



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Jeff Hartzell

(312) 384-8011

[jhartzell@neutraltandem.com](mailto:jhartzell@neutraltandem.com)

**NEUTRAL TANDEM'S INDEPENDENT NETWORK STRENGTHENS  
NATION'S STRATEGY FOR HOMELAND SECURITY**

**White Paper Echoes Independent Panel Findings Showing Need for Tandem Diversity,  
With Current Deliberations in FCC Docket No. 06-159**

**CHICAGO, November 01, 2006** – Neutral Tandem, Inc., the nation's leading independent provider of inter-carrier tandem services, has asked the Federal Communications Commission to review its pending petition to directly interconnect with Verizon Wireless, Docket No. 06-159, by further establishing the public interest benefits of adding necessary tandem diversity within the nation's telecommunications infrastructure. The pending petition is currently supported by the New York Department of Public Service, the cities of New York and Chicago, and a wide variety of other parties, including AT&T.

A recently released white paper, entitled *A Homeland Security Issue: Tandem Diversity and the Public Switched Network* agreed with the findings of the FCC's Independent Panel reviewing the impact of Hurricane Katrina's effect on communications networks and the need for tandem diversity<sup>1</sup>. The FCC panel noted: "The switches that failed, especially tandems, had widespread effects on a broad variety of communications inside and out of the Katrina region." The report also concluded that "...high volume routes from tandem switches, especially in and around New Orleans were critical and vulnerable." The impact of outages included: inability of local carriers, including wireless and wireline, to exchange traffic and complete calls; inability of long distance calls to enter or leave areas served by the tandem; and hampered communications for those most affected by the tragedy.

John Calarco, an executive with over 30 years of experience in the information services industry and Ellen C. Craig, who served previously as the Chairman and Commissioner of the Illinois Commerce Commission co-authored *A Homeland Security Issue: Tandem Diversity and the Public Switched Telephone Network* on behalf of Neutral Tandem. The authors identified Neutral Tandem as having the necessary diverse tandem facilities located in separate locations from existing incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) tandems critical to adding reliability to the public-switched telephone network (PSTN).

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<sup>1</sup> E.B Docket No 116-19, Released June 19, 2006; Recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks, Effect of Hurricane Katrina on Various Types of Communications Networks.

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“The addition of Neutral Tandem into the nation’s telecommunications infrastructure dramatically improves network reliability. It’s in the public’s best interest to encourage private sector investments that strengthen the communications infrastructure, and any serious disaster recovery plan should include tandem diversity,” said John Calarco. A copy of the article can be found at [www.neutraltandem.com/news.aspx](http://www.neutraltandem.com/news.aspx).

“We are gratified to see Neutral Tandem recognized as a needed solution for tandem diversity, and we are especially encouraged that FCC Chairman Martin recently highlighted his commitment to making public safety and emergency preparedness a top priority in his testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee,” said Rian Wren, Chief Executive Officer of Neutral Tandem. “Neutral Tandem provides the public with precisely the type of redundancy found lacking in the FCC’s Hurricane Katrina report, and that’s why the cities of New York and Chicago, along with the New York Department of Public Service and others have strongly supported our efforts to bring tandem diversity immediately to the public.”

“This issue, which has been in front of the FCC for two years, has a direct impact on our country’s ability to respond and recover from Homeland Security events impacting telecommunications infrastructure,” said Surendra Saboo, Chief Operating Officer of Neutral Tandem. “We hope that Chairman Martin’s commitment to the Senate making Homeland security issues a priority is reflected in the FCC’s handling of Docket No 06-159.”

Neutral Tandem’s network strengthens the PSTN and reduces the potential for call failures during natural and man-made disasters by providing:

- Distinct physical tandem locations, separate from existing ILEC tandems.
- Transport and facility diversity with multiple access points and termination paths, where 98.5% of Neutral Tandem’s transport is routed independent of the ILEC.
- Safeguards such as generators and battery back-up to ensure continued operations.

Neutral Tandem provides tandem services to more than 50 major carriers, including nearly all of the major wireless, competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs), cable and VoIP service providers to exchange traffic, providing a redundant and cost-effective alternative to ILEC tandems. The company is operational in many U.S. markets, including: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus (OH), Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami/Fort Lauderdale, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York, Northern New Jersey, Orlando (FL), Rochester (NY), Tampa (FL), Washington D.C., and the state of Connecticut.

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**About Neutral Tandem, Inc.**

Neutral Tandem, Inc. is the nation's leading provider of independent tandem and voice peering services to wireless, wireline, cable and VoIP companies. Founded in 2003, the company has created the largest non-PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) tandem network in the U.S., facilitating inter-carrier communications with a cost-effective alternative to the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) network. Neutral Tandem's network builds redundancy, security and operational efficiencies into the nation's telecommunications infrastructure by connecting over 133 million end points (terminating numbers) in 46 U.S. markets. The company is headquartered in Chicago. Please visit Neutral Tandem's website at: [www.neutraltandem.com](http://www.neutraltandem.com).