

BELLSOUTH CORP
Form DEFA14A
April 24, 2006

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
SCHEDULE 14A
PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO.)

Filed by the Registrant

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Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement**
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BELLSOUTH CORPORATION

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Whitacre: We've put two great assets together — people of BellSouth and people of AT&T

Ed Whitacre, AT&T chairman and CEO, visited BellSouth on Friday, April 21, for a special program on the pending AT&T-BellSouth merger. BellSouth Chairman and CEO Duane Ackerman hosted the BellSouth Television Network (BTN) program, taped before a live audience of BellSouth employees in Atlanta.

The special program will be broadcast to BTN locations at **1 p.m. Eastern time today, April 24**. A list of BTN viewing sites is attached to this e-mail. The program also will be available at 1 p.m. Eastern on the Merger News site of the BellSouth intranet, accessible from my.bls.com and as streaming video at <http://mediaweb.bls.com/btn.asp>

It's a great merger we put together. I believe that. I believe that with all my heart, Whitacre said during the program. If you think about what we've done here, you heard all the statistics, but what we've really done is put two great assets together. That's the people of BellSouth, the people of AT&T, to do the job for the customer and the stockholder going forward.

He noted that the merger, when approved, will bring Cingular Wireless together in one place, and its services can be offered in communications bundles to customers nationwide. The merger also will expand the companies' broadband footprint, and that supports such new offerings as television over the Internet, known as IPTV. In addition, the merger will open new enterprise business markets because of the global reach the combined company can provide to businesses.

We've got some exciting places to go. This is going to be fun — a lot of opportunity with this, he said. Regarding jobs of BellSouth employees after the merger is closed, Whitacre said he expects little movement of positions in relation to the combined company's total work force: an estimated 300,000. This is a big company; we're a service business. There will be some movement. It's not huge. In fact, it's quite small when you look at the total.

We're not buying BellSouth for its name. We're buying it because of you, he told employees. The people are what makes the difference.

Whitacre also praised Ackerman and the BellSouth team for their leadership in the industry. You guys just have great performances, he said.

Ackerman noted his long-time professional association with Whitacre, who started with Southwestern Bell as a lineman in 1963. Ed and I believe passionately in what has been put together here, Ackerman said. He also thanked BellSouth employees for staying focused on customers and executing on goals and objectives during the pending merger.

In addition to historical information, this document may contain forward-looking statements regarding the proposed merger with AT&T. Factors that could prevent or delay completion of the proposed merger with AT&T, could affect the future results of the merged company and could cause the merged company's actual results to differ from those expressed in the forward-looking statements include: (i) our and AT&T's ability to obtain governmental approvals of the proposed merger on the proposed terms and contemplated schedule; (ii) the failure of AT&T shareholders to approve the issuance of AT&T common shares in the merger or the failure of our shareholders to approve the merger; (iii) the risk that the businesses of AT&T and BellSouth will not be integrated successfully or as quickly as expected; (iv) the risk that the cost savings and any other synergies from the merger, including any savings and other synergies relating to the resulting sole ownership of Cingular Wireless LLC, may not be fully realized or may take longer to realize than expected; (v) disruption from the merger making it more difficult to maintain relationships with customers, employees or suppliers; and (vi) those factors contained in the preliminary proxy statement relating to the proposed merger filed with the SEC.

NOTE: In connection with the proposed merger, AT&T Inc. (AT&T) filed a registration statement on Form S-4 (Registration No. 333-132904), containing a joint proxy statement/prospectus of AT&T and BellSouth Corporation (BellSouth), with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) on March 31, 2006. Investors are urged to read the registration statement and the joint proxy statement/prospectus contained therein (including all amendments and supplements to it) because it contains important information. Investors may obtain free copies of the registration statement and joint proxy statement/prospectus, as well as other filings containing information about AT&T and BellSouth, without charge, at the SEC's Web site (www.sec.gov). Copies of AT&T's filings may also be obtained without charge from AT&T at AT&T's Web site (www.att.com) or by directing a request to AT&T Inc. Stockholder Services, 175 E. Houston, San Antonio, Texas 78205. Copies of BellSouth's filings may be obtained

without charge from BellSouth at BellSouth's Web site (www.bellsouth.com) or by directing a request to BellSouth at Investor Relations, 1155 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

AT&T, BellSouth and their respective directors and executive officers and other members of management and employees are potential participants in the solicitation of proxies in respect of the proposed merger. Information regarding AT&T's directors and executive officers is available in AT&T's 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 1, 2006 and AT&T's proxy statement for its 2006 annual meeting of stockholders, filed with the SEC on March 10, 2006, and information regarding BellSouth's directors and executive officers is available in BellSouth's 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 28, 2006 and BellSouth's proxy statement for its 2006 annual meeting of shareholders, filed with the SEC on March 3, 2006. Additional information regarding the interests of such potential participants is included in the registration statement and joint proxy statement/prospectus contained therein, and other relevant documents filed with the SEC.

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