

TELECOM ARGENTINA SA
Form 6-K
June 07, 2010
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16

of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of June, 2010

Commission File Number: 001-13464

Telecom Argentina S.A.

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Alicia Moreau de Justo, No. 50, 1107

Buenos Aires, Argentina

(Address of principal executive offices)

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F:

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether by furnishing the information contained in this Form, the Registrant is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Yes No

If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): N/A

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Telecom Argentina S.A.

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Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF MARCH 31, 2010

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TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A.

Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

Consolidated Financial Statements as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009 and for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009

\$: Argentine peso

US\$: US dollar

\$3.878 = US\$1 as of March 31, 2010

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TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A.

Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

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Table of Contents**TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A.***Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer***Unaudited Consolidated Balance Sheets as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009**

(In millions of Argentine pesos - see Note 3.c)

	As of March 31, 2010 (unaudited)	As of December 31, 2009
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and banks	\$ 63	\$ 62
Investments	1,667	1,227
Accounts receivable, net	1,047	1,163
Other receivables, net	241	241
Inventories, net	223	243
Other assets, net	7	7
Total current assets	3,248	2,943
Non-Current Assets		
Other receivables, net	75	74
Investments	2	1
Fixed assets, net	6,895	6,839
Intangible assets, net	768	773
Other assets, net	4	3
Total non-current assets	7,744	7,690
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 10,992	\$ 10,633
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,932	\$ 2,212
Debt	828	763
Salaries and social security payable	272	300
Taxes payable	975	769
Other liabilities	55	52
Contingencies	69	73
Total current liabilities	4,131	4,169
Non-Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	22	24
Debt	43	58
Salaries and social security payable	79	82
Taxes payable	185	212

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Other liabilities	184	186
Contingencies	414	374
Total non-current liabilities	927	936
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 5,058	\$ 5,105
Noncontrolling interest	93	92
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	\$ 5,841	\$ 5,436
TOTAL LIABILITIES, NONCONTROLLING INTEREST AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY	\$ 10,992	\$ 10,633

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Adrián Calaza
Chief Financial Officer

Gerardo Werthein
Vice-Chairman in exercise of the Presidency

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TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A.

Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Income

for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009

(In millions of Argentine pesos, except per share data in Argentine pesos - see Note 3.c)

	For the three-month periods ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Net sales	\$ 3,249	\$ 2,829
Cost of services	(1,618)	(1,421)
Gross profit	1,631	1,408
General and administrative expenses	(121)	(92)
Selling expenses	(747)	(657)
Operating income	763	659
Financial results, net	(57)	(94)
Other expenses, net	(51)	
Net income before income tax and noncontrolling interest	655	565
Income tax expense, net	(242)	(213)
Noncontrolling interest	(2)	(1)
Net income	\$ 411	\$ 351
Net income per share	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.36

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

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Chief Financial Officer

Gerardo Werthein
Vice-Chairman in exercise of the Presidency

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TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A.

Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity

for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009

(In millions of Argentine pesos - see Note 3.c)

	Shareholders' contributions (Note 9.a)			Legal reserve	Unappropriated earnings (Note 9.b)		Total	Total Shareholders equity
	Common stock	of common stock	Inflation adjustment Total		Foreign currency translation adjustments	Accumulated earnings		
Balances as of January 1, 2009	\$ 984	2,688	3,672		95	253	348	\$ 4,020
Foreign currency translation adjustments					3		3	3
Changes in the fair value of cash flow hedges, net of income tax					1		1	1
Net income for the period						351	351	351
Balances as of March 31, 2009	\$ 984	2,688	3,672		(i) 99	604	703	\$ 4,375
Balances as of January 1, 2010	\$ 984	2,688	3,672		106	1,658	1,764	\$ 5,436
Foreign currency translation adjustments					(4)		(4)	(4)
Changes in the fair value of cash flow hedges, net of income tax					(2)		(2)	(2)
Net income for the period						411	411	411
Balances as of March 31, 2010	\$ 984	2,688	3,672		(ii) 100	2,069	2,169	\$ 5,841

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

(i) **Foreign currency translation adjustments** at March 31, 2009, consist of the following:

	Foreign currency translation adjustments	Fair value of cash flow hedges
Personal	90	8
Telecom		1
Total	90	9

(ii) **Foreign currency translation adjustments** at March 31, 2010, consist of the following:

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	Foreign currency translation adjustments	Fair value of cash flow hedges
Personal	102	(2)
Total	102	(2)

Adrián Calaza
Chief Financial Officer

Gerardo Werthein
Vice-Chairman in exercise of the Presidency

Table of Contents**TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A.***Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer***Unaudited Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows****for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009**

(In millions of Argentine pesos - see Note 3.c)

	For the three-month periods ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u>		
Net income for the period	\$ 411	\$ 351
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash flows provided by operating activities		
Allowance for doubtful accounts and other allowances	37	45
Depreciation of fixed assets	297	253
Amortization of intangible assets	4	5
Consumption of materials	25	23
Gain on sale/disposal of fixed assets and other assets		(5)
Provision for lawsuits and contingencies	38	(15)
Holdings (gain) loss on inventories	8	(12)
Interest and other financial losses on loans	70	120
Income tax	142	175
Noncontrolling interest	2	1
Net decrease (increase) in assets	83	(7)
Net decrease in liabilities	(139)	(79)
Total cash flows provided by operating activities	978	855
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</u>		
Fixed asset acquisitions	(513)	(375)
Intangible asset acquisitions	(8)	(5)
Proceeds for the sale of fixed assets and other assets	1	9
Increase in investments not considered as cash and cash equivalents	(1)	(10)
Total cash flows used in investing activities	(521)	(381)
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</u>		
Debt proceeds	15	22
Payment of debt	(33)	(60)
Payment of interest and debt-related expenses	(1)	(15)
Total cash flows used in financing activities	(19)	(53)
INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	438	421
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,273	902

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CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT PERIOD END	\$ 1,711	\$ 1,323
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See Note 6 for supplementary cash flow information.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Adrián Calaza
Chief Financial Officer

Gerardo Werthein
Vice-Chairman in exercise of the Presidency

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TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A.

Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

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(In millions of Argentine pesos, except as otherwise indicated See Note 3.c)

1. The Company and its operations

Telecom Argentina S.A. (Telecom Argentina or Telecom and together with its subsidiaries, the Company or the Telecom Group, indistinctively) was created by a decree of the Argentine Government in January 1990 and organized as a *sociedad anónima* under the name Sociedad Licenciataria Norte S.A. in April 1990.

Telecom Argentina commenced operations on November 8, 1990 (the Transfer Date), upon the transfer to the Company of the telecommunications network of the northern region of Argentina previously owned and operated by the state-owned company, Empresa Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (ENTel).

Telecom Argentina's license, as originally granted, was exclusive to provide telephone services in the northern region of Argentina through October 10, 1999. As from such date, the Company began providing telephone services in the southern region of Argentina and competing in the previously exclusive northern region.

The Company provides fixed-line public telecommunication services, international long-distance service, data transmission and Internet services in Argentina. Accordingly, the Company had amended its by-laws in accordance with the prior approval obtained from the Department of Communications (SC, the Regulatory Authority) and the *Comisión Nacional de Valores* (CNV), the National Securities Commission in Argentina.

A description of the subsidiaries with their respective percentage of capital stock owned as of March 31, 2010, is presented as follows:

Reportable segment	Subsidiaries	Percentage of capital stock owned and voting rights (i)	Indirect control through	Date of acquisition
Voice, data and Internet	Telecom Argentina USA Inc. (Telecom USA)	100.00%		09.12.00
	Micro Sistemas Sociedad Anonima (Micro Sistemas) (ii)	99.99%		12.31.97
Wireless	Telecom Personal S.A. (Personal)	99.99%		07.06.94
	Núcleo S.A. (Núcleo)	67.50%	Personal	02.03.98
	Springville S.A. (Springville) (ii)	100.00%	Personal	04.07.09

(i) Percentage of equity interest owned has been rounded.

(ii) Dormant entity at March 31, 2010.

2. Regulatory framework*(a) Regulatory bodies and general legal framework*

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Telecom Argentina and Personal operate in a regulated industry. Regulation not only covers rates and service terms, but also the terms on which various licensing and technical requirements are imposed.

The provision of telecommunication services is regulated by the SC and supervised by the *Comisión Nacional de Comunicaciones*, the National Communications Commission (CNC). The CNC is in charge of general oversight and supervision of telecommunications services. The SC has the power to develop, suggest and implement policies which are applicable to telecommunications services; to ensure that these policies are applied; to review the applicable legal regulatory framework; to act as the enforcing authority with respect to the laws governing the relevant activities; to approve major technical plans and to resolve administrative appeals filed against CNC resolutions.

The principal features of the regulatory framework in Argentina have been created by:

The Privatization Regulations, including the List of Conditions;

The Transfer Agreement;

The Licenses granted to Telecom Argentina and its subsidiaries;

The Tariff Agreements; and

Various governmental decrees, including Decree No. 764/00, establishing the regulatory framework for licenses, interconnection, universal service and radio spectrum management.

Núcleo, Personal s Paraguayan controlled company, is supervised by the *Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones de Paraguay*, the National Communications Commission of Paraguay (CONATEL). Telecom USA, Telecom s subsidiary, is supervised by the Federal Communications Commission (the FCC).

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TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A.

Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(In millions of Argentine pesos, except as otherwise indicated See Note 3.c)

2. Regulatory framework (continued)

(b) Licenses granted as of March 31, 2010

As of March 31, 2010, Telecom Argentina has been granted the following non-expiring licenses to provide the following services in Argentina:

Local fixed telephony;

Public telephony;

Domestic and international long-distance telephony;

Domestic and international point-to-point link services;

Domestic and international telex services;

Value added services, data transmission, videoconferencing and broadcasting signal services; and

Internet access.

As of March 31, 2010, the Company's subsidiaries have been granted the following licenses:

Personal has been granted a non-exclusive, non-expiring license to provide mobile telecommunication services in the northern region of Argentina and data transmission and value added services throughout the country. In addition, Personal owns licenses to provide mobile radio communication services in the Federal District and Greater Buenos Aires areas, as well as a non-expiring license to provide PCS services throughout the country and it is registered to provide national and international long-distance telephone services; and

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Núcleo has been granted a renewable five-year period license to provide mobile telecommunication services in Paraguay as well as PCS services, data transmission and videoconferences services and Internet access in certain areas of that country.

(c) Revocation of the license

Telecom Argentina's license is revocable in the case of non-compliance with certain obligations, including but not limited to:

an interruption of all or a substantial portion of service;

a modification of its corporate purpose or change of domicile to a jurisdiction outside Argentina;

a sale or transfer of the license to third parties without prior approval of the Regulatory Bodies;

any sale, encumbrance or transfer of assets which has the effect of reducing services provided, without the prior approval of the Regulatory Bodies;

a reduction of Nortel Inversora S.A.'s (Nortel, the parent company of the Company) interest in Telecom Argentina to less than 51%, or the reduction of Nortel's common shareholders' interest in Nortel to less than 51%, in either case without prior approval of the Regulatory Bodies;

any transfer of shares resulting in a direct or indirect loss of control in Telecom without prior approval of the Regulatory Bodies;

an assignment or delegation of Telecom Italia S.p.A.'s (Telecom Italia or the Operator) functions without the prior approval of the Regulatory Bodies;

the Company's bankruptcy.

Personal's licenses are revocable in the case of non-compliance with certain obligations, including but not limited to:

repeated interruptions of the services;

any transfer of the license and/or the related rights and obligations, without the prior approval of the Regulatory Authority;

any encumbrance of the license;

any voluntary insolvency proceedings or bankruptcy of Personal;

a liquidation or dissolution of Personal, without the prior approval of the Regulatory Authority.

Núcleo's licenses are revocable mainly in the case of:

repeated interruptions of the services;

any voluntary insolvency proceedings or bankruptcy of Núcleo;

non-compliance with certain obligations.

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Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(In millions of Argentine pesos, except as otherwise indicated See Note 3.c)

2. Regulatory framework (continued)

(d) Decree No. 764/00

Decree No. 764/00 substantially modified three regulations:

General Regulation of Licenses

This regulation establishes a single nationwide license for the provision of all telecommunication services to the public, including fixed-line, wireless, national and international, irrespective of whether these services are provided through telecommunications infrastructure owned by the service provider. Under the regulation, a licensee's corporate purpose does not need to be exclusively the provision of telecommunications services. In addition, the regulation does not establish any minimum investment or coverage requirements. Broadcasting service companies may also apply for a license to provide telecommunications services. The regulation further authorizes the resale of telecommunications services subject to the receipt of a license, and there are no restrictions on participation by foreign companies.

Argentine Interconnection Regulation

This regulation provides for an important reduction in the reference interconnection prices in effect at the time. The regulation also increases the number of infrastructure elements and services that the dominant operator is required to provide, including interconnection at the local exchange level, billing services and unbundling of local loops. This regulation also introduces interconnection for number translation services (NTS) such as Internet, audiotext, collect calling and the implementation of number portability, all of which shall be subject to future regulations.

On January 22, 2009, the SC issued Resolution No. 8/09 through which it created a Working Commission composed by members of the SC and the CNC to prepare a draft of the Number Portability Regulation.

Universal Service (SU) Regulation

The SU regulation required entities that receive revenues from telecommunications services to contribute 1% of these revenues (net of taxes) to the Universal Service Fiduciary Fund (the SU fund). The regulation adopted a pay or play mechanism for compliance with the mandatory contribution to the SU fund. The regulation established a formula for calculating the subsidy for the provision of SU which takes into account the cost of providing this service and any foregone revenues. Additionally, the regulation created a committee responsible for the administration of the SU fund and the development of specific SU programs.

The SC issued Resolution No. 80/07 which stipulated that until the SU Fund is effectively implemented, telecommunication service providers, such as Telecom Argentina and Personal, are required to deposit any contributions accrued since the issuance of such Resolution into a special individual account held in their name at the Banco de la Nación Argentina. CNC Resolution No. 2,713/07, issued in August 2007, established how these contributions are to be calculated.

New SU Regulation

Decree No. 558/08, published on April 4, 2008, recently caused certain changes to the SU regime.

The Decree established that the SC will assess the value of service providers' direct program contributions in compliance with obligations promulgated by Decree No. 764/00. It will also determine the level of funding required in the SU Fund for programs pending implementation. In the same manner, in order to guarantee the continuity of certain projects, the SC was given the choice to consider as SU contributions certain other undertakings made by telecommunication services providers and compensate providers for these undertakings.

The new regulation established two SU categories: a) areas with uncovered or unsatisfied needs; and b) customer groups with unsatisfied needs. It also determined that the SC would have exclusive responsibility for the issuance of general and specific resolutions regarding the new regulation, as well as for its interpretation and application.

It also established that the SC will review SU programs which were established under the previous regulation, guaranteeing the continuity of those already being administered and implementing those that had been under review.

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TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A.

Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(In millions of Argentine pesos, except as otherwise indicated See Note 3.c)

2. Regulatory framework (continued)

The Decree requires Telecom and Telefonica de Argentina S.A. (Telefonica) to extend the coverage of their fixed line networks, within their respective original region of activity, within 60 months from the effective date of publication of the Decree. The SC will determine on a case by case basis if the providers will be compensated with funds from the SU Fund.

The level of financing of SU ongoing programs established under the previous regulation will be determined by the SC, whereas telecommunications providers appointed to participate in future SU Programs will be selected by competitive bidding.

The Decree requires telecommunications service providers to contribute 1% of their revenues (from telecommunication services, net of taxes) to the SU Fund and keeps the pay or play mechanism for compliance with the mandatory monthly contribution to the SU Fund or, to claim the correspondent receivable, as the case may be.

Decree No. 558/08 also mandates the creation of the SU Fund and orders that it must be established within 180 days from the date of publication. Providers of telecommunications services shall act in their capacity as trustors for this fund, and shall rely on the assistance of a Technical Committee made up of seven members (two members shall be appointed by the SC, one member shall be appointed by the CNC, three members shall be appointed by the telecommunication services providers two of which shall be appointed by Telecom and Telefonica and one by the rest of the providers and another member will be appointed by independent local operators). This Technical Committee will be informed by the SC of the programs that will be financed and will be responsible for managing and controlling the SU Fund, carrying out technical-economic evaluations of existing projects and supervising the process of competitive bidding and adjudication of new SU programs, with the prior approval by the SC.

At the date of issuance of these consolidated financial statements, the Technical Committee had been created and had begun to analyze the operative procedures associated to the functions derived from its responsibilities. Additionally, telecommunications service providers had already selected the Fiduciary institution and had sent the proposed Fiduciary agreement to the SC. The SC approved it in January 2009 through Resolution No. 7/09, but there is still pending resolution certain administrative and operative matters.

On December 9, 2008, the SC issued Resolution No. 405/08 which requires telecommunication service providers to deposit into special accounts the 1% of their revenues as defined in Decree No. 558/08, without passing on any costs incurred for the provision of their services.

On January 12, 2009, the Company and Personal, filed claims before the SC objecting to the provisions of SC Resolution No. 405/08, based on the illegality of this rule, arguing that it contradicts Decree No. 558/08 because it violates the rights of both licensees to factor their compensation for the provision of the SU programs in the calculation of their investment contribution, in accordance with the pay or play mechanism stated in the Decree No. 558/08.

The management of the Group, with the opinion of its legal counsel, considers it has meritorious legal arguments for the claims filed against Resolution No. 405/08.

At the date of issuance of these consolidated financial statements, the SU programs are still pending approval by the SC.

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On April 4, 2009, by means of SC Resolution No. 88/09, the SC created a new program denominated Telephony and Internet for towns without provision of basic Telephone services that will be subsidized with funds from the SU Fund. The new program seeks to provide local telephony, domestic long distance, international long distance and Internet in towns that currently do not provide basic telephone services. SC Resolution No. 88/09 specifies the methodology that licensees will have to follow for proposals to render these services in several of the 1,491 towns and 1,496 schools identified in the Annex of the Resolution. The proposed projects approved by the SC will be sent to the Technical Committee of the SU Fund so that availability of funds can be evaluated and they can be included in a bidding process provided for in Decree No. 558/08.

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TELECOM ARGENTINA S.A.

Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(In millions of Argentine pesos, except as otherwise indicated See Note 3.c)

2. Regulatory framework (continued)

In Telecom

By the end of 2002, the SC formed a working group responsible for analyzing the method to be applied for measuring the net costs of SU performance particularly, the application of the Hybrid Cost Proxy Model (the HCPM Model), based on the incremental cost of a theoretical network. The working group was also tasked with defining non-monetary benefits and determining the methodology for its calculation, in order to assess the costs that would be offset due to performance of SU obligations. The working group decided that, given the complexity of this methodology, efforts should be made to continue the initial programs independently from application of the HCPM Model, and that there was a need to carry out a comprehensive review of the present general regulations relating to SU to ensure that these regulations were operative in the near term considering the existing social needs.

Several years after the market s liberalization and the effectiveness of the first SU regulations, these regulations have yet to be implemented. Therefore, service providers affected by these regulations have not received set-offs for providing services as required by the SU regime.

In compliance with SC Resolution No. 80/07 and CNC Resolution No. 2,713 /07, Telecom Argentina has estimated a receivable of \$696 (unaudited) for the period initiated in July 2007 and filed its calculations for review by the regulatory authority. This receivable has not yet been recorded since it is subject to the approval of the SU programs, the review of the SC and the availability of funds in the SU Trust.

In Personal

Since January 2001, Personal has been recording a provision related to its obligation to make contributions to the SU fund. As of March 31, 2010, this provision amounts to \$167. In addition, since July 2007 and in compliance with SC Resolution No. 80/07 and CNC Resolution No. 2,713/07, Personal has deposited the correspondent contributions on their respective maturity date (amounting to \$77 as of March 31, 2010) into a special individual account held under their name at the Banco de la Nación Argentina; these contributions were recorded as a receivable in the caption Other receivables of the consolidated balance sheets.

As of January 2001, Personal, as well as the other wireless providers, had charged SU fund amounts to customers.

SC Resolution No. 99/05 required entities that derived revenues from telecommunications services to contribute 1% of these revenues to the SU fund, and prohibited billing to customers any SU amounts.

As a result, the CNC, through CNC Note No. 726/05, requested that Personal discontinue billing SU amounts to customers and reimburse all collected SU amounts plus interest (applying the same rate used for overdue invoices from customers).

Although the SC resolutions were appealed, management decided to reimburse the SU amounts which had been billed to post-paid customers from January 1, 2001 through June 28, 2005, the date on which Personal ceased billing SU amounts.

Although Personal reimbursed the SU amounts, it will not surrender its rights to consider the resolutions illegitimate and without merit.

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During the first quarter of 2006, Personal fully reimbursed all previously billed SU amounts plus interest to its active post-paid customers (amounting to \$15, calculated using the Banco Nacion Argentina interest rate collected by banks). In addition, as of May 2006, Personal had reimbursed the SU amounts billed to its former customers and former post-paid customers that have changed into prepaid customers (amounting to \$4) and still remains pending an amount of \$6 that is available for collecting.

In December 2006, the CNC issued a preliminary report regarding verification of Personal's SU reimbursement, which indicated that Personal completed the requirement of reimbursement of the SU amounts including interest. However, the report stated that the interest rate applied differed from the rate required by the CNC; finally, on August 7, 2008, the CNC ordered Personal to adjust the reimbursement applying the same rate used for overdue invoices from customers (that is, one and a half of the Banco Nacion Argentina interest rate collected by banks).

In September 2008, Personal has rejected this claim explaining its grounds for justification of the applied interest rate. However, the management of Personal has considered the reimbursement of the interests claimed by the CNC. As a result, Personal had recorded a provision of \$10. During the third quarter of 2009, Personal has begun the reimbursement to its customers (amounting to \$5 as of March 31, 2010).

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Corporation non adhered to the Optional Statutory Regime of Compulsory Public Purchase Offer

Notes to the Unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(In millions of Argentine pesos, except as otherwise indicated See Note 3.c)

2. Regulatory framework (continued)

(e) Regulation for the call by call selection of the providers of long-distance services

On December 28, 2001, the former Ministry of Infrastructure and Housing issued General Resolution No. 613/01 which approved a system that allows callers to select their preferred long-distance provider for each call. This call by call selection system is referred to as SPM .

Subsequently, as a result of the claims submitted by several carriers objecting to General Resolution No. 613/01, the Ministry of Economy issued General Resolution No. 75/03, which introduced several changes to the regulations providing for SPM. The main changes relate to the following: long-distance carriers freedom to provide SPM, changes in blockage modality due to delinquency, changes in the service connection modality and greater flexibility of obligations connected with service promotion and advertising. Resolution No. 75/03 also provides that origin providers, both fixed and wireless, must have their equipment and networks available to provide the SPM service on June 6, 2003. As of the date of these consolidated financial statements, this long-distance service modality is not implemented.

(f) Public telephony in penal institutions

As stated by Decree No. 690/06, in August 2007, the SC issued Resolution No. 155/07, where it approves the Regulation for Communications that are initiated in Penal Institutions , establishing technical requirements for the system and the telephone lines installed in penal institutions, so that all communications carried out are registered.

Such Regulation shall be in effect in the term of one year, which may be extended to a similar period, counted sixty days from the date in which the technical definitions that the CNC must issue become available.

At the date of issuance of these consolidated financial statements, the Company is developing technical alternatives to implement in order to comply with this new rule.

(g) Tax Stability principle: impact of variations in Social Security contributions

On March 23, 2007, the SC issued Resolution No. 41/07 relating to the impact of variations in Social Security contributions occurring over the past several years.

Subsequent to November 8, 1990, there were several increases in the rates of Social Security Contributions, which were duly paid by Telecom. At the same time, and under the framework of the argentina@internet.todos Program, the Company paid, mostly during fiscal year 2000, reduced social security contribution rates.

Pursuant to Resolution No. 41/07, Telecom Argentina may offset the impact of costs borne as a result of increases in Social security contribution rates.

The Company made the required presentations to the SC of the net receivable under Resolution No. 41/07, which were subject to audits by the Regulatory Authority.

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During the third quarter of 2007, the CNC performed the audits on the information given by the Company. The Company had access to documentation of the CNC's audits, which resulted in no significant differences from the net amounts it had determined. Consequently, the Company recorded a receivable from increases in social security contributions and cancelled payables from reduction in social security contribution rates and other fines due by the Company.

At March 31, 2010, the Company has a net receivable of \$68 which, in addition with the receivable of \$23 corresponding to the tax on deposits to and withdrawals from bank accounts (IDC), is included in the caption Other receivables (\$1 as current receivables and \$90 as non-current receivables).

Since the resolution allows the Company to offset the receivables with existing and/or future regulatory duties and the intention of the Company is to exercise its offsetting rights, the receivable was recorded net of reserves. At March 31, 2010, the reserves corresponding to these regulatory duties amounted to \$84.

Since December 2008, the Company has begun the billing to the customers of the increases in the rates of its social security contributions accrued from October 2008, applying the same mechanism used to bill the IDC.

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2. Regulatory framework (continued)

(h) Rendering of fixed telephony through mobile telephony infrastructure

By SC Resolution No. 151/07, fixed telephony was granted access to particular frequency bands, with the purpose of enabling basic telephone services in rural and suburban areas to be rendered through the wireless infrastructure used for the provision of mobile telephony service. Licensees will provide such service within their respective fixed telephony service original regions. The Company has started to install fixed lines based on this technology in order to satisfy service demand in rural and suburban areas.

(i) Tariff structure of the national and international regulated fixed line services

Rate Rebalancing

The variation in revenues resulting from the Rate Rebalancing for the two-year period beginning February 1997 was determined to amount to an increase of \$9.5, by means of SC Resolution No. 4,269/99.

In December 2007, the Regulatory Authority notified the Company that it will offset this difference with the Resolution No. 41/07 receivables. As a consequence, during fiscal year 2007, the Company recorded a reserve on this matter on behalf of the CNC final results. In April 2009, the CNC notified the offsetting of the \$9.5 Rate Rebalancing amount with the Resolution No. 41/07 receivables. So, the Company has reduced the receivable with the corresponding reserve.

Price Cap

The Price Cap was a regulation mechanism applied in order to calculate changes in Telecom tariffs, based on changes in the U.S. Consumer Price Index (U.S. C.P.I.) and an efficiency factor.

In August 2009, the Regulatory Bodies finalized the 1999 Price Cap audit resulting in a payable by the Company of \$3.1 plus interest. The Company has offset this balance with the credit resulting from SC Resolution No. 41/07, described in (g) above.

On April 6, 2000, the Argentine Government, Telefonica and Telecom Argentina signed an agreement (Price Cap 2000) that set the price cap efficiency factor at 6.75% (6% set by the SC and 0.75% set by Telecom Argentina and Telefonica) for the period from November 2000 to November 2001.

The 2000 Price cap audit results are still pending. Should the outcome is a payable by the Company it can be offset with the Resolution No. 41/07 receivables.

In April 2001, the Argentine Government, Telefonica and Telecom Argentina signed an agreement (2001 Price Cap) that set the efficiency factor for reduction of tariffs at 5.6% for the period from November 2001 to October 2002.

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However, a preliminary injunction against Telecom Argentina disallowed Telecom to apply tariff increases by reference to the U.S. C.P.I. Telecom Argentina appealed this injunction arguing that if one part of the formula cannot be applied, the Price Cap system should be nullified. Finally, Public Emergency Law No. 25,561 explicitly prohibited tariff adjustments, so, at the date of issuance of these consolidated financial statements, the pesification and the freeze of the regulated tariffs are still in force. Additional information is given in Note 11.d Other claims.

Tax on deposits to and withdrawals from bank accounts (IDC) charged to customers

On February 6, 2003, the Ministry of Economy, through Resolution No. 72/03, defined the mechanism to allow, going forward, tariff increases on basic telephony services reflecting the impact of the IDC. The amount of tax charged must be shown separately in customers bills. The Company has determined the existence of a remaining unrecovered amount of approximately \$23 that arose before the issuance of Resolution No. 72/03, which will be claimed within the tariff renegotiation process (see (j) below).

In April 2007, the Company provided the CNC with supporting documentation on this amount for its audit. The Company had access to documentation of the Regulatory Authority s audits that corroborates the amounts claimed by the Company and the application of a similar offsetting mechanism pursuant to Resolution No. 41/07. Therefore, as of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the Company recorded as Other receivable a total of \$23.

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(In millions of Argentine pesos, except as otherwise indicated See Note 3.c)

2. Regulatory framework (continued)

(j) Renegotiation of agreements with the Argentine Government

Telecom Argentina's tariff scheme and procedures are detailed in the Tariff Agreement entered into by Telecom Argentina and the Argentine Government in November 1991, as amended in February 1992. Pursuant to the Tariff Agreement, all tariffs were to be calculated in US dollars and converted into Argentine pesos at the time the customer was billed using the exchange rate prevailing at that time. Under the Convertibility law that was effective until January 2002, the applicable exchange rate was \$1 to US\$1. Tariffs were to be adjusted twice a year in April and October based on the variation of the U.S. C.P.I. These adjustments were not applied since 2000 according to a resolution of the SC.

However, in January 2002, the Argentine Government enacted Law No. 25,561, *Ley de Emergencia Pública y Reforma del Régimen Cambiario* (the Public Emergency Law), which provided, among other aspects, for the following:

The pesification of tariffs;

The elimination of dollar or other foreign-currency adjustments and indexing provisions for tariffs;

The establishment of an exchange rate for dollar-denominated prices and rates of \$1 =US\$1; and

The renegotiation of the conditions of the contractual agreements entered into between privatized companies and the Argentine Government.

The Argentine Government is entitled to renegotiate these agreements based on the following criteria:

The overall impact of tariffs for public services on the economy and income levels;

Service quality and investment plans, as contractually agreed;

The customers' interests and access to the services;

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The security of the systems; and

The profitability of the service providers.

Decree No. 293/02, dated February 12, 2002, entrusted the Ministry of Economy with the renegotiation of the agreements. Initially, the contractual renegotiation proposals were to be submitted to the Argentine Government within 120 days after the effective date of the Decree, although this term was further extended for an additional 180-day period. Telecom Argentina filed all information as required by the Argentine Government, which included information on the impact caused by the economic crisis on the Company's financial position and its revenues, the pre-existing mechanisms for tariff adjustments, operating costs, indebtedness, payment commitments with the Argentine Government and future and on-going investment commitments.

Furthermore, in July 2003, Decree No. 311/03 created the Unidad de Renegociación y Análisis de Contratos de Servicios Públicos (UNIREN), (Division for the Renegotiation and Analysis of Contracts of Public Utilities Services), a special division within the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investments and Services, pursuant to which the contractual relationships between the Argentine Government and the service providers were to be revised and renegotiated. In October 2003, the Argentine Government enacted Law No. 25,790 pursuant to which the original term to renegotiate the contracts was extended through December 31, 2004. As from that date, the Argentine Government enacted subsequent laws pursuant to which this term was extended through December 31, 2011.

In May 2004, the Company signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) with the Argentine Government pursuant to which the Company committed not to modify the current tariff structure through December 31, 2004 and to continue with the tariff renegotiation process, which the Company expected to have concluded before December 31, 2004. The Company also committed to offer phone services to beneficiaries of governmental welfare programs and to extend internet services in the interior of the country at reduced prices.

Even though the Company fulfilled its commitments under the LOU, the Argentine Government did not make a specific offer related to the renegotiation of the tariffs at the date set in the LOU.

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2. Regulatory framework (continued)

New Letter of Understanding with the UNIREN

On March 6, 2006, Telecom Argentina signed a new LOU (the Letter) with the UNIREN. Upon the fulfillment of the procedures set forth in the rules and regulations presently in effect, the Letter will provide the framework for the signing of the *Acta Acuerdo de Renegociación del Contrato de Transferencia de Acciones* or Minutes of Agreement of the Renegotiation of the Transfer Agreement (the Minutes of Agreement of the Renegotiation) approved by Decree No. 2,332/90, as stated in Section 9 of the Public Emergency Law.

The main terms and conditions of the Letter include:

The CNC and UNIREN have determined that Telecom Argentina satisfactorily complied with most of the requirements contemplated in the Transfer Agreement and by the regulatory framework. Isolated violations were satisfactorily remedied through fines and/or sanctions. Other matters arising in the normal course of business are still pending resolution, which was originally expected by June 30, 2006 (some of these matters are described below). Despite such expectation, the Regulatory Authority continues to analyze such open issues, the outcome of which will be disclosed when the analysis is completed;

Telecom Argentina s commitments to invest in the technological development and updating of its network;

Telecom Argentina s commitment to the achievement of its long-term service quality goals;

The signing parties commitment to comply with and maintain the terms set forth in the Transfer Agreement, and in the regulatory framework in effect;

The Argentine Government s commitment to create an appropriate and standardized regulatory framework for telecommunications services and to give Telecom Argentina fair and equivalent treatment to that given to other telecommunications providers that shall take part in the process;

Telecom Argentina s commitment and the commitment of its indirect shareholders Telecom Italia S.p.A. and W de Argentina Inversiones S.L., to suspend for a period of 210 working days any and all claims, appeals and petitions already filed or in the process of being filed, in administrative, arbitral or judicial offices, in Argentina or in any other country, that are founded in or related to any act or measure taken after the issuance of the Public Emergency Law with respect to the Transfer Agreement and the License. The

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suspension will take effect after the 30th day from the end of the public hearing convened to deal with the Letter. Once the Minutes of Agreement of the Renegotiation is ratified, any and all claims, appeals and/or proceedings will be disregarded;

An adjustment shall be made to increase the termination charge of international incoming calls to a local area to be equivalent to international values, which are at present strongly depreciated;

Off-peak telephone hours corresponding to reduced tariffs shall be unified with regards to local calls, long distance domestic and international calls.

On May 18, 2006, the Letter was subject to a public hearing procedure, with the purpose of encouraging the participation of the users and the community in general, taking into consideration that the Letter's terms and conditions will provide the framework for the signing of the Minutes of Agreement of the Renegotiation. These Minutes of Agreement of Renegotiation shall be in effect once all the requirements stipulated in the regulatory framework are complied with, which among other things, requires that a Telecom Argentina Stockholders Meeting be held to approve said Minutes. Both Telecom Argentina and its indirect stockholders Telecom Italia S.p.A. and W de Argentina Inversiones S.L. have timely fulfilled the Agreement's commitments.

At the date of issuance of these financial statements, the Company continues to await completion of the administrative steps required for the National Executive to submit to the National Congress a proposed Memorandum of Agreement for Renegotiation.

Although there can be no assurance as to the ultimate outcome of these matters, it is the opinion of the Management of the Company that the renegotiation agreement process will be satisfactorily completed.

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2. Regulatory framework (continued)

(k) Buy Argentine Act

In December 2001, the Argentine Government passed Public Law No. 25,551 (Compre Trabajo Argentino or the Buy Argentine Act) and in August 2002, passed Decree No. 1,600/02 which approved and brought into effect the Compre Trabajo Argentino. The law requires Telecom Argentina to give preference to national goods and services, as defined in Public Laws No. 25,551 and No. 18,875, in any procurement related to the rendering of public telephony services (sect.1 & 2).

Preference must be given so long as the price of such goods is equal to or lesser than the price of a foreign good (including customs duties, taxes and other expenses that are linked to the nationality of goods) increased by 7% (when the Argentine offeror is a small or medium size company) or 5% (when the Argentine offeror is any other company) (sect.3).

Compre Trabajo Argentino also mandates that Telecom Argentina publish any bid for services in the Official Bulletin in order to provide any and all prospective offerors with the information necessary for them to participate. This mandatory publication requires considerable lead-time prior to the issuance of the purchase order and has had the result of extending the period needed to complete certain purchases. Non-compliance with Compre Trabajo Argentino is subject to criminal sanctions.

Public Law No. 18,875 establishes the obligation to exclusively contract services with local companies and professionals, as defined in such law. Any exception must receive the prior approval of the relevant Ministry.

In August 2004, CNC Resolution No. 2,350/04 enacted the Procedure for the fulfillment of the Buy Argentine Act , including the obligation for the Company to present half-year affidavits addressing the fulfillment of these rules. Non-compliance with this obligation is subject to administrative sanctions.

This regulation, thus, reduces the operating flexibility of the Company due to the time required to request bids for services and/or to obtain an approval of the relevant authority when necessary, and the higher administrative expenses derived from the obligation to present half-year affidavits.

3. Preparation of financial statements

(a) Basis of presentation

The consolidated financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles used in Argentina (Argentine GAAP), considering the regulations of the CNV, which differ in certain significant respects from generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (US GAAP). Such differences involve methods of measuring the amounts shown in the financial statements, as well as additional disclosures required by US GAAP and Regulation S-X of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

However, certain reclassifications and accommodations have been made to conform more closely to the form and content required by the SEC.

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In March 2009, the Argentine Federation of Professional Boards of Economic Sciences (the FACPCE) approved Technical Resolution (RT) 26 Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards , which will be fully effective for companies making public offering of securities (such as the Company) as from January 1, 2011. In June 2009, the FACPCE approved RT27 which provides for amendments to the existing RT for those companies not adopting IFRS. On December 30, 2009, the CNV issued Resolution No. 562/09 adopting RT26 with a few differences related to the companies obliged to adopt IFRS and the date of adoption. FACPCE is revising RT26 in order to align RT26 and CNV Resolution No. 562/09. Additional information is given in Note 15.

(b) Basis of consolidation

These consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Telecom Argentina and its subsidiaries over which it has effective control (Personal, Núcleo, Springville, Micro Sistemas and Telecom USA).

All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in preparation of the consolidated financial statements.

In accordance with Argentine GAAP, the presentation of the parent company s individual financial statements is mandatory. Consolidated financial statements are to be included as supplementary information to the individual financial statements. For the purpose of these financial statements, individual financial statements have been omitted since they are not required for SEC reporting purposes (see Note 13 for a description of certain condensed unconsolidated information).

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3. Preparation of financial statements (continued)

(c) Presentation of financial statements in constant Argentine Pesos

As required by the Argentine Government Decree No. 1,269/02 and CNV Resolution No. 415/02, the Company's consolidated financial statements have been restated in constant Argentine pesos until February 28, 2003, following the method established by RT 6 of the *Consejo Profesional de Ciencias Económicas de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires* (CPCECABA).

However, on March 25, 2003, the Argentine Government reinstructed the CNV to preclude companies from presenting price-level restated financial statements. Therefore, CNV Resolution No. 441/03 resolved discontinuing inflation accounting as of March 1, 2003. The Company complied with the CNV resolution and accordingly recorded the effects of inflation until February 28, 2003. Comparative figures were also restated until that date.

In October 2003, the CPCECABA resolved to discontinue inflation accounting as of September 30, 2003. Since Argentine GAAP required companies to prepare price-level restated financial statements through September 30, 2003, the application of the CNV resolution represented a departure from Argentine GAAP. Changes in wholesale price indices for the periods indicated w