

# Star-Telegram

January 27, 1998

## PhoneTel's lawsuit list grows in caller-ID case

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FORT WORTH — A Fort Worth company that is suing phone giants AT&T Corp. and Lucent Technologies over royalties for caller-ID machines has added a long list of leading technology companies to its lawsuit.

PhoneTel Communications of Fort Worth says 12 companies have failed to pay royalties on caller-ID and other phone equipment.

PhoneTel contends that the companies are using exclusive technology that belongs to PhoneTel.

PhoneTel sued AT&T and Lucent this month in federal court in Fort Worth.

The company added 10 more companies to the list yesterday and included other telephone products that it says have been used without payment.

Tandy Corp. and Uniden are Fort Worth-area companies that were added to

the list. Southwestern Bell, which is the dominant local phone company in Fort Worth, is also named in the lawsuit.

"I'm very reluctant about this action," said Daniel Henderson, president of PhoneTel. "I don't like it, but it was necessary to protect our patents." PhoneTel added new arguments that AT&T, Lucent and the other companies are selling or leasing equipment that rely on PhoneTel's exclusive technology.

That technology includes caller-ID devices, a method for communicating with fax machines from remote locations and a telephone answering machine that stores messages in digital form.

The other companies included in the updated lawsuit are Brother International Corp., BellSouth Corp., Toshiba America Consumer Products, Toshiba America, Sony Electronics, Packard Bell NEC and Conair Corp.

The companies must file a response 20 days after they are notified about the lawsuit.

A Tandy spokeswoman said the company does not discuss pending lawsuits. Southwestern Bell and Uniden officials were unavailable for comment.

The lawsuit doesn't say how much PhoneTel expects to collect from the companies, but it could be in the "tens of millions of dollars," said Richard Robinson, a Dallas lawyer who handles royalty negotiations for RMC Management, the licensing agent for PhoneTel's products.

In the earlier version of the lawsuit, PhoneTel says AT&T and Lucent owe more than \$1 million for selling and licensing caller-ID equipment.

That amount is based on a 1993 legal settlement between AT&T and Hashimoto to pay \$1.50 for each "call-display telephone" it sold or leased.

AT&T paid Hashimoto \$103,000 in April 1995, but PhoneTel claims that didn't cover the entire amount.

PhoneTel says it owns a 50 percent right to the patent, which was originally held by Japanese inventor Kazuo Hashimoto.

Henderson said he worked as an apprentice to Hashimoto between 1993 and 1995. Hashimoto assigned a 50 percent interest in his patents to Henderson when Hashimoto died in 1995.

AT&T spokesman Jim Van Orden said AT&T no longer owns the company that makes and sells caller-ID machines and other phone equipment.

That part of the business went with the Lucent division that was sold to the public in 1996.

Lucent spokesman Dan Coulter declined to comment when the case was filed this month.