inform US Bancorp of your acceptance of this Settlement Program, **you must complete, sign and return to US Bancorp, by [date 60 days from the date of the mailing of this notice]** the enclosed document entitled “Settlement and Mutual Releases.” In that document, you must (a) elect and agree to pay the Settlement Balance according to one of the two payment options described above (either lump-sum or installment); and (b) fully release US Bancorp from, and agree not to sue US Bancorp for, any and all claims (including any claims as a member or representative of a putative class action) that you have or may have had against US Bancorp based upon [Lessee’s] Rental Agreement. If you are currently involved in any litigation with US Bancorp over [Lessee’s] Rental Agreement and you wish to participate in the Settlement Program, you and US Bancorp will mutually dismiss that action with prejudice. US Bancorp, in turn, will fully release you from, and agree not to sue you for or to dismiss you from, any and all claims that it has or may have had against you based upon [Lessee’s] Rental Agreement. Both you and US Bancorp will retain all rights under law to enforce the “Settlement and Mutual Releases.”

**IMPORTANT:** If you elect to participate in the Settlement Program, but thereafter fail to pay US Bancorp the Settlement Balance as promised in the Settlement and Mutual Releases, US Bancorp may seek to enforce the Settlement and Mutual Releases by use of any of the remedies available to it under the law.

US Bancorp has agreed to this Settlement Program for the purpose of avoiding the expense and inconvenience of litigation and it is not an admission on the part of US Bancorp that it engaged in any form of unlawful conduct or business practices. Indeed, US Bancorp expressly denies that it engaged in any such unlawful conduct or business practices and expressly denies that it is liable to any person or entity in connection with the rental of NorVergence telecommunications equipment.

**If You Decide Not To Participate In The Settlement Program:**

You are not obligated to participate in the Settlement Program agreed to by US Bancorp and the Attorney General, and you have the right to consult with an attorney of your choosing before you decide whether to participate in the Settlement Program. Nothing in the settlement between US Bancorp and the Attorney General prevents you from pursuing any right or remedy at law which you may have against US Bancorp, except to the extent that you elect to participate in this settlement and execute a Release. If you elect not to participate in the program, or if you enroll in the Settlement Program but change your mind and notify US Bancorp before resolving

the Settlement Balance that you wish to terminate your participation in the Settlement Program, then US Bancorp may seek to enforce the Rental Agreement in full and may make use of any of the remedies available to it under the law. US Bancorp has agreed, however, that it will not institute any legal proceedings against you in any court outside the State of New York, unless you take the position that you are subject to jurisdiction only in a forum other than the State of New York.

**What You Would Be Agreeing To If You Enroll In The Settlement Program:**

US Bancorp has the following information about the Rental Agreement and what the Settlement Program would require you to pay:

- 1. **Aggregate rental payments remaining as of July 15, 2004:** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. **Line 1 reduced by 90%:** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. **Plus unpaid late fees, penalties and insurance charges assessed prior to July 15, 2004** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. **Credit for payments received on or after July 15, 2004:** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. **Total remaining Settlement Balance to be paid:** \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly payment option: \_\_\_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_\_\_ months

Please call [phone number] if you have any questions regarding this Settlement Program or your Rental Agreement account.

Very truly yours,

Lyon Financial Services, Inc., d/b/a U.S.  
Bancorp Equipment Finance Group

[Exhibit D]

## SETTLEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASES

between

**[NEW YORK LESSEE AND GUARANTOR] and LYON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.,  
d/b/a/U.S. BANCORP EQUIPMENT FINANCE GROUP**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of the entity named above (the “Lessee”) and/or as personal guarantor (together, the “Lessee and/or Guarantor”), elect to take advantage of the Settlement Program agreed to by the Attorney General of the State of New York and LYON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., d/b/a U.S. BANCORP BUSINESS EQUIPMENT FINANCE GROUP (“US Bancorp”) to resolve Lessee’s Rental Agreement with US Bancorp (the “Rental Agreement”) at a substantial discount and to settle any and all disputes between Lessee and/or Guarantor and US Bancorp arising from the Rental Agreement. With this Settlement and Mutual Releases I am: (1) enrolling in the Settlement Program; and (2) entering into a mutual release of claims with US Bancorp and related parties.

I understand that US Bancorp and the Attorney General of the State of New York have agreed to the terms of this Settlement Program for the purpose of avoiding the expense and inconvenience of litigation and it is not an admission on the part of US Bancorp that it engaged in any form of unlawful conduct or business practices, and that US Bancorp expressly denies that it engaged in any such unlawful conduct or business practices and expressly denies that it is liable to any person or entity in connection with the Rental Agreement.

### 1. **Enrolling In The Settlement Program**

I understand that, upon Lessee’s and/or Guarantor’s acceptance of this Settlement Program, US Bancorp will:

- (a) forgive ninety percent (90%) of the aggregate rental payments remaining under the Rental Agreement as of July 15, 2004;
- (b) forgive any late fees or penalties assessed on the Lessee's account on or after July 15, 2004;
- (c) forgive any property insurance charges assessed on the Lessee's account on or after July 15, 2004;
- (d) fully credit any payments Lessee and/or Guarantor has made to US Bancorp on or after July 15, 2004; and
- (e) withdraw any and all adverse credit reports US Bancorp filed as a result of not receiving payment on the Rental Agreement on or after July 15, 2004.

I also understand that US Bancorp’s records reflect the following information about Lessee’s Rental Agreement account:

1. **Aggregate rental payments remaining as of July 15, 2004:** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Line 1 reduced by 90%:** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Plus any unpaid late fees, penalties or insurance charges assessed prior to July 15, 2004:** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Credit for payments received on or after July 15, 2004:** ..... \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Settlement Balance:** ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Lessee and/or Guarantor agree to pay the amount on Line 5 by the method checked here and request that US Bancorp invoice Lessee and/or Guarantor accordingly:

\_\_\_\_\_ Pay the Settlement Balance on Line 5 in a lump sum by the date specified in the US Bancorp invoice, which payment date shall be at least 30 days after the date of mailing of such invoice.

===== Pay the Settlement Balance on Line 5 in [12 or 24] equal monthly installments of [payment amount], beginning on the date specified in the first US Bancorp invoice, which payment date shall be at least 30 days after the date of mailing of such invoice. I understand that Lessee and/or Guarantor may prepay the remainder of the Settlement Balance at any time without penalty.

I understand that if Lessee and/or Guarantor fail to pay the Settlement Balance as promised, US Bancorp may seek to enforce the Settlement and Mutual Releases in full and make use of any of the remedies available to it under the law. However, US Bancorp will not file suit against Lessee and/or Guarantor in any court outside the State of New York, unless Lessee and/or Guarantor take the position that Lessee and/or Guarantor are subject to jurisdiction only in a forum other than the State of New York.

Lessee and/or Guarantor may change their mind and withdraw from the Settlement Program by notifying US Bancorp of that decision **in writing** before the first payment under the Settlement Program is due. Notice must be sent to the same address as this Settlement and Mutual Releases.

2. **Release Of Claims**

I understand that, in exchange for the opportunity to resolve the Rental Agreement at a substantial discount, Lessee and/or Guarantor hereby release and discharge US Bancorp and all of its subsidiaries, parents, affiliates, predecessors, successors and assigns subsequent to the

effective date of the agreement between the Attorney General of the State of New York and US Bancorp, officers, directors, employees, shareholders and agents (the "US Bancorp Parties") from, and covenant not to file or pursue any lawsuit or claim in any place against any US Bancorp Party for, any and all claims (including claims as a member or representative of a proposed class action) that Lessee and/or Guarantor has or may have had against it for any and all damages, restitution, equitable relief, attorneys' fees and/or penalties based upon the Rental Agreement. Lessee and/or Guarantor further agree that if they are currently involved in any litigation arising from the Rental Agreement, Lessee and/or Guarantor and US Bancorp will mutually dismiss that litigation with prejudice.

In exchange for Lessee and/or Guarantor's resolution of the Settlement Balance pursuant to this Settlement and Mutual Releases, US Bancorp hereby releases and discharges Lessee and/or Guarantor from, and covenants not to file or pursue any lawsuit or claim in any place against Lessee and/or Guarantor for, any and all claims that US Bancorp has or may have had against Lessee and/or Guarantor and all of its subsidiaries, parents, affiliates, predecessors, successors, assigns, officers, directors, employees, shareholders, agents, and guarantors for any and all damages, equitable relief, attorneys' fees and penalties based upon the Rental Agreement.

I hereby acknowledge and represent that I have read this Settlement and Mutual Releases; that I have had the opportunity to consult with a lawyer concerning it; that Lessee and/or Guarantor are voluntarily entering into this Settlement and Mutual Releases; that neither US Bancorp nor its agents or attorneys have made any representations or promises concerning the terms or effects of this Settlement Agreement other than those set forth in this document; and I understand that this is a full and final release of all claims Lessee and/or Guarantor has or may have against the US Bancorp Parties concerning the Rental Agreement.

I further agree that this Settlement and Mutual Releases constitutes the entire agreement among the parties hereto, may not be changed orally and may not be modified or amended except pursuant to an agreement in writing signed by all of the parties hereto, unless Lessee and/or Guarantor change their mind as provided above.

The signatory for the Lessee below represents that he or she is duly authorized to enter into this Settlement Agreement and Mutual Releases on behalf of the Lessee.

This Settlement and Mutual Releases shall be deemed accepted upon your return to US Bancorp of an executed copy of this agreement.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the undersigned has caused this Settlement and Mutual Releases to be executed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ [NAME OF NEW YORK LESSEE]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name]  
[Title]  
[Address]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name], as Guarantor

Lyon Financial Services, Inc., d/b/a U.S. Bancorp  
Business Equipment Finance Group

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**FILL OUT COMPLETELY AND SEND TWO SIGNED ORIGINALS TO US BANCORP AT:**

**PLEASE KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS. A FULLY EXECUTED DOCUMENT WILL BE SENT TO LESSEE AND ANY GUARANTOR.**

[Exhibit C]

**NOTICE TO FORMER NEW YORK NORVERGENCE CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE EQUIPMENT RENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH LYON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., d/b/a U.S. BANCORP BUSINESS EQUIPMENT FINANCE GROUP, AND TO ANY GUARANTORS**

[Date]

Dear [name of New York Lessee and/or Guarantor]:

You are receiving this notice because the records of Lyon Financial Services, Inc., d/b/a U.S. Bancorp Business Equipment Finance Group (“US Bancorp”) reflect that [Lessee] entered into an Equipment Rental Agreement (referred to herein as the “Rental Agreement”) with US Bancorp, either directly or by assignment from NorVergence, Inc. (“NorVergence”) in connection with its prior service from NorVergence, Inc. Pursuant to an agreement with the Attorney General of the State of New York (the “Attorney General”), US Bancorp is offering you the opportunity to participate in a Settlement Program in which you may resolve any outstanding balance on the Rental Agreement at a substantial discount and settle any and all disputes between you and US Bancorp arising from the Rental Agreement.

**The Settlement Program Offered by US Bancorp:**

If you elect to participate in this Settlement Program, US Bancorp will (a) forgive ninety percent (90%) of the remaining aggregate rental payments due under [Lessee’s] account on or after July 15, 2004; (b) forgive any late fees or penalties assessed on [Lessee’s] account on or after July 15, 2004; (c) forgive any insurance charges assessed on [Lessee’s] account on or after July 15, 2004 and (d) fully credit you for any payments that you have made to US Bancorp on or after July 15, 2004. In the event [Lessee’s] payments have exceeded the sum of (i) 10% of the aggregate rental payments remaining due as of July 15, 2004 and (ii) any unpaid late fees, penalties and insurance charges assessed prior to July 15, 2004, you would receive a refund of the amount in excess of 10% if you elect to participate in the settlement.

In exchange for the benefits provided above, you must agree to release US Bancorp from any claims concerning your Rental Agreement, as described more fully below. You must also agree to resolve the “Settlement Balance,” which is the amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the aggregate rental payments remaining due under the Rental Agreement as of July 15, 2004, plus any unpaid late fees, penalties and insurance charges assessed prior to July 15, 2004, minus any payments made on Lessee’s account on or after July 15, 2004. If you elect to resolve the Settlement Balance you will be entitled to a refund check which US Bancorp will mail to you on or before [date 30 days from mailing of acceptance of Settlement Program].

To inform US Bancorp of your acceptance of this Settlement Program, **you must complete, sign and return to US Bancorp, by [date 60 days from the date of the mailing of this notice]** the enclosed document entitled “Settlement and Mutual Releases.” In that

document, you must (a) elect and agree to resolve the Settlement Balance; and (b) fully release US Bancorp from, and agree not to sue US Bancorp for any and all claims (including any claims as a member or representative of a putative class action) that you have or may have had against US Bancorp based upon [Lessee's] Rental Agreement. If you are currently involved in any litigation with US Bancorp over [Lessee's] Rental Agreement and you wish to participate in the Settlement Program, you and US Bancorp will mutually dismiss that action with prejudice. US Bancorp, in turn, will fully release you from, and agree not to sue you for or to dismiss you from, any and all claims that it has or may have had against you based upon [Lessee's] Rental Agreement. Both you and US Bancorp will retain all rights under law to enforce the "Settlement and Mutual Releases."

US Bancorp has agreed to this Settlement Program for the purpose of avoiding the expense and inconvenience of litigation and it is not an admission on the part of US Bancorp that it engaged in any form of unlawful conduct or business practices. Indeed, US Bancorp expressly denies that it engaged in any such unlawful conduct or business practices and expressly denies that it is liable to any person or entity in connection with the rental of NorVergence telecommunications equipment.

**If You Decide Not to Participate In The Settlement Program:**

You are not obligated to participate in the Settlement Program agreed to by US Bancorp and the Attorney General, and you have the right to consult with an attorney of your choosing before you decide whether to participate in the Settlement Program. Nothing in the settlement between US Bancorp and the Attorney General prevents you from pursuing any right or remedy at law which you may have against US Bancorp, except to the extent that you elect to participate in this settlement and execute a Release. If you elect not to participate in the program, or if you enroll in the Settlement Program but change your mind and notify US Bancorp before resolving the Settlement Balance that you wish to terminate your participation in the Settlement Program, then US Bancorp may seek to enforce the Rental Agreement in full and may make use of any of the remedies available to it under the law. US Bancorp has agreed, however, that it will not institute any legal proceedings against you in any court outside the State of New York, unless you take the position that you are subject to jurisdiction only in a forum other than the State of New York.

**What You Would Be Agreeing To If You Enroll In The Settlement Program:**

US Bancorp has the following information about the Rental Agreement and what the Settlement Program would require :

- 1. **Aggregate rental payments remaining as of July 15, 2004:** \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. **Line 1 reduced by 90%.....** \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. **Plus unpaid late fees, penalties and insurance**  
**Charges assessed prior to July 15, 2004.....** \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. **Credit for payments received on or after July**  
**15, 2004.....** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Amount of refund..... : ( )**

You would be entitled to a refund of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable on or before [date- 30 days from mailing of acceptance of Settlement Program].

Please call [phone number] if you have any questions regarding this Settlement Program or your Rental Agreement account.

Very truly yours,  
Lyon Financial Services, Inc., d/b/a/  
US Bancorp Business Equipment Finance Group

[Exhibit E]

**SETTLEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASES**

between

**[NEW YORK LESSEE AND GUARANTOR] and US BANCORP BUSINESS EQUIPMENT FINANCE, INC.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of the entity named above (the “Lessee”) and/or as personal guarantor (together, the “Lessee and/or Guarantor”), elect to take advantage of the Settlement Program agreed to by the Attorney General of the State of New York and LYON FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., d/b/a U.S. BANCORP BUSINESS EQUIPMENT FINANCE GROUP (“US Bancorp”) to resolve lessee’s Rental Agreement with US Bancorp (the “Rental Agreement”) at a substantial discount and to settlement any and all disputes between Lessee and/or guarantor and US Bancorp arising from the Rental Agreement. With this Settlement and Mutual Releases I am: (1) enrolling in the Settlement Program; and (2) entering into a mutual release of claims with US Bancorp and related parties.

I understand that US Bancorp and the Attorney General of the State of New York have agreed to the terms of this Settlement Program for the purpose of avoiding the expense and inconvenience of litigation and it is not an admission on the part of US Bancorp that it engaged in any form of unlawful conduct or business practices, and that US Bancorp expressly denies that it engaged in any form of unlawful conduct of business practices, and that it engaged in any such unlawful conduct or business practices and expressly denies that it is liable to any person or entity in connection with the Rental Agreement.

1. **Enrolling In The Settlement Program**

I understand that, upon Lessee’s and/or Guarantor’s acceptance of this Settlement Program, US Bancorp will:

- (a) forgive ninety percent (90%) of the aggregate rental payments remaining outstanding under the Rental Agreement as of July 15, 2004;
- (b) forgive any late fees or penalties assessed on the Lessee’s account on or after July 15, 2004;
- (c) forgive any property insurance charges assessed on the Lessee’s account on or after July 15, 2004;
- (d) fully credit any payments lessee and/or Guarantor has made to US Bancorp on or after July 15, 2004; and
- (e) withdraw any and all adverse credit reports US Bancorp filed as a result of not receiving payment on the Rental Agreement on or after July 15, 2004.

I also understand that US Bancorp’s records reflect the following information about Lessee’s Rental Agreement account:

- |    |   |                  |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | <b>Aggregate rental payments remaining as of July 15, 2004</b><br>.....                                       | _____            |
| 2. | <b>Line 1 reduced by 90%.....</b>   | _____            |
| 3. | <b>Plus any unpaid late fees, penalties or<br/>Insurance charges assessed prior to July 15,<br/>2004.....</b> | _____            |
| 4. | <b>Credit for payments received on or after July<br/>15, 2004.....</b>  | _____            |
| 5. | <b>Refund.....</b>  | (        ) _____ |

US Bancorp will send a refund check in the amount of ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) within 30 days of the mailing of Lessee and/or Guarantors acceptance of the Settlement Program.

Lessee and/or Guarantor may change their mind and withdraw from the Settlement Program by notifying US Bancorp of that decision **in writing** before the refund check under the Settlement Program is due. Notice must be sent to the same address as this Settlement and Mutual Releases.

**2. Release Of Claims**

I understand that, in exchange for the opportunity to resolve the Equipment Rental Agreement at a substantial discount, Lessee and/or Guarantor hereby releases and discharge US Bancorp and all of its subsidiaries, parents, affiliates, predecessors, successors and assigns subsequent to the effective date of the agreement between the Attorney General of the State of New York and US Bancorp, officers, directors, employees, shareholders and agents (the "US Bancorp Parties") from, and covenant not to file or pursue any lawsuit or claim in any place against any US Bancorp Party for, any and all claims (including claims as a member or representative of a proposed class action) that Lessee and/or Guarantor has or may have had against it for any and all damages, restitution, equitable relief, attorneys' fees and/or penalties based upon the Rental Agreement. Lessee and/or Guarantor further agree that if they are currently involved in any litigation arising from the Rental Agreement, Lessee and/or Guarantor and US Bancorp will mutually dismiss that litigation with prejudice.

In exchange for Lessee and/or Guarantor's resolution of the Settlement Balance pursuant to this Settlement and Mutual Releases, US Bancorp hereby releases and discharges Lessee and/or Guarantor from, and covenants not to file or pursue any lawsuit or claim in any place against Lessee and/or Guarantor for, any and all claims that US Bancorp has or may have had against Lessee and/or Guarantor and all of its subsidiaries, parents, affiliates, predecessors, successors, assigns, officers, directors, employees, shareholders, agents, and guarantors for any and all damages, equitable relief, attorney's fees and penalties based upon the Rental Agreement.

I hereby acknowledge and represent that I have read this Settlement and Mutual Releases; that I have had the opportunity to consult with a lawyer concerning it; that Lessee and/or Guarantor are voluntarily entering into this Settlement and Mutual Releases; that neither US Bancorp nor its agents or attorneys have made any representations or promises concerning the

terms or effects of this Settlement Agreement other than those set forth in this document; and I understand that this is a full and final release of all claims Lessee and/or Guarantor has or may have against the US Bancorp Parties concerning the Rental Agreement.

I further agree that this Settlement and Mutual Release constitutes the entire agreement among the parties hereto, may not be changed orally and may not be modified or amended except pursuant to an agreement in writing signed by all of the parties hereto, unless Lessee and/or Guarantor change their mind as provided above.

The signatory for the Lessee below represents that he or she is duly authorized to enter into this Settlement Agreement and Mutual Releases on behalf of the Lessee.

This Settlement and Mutual Releases shall be deemed accepted upon your return to US Bancorp of an executed copy of this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the undersigned has caused this Settlement and Mutual Releases to be executed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

[NAME OF NEW YORK LESSEE]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name]  
[Title]  
[Address]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name], as Guarantor

Lyon Financial Services, Inc., d/b/a U.S.  
Bancorp Business Equipment Finance  
Group

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**FILL OUT COMPLETELY AND SEND TWO SIGNED ORIGINALS TO US BANCORP AT:**

**PLEASE KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS. A FULLY EXECUTED DOCUMENT WILL BE SENT TO LESSEE AND ANY GUARANTOR.**