

**Exhibit A**  
South Dakota Certificate of Organization  
&  
Illinois Secretary of State Authority

# State of South Dakota



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

## Certificate of Organization Domestic LLC

ORGANIZATIONAL ID# DL049551

I, **Shantel Krebs**, Secretary of State of the State of South Dakota, hereby certify that the Articles of Organization of

Excellus Communications, LLC

duly signed and verified, have been received in this office and are found to conform to law.

**ACCORDINGLY**, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by law, I hereby issue this Certificate of Organization and attach hereto a duplicate of the Articles of Organization.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,  
I have hereunto set my hand and  
affixed the Great Seal of the  
State of South Dakota, at Pierre,  
the Capital, this 08/10/2016.

*Shantel Krebs*

**Shantel Krebs**  
Secretary of State

8/10/2016 11:21:06 AM

Change ID: 1361412

Filed this 10 day of

Aug 2016

*Shantal Krebs*

SECRETARY OF STATE

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION  
OF  
EXCELLUS COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

RECEIVED

AUG 10 2016

S.D. SEC. OF STATE

ARTICLE I

The name of the Limited Liability Company is Excellus Communications, LLC.

ARTICLE II

The duration of the company is perpetual.

ARTICLE III

The address of the initial designated office is:

160 South Lake Drive  
Watertown, SD 57201

ARTICLE IV

The name and street address of the initial agent for service of process is:

John F. Archer  
600 S. Main Avenue, Suite 102  
P.O. Box 964  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0964

ARTICLE V

The name and address of each organizer:

John F. Archer  
600 S. Main Avenue, Suite 102  
P.O. Box 964  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0964

ARTICLE VI

The company is to be a manager-managed company. The names and addresses of the initial managers are:

Michael Strandell  
160 South Lake Drive  
Watertown, SD 57201

Chad Hatch  
221 S. Phillips Ave., Ste. 200  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

**ARTICLE VII**

The members of the company are not to be liable for its debts and obligations under SDCL 47-34A-303 (c).

**ARTICLE VIII**

Any other provisions, not inconsistent with law, which the members elect to set out in the articles of organization:

The company may have two classes of membership interests: Class A and Class B. Classes may have different status and rights with respect to, but not limited to, voting, allocation, distribution, forfeiture and liquidation, such rights and terms which shall be set forth in the company's operating agreement. Additional classes of members having certain relative rights, including voting rights, powers and duties determined at the time of creation may be permitted by the operating agreement. The rights, powers and duties of a newly created class may be senior to those of one or more existing classes of members.

Dated 8-8, 2016.

ORGANIZER:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John F. Archer



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

0588007-6

ILLINOIS CORPORATION SERVICE C  
801 ADLAI STEVENSON DRIVE  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703-4261

RE EXCELLUS COMMUNICATIONS, LLC

DEAR SIR OR MADAM:

IT HAS BEEN OUR PLEASURE TO APPROVE YOUR REQUEST TO TRANSACT BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND THE APPROVED APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION.

PLEASE NOTE! THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY MUST FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF THIS MONTH OF QUALIFICATION NEXT YEAR. FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE WILL RESULT IN A \$300 PENALTY AND/OR REVOCATION. A PRE-PRINTED ANNUAL REPORT WILL BE MAILED TO THE REGISTERED AGENT AT THE ADDRESS ON OUR RECORDS APPROXIMATELY 45 DAYS BEFORE THE DUE DATE.

MANY OF OUR SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AT OUR CONTINUOUSLY UPDATED WEBSITE. VISIT [WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM](http://WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM) TO VIEW THE STATUS OF THIS COMPANY, PURCHASE A CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING, OR EVEN FILE THE ANNUAL REPORT REFERRED TO IN THE EARLIER PARAGRAPH.

SINCERELY YOURS,

JESSE WHITE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES  
LIMITED LIABILITY DIVISION  
(217) 524-8008

Form **LLC-45.5**  
May 2012

Secretary of State  
Department of Business Services  
Limited Liability Division  
501 S. Second St., Rm. 351  
Springfield, IL 62756  
217-524-8008  
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Payment must be made by certified check, cashier's check, Illinois attorney's check, C.P.A.'s check or money order payable to Secretary of State.

Illinois  
Limited Liability Company Act  
Application for Admission to  
Transact Business

**SUBMIT IN DUPLICATE**

Type or Print Clearly.

This space for use by Secretary of State.

Filing Fee: \$500

Penalty: \$

Approved: *hw*

FILE 05880076

This space for use by Secretary of State.

**FILED**

SEP 27 2016

JESSE WHITE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

1. Limited Liability Company Name: Excellus Communications, LLC

2. Assumed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(This item is only applicable if the company name in item 1 is not available for use in Illinois, in which case form LLC 1.20 must be completed and submitted with this application.)

3. Jurisdiction of Organization: South Dakota

4. Date of Organization: August 10, 2016

5. Period of Duration: Perpetual  
(Enter Perpetual unless there is a Date of Dissolution provided in the agreement, in which case enter that date.)

6. Address of the Principal Place of Business: (P.O. Box alone or c/o is unacceptable.)  
160 South Lake Drive  
Number Street Suite #  
Watertown SD 57201-5430  
City State ZIP Code

7. Registered Agent: Illinois Corporation Service Company  
First Name Middle Name Last Name  
Registered Office: 801 Adlai Stevenson Drive  
Number Street Suite #  
(P.O. Box alone or c/o is unacceptable.) Springfield IL 62703  
City Zip Code

Note: The registered agent must reside in Illinois. If the agent is a business entity, it must be authorized to act as agent in this state.

8. If applicable, Date on which Company first conducted business in Illinois: \_\_\_\_\_

(continued on back)

LLC-45.5

9. Purpose(s) for which the Company is Organized and Proposes to Conduct Business in Illinois: Telecommunications

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. The Limited Liability Company: (check one)

a.  is managed by the manager(s) (List names and addresses.)

Michael J. Strandell, 160 South Lake Drive, Watertown, SD 57201

Chad Hatch, 221 S. Phillips Ave., Ste. 200, Sioux Falls, SD 57104

b.  has management vested in the member(s) (List names and addresses.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. The Illinois Secretary of State is hereby appointed the agent of the Limited Liability Company for service of process under circumstances set forth in subsection (b) of Section 1-50 of the Illinois Limited Liability Company Act.

12. This application is accompanied by a Certificate of Good Standing or Existence, duly authenticated within the last 60 days, by the officer of the state or country wherein the LLC is formed.

13. The undersigned affirms, under penalties of perjury, having authority to sign hereto, that this application for admission to transact business is to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, correct and complete.

Dated: 9/26/2016  
Month, Day, Year

Michael J. Strandell  
Signature

Michael J. Strandell, MGR  
Name and Title (type or print)

If applicant is signing for a Company or other Entity, state Name of Company and indicate whether it is a member or manager of the LLC.