

TELECOM ARGENTINA STET FRANCE TELECOM SA

Form 6-K

September 09, 2003

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# **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

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## **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 September, 2003**

**Commission File Number: 001-13464**

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**Telecom Argentina STET-France Telecom S.A.**

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(Translation of registrant's name into English)

**Alicia Moreau de Justo, No. 50, 1107**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**

(Address of principal executive offices)

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 STET-France Telecom S.A.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Item**

1. Free Translation of the letter to the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange regarding, a letter from Nortel Inversora S.A., Telecom's majority shareholder, in connection with the sale of shares of common stock of Nortel Inversora S.A. by the France Telecom Group to W de Argentina Inversiones S.A.
2. Free Translation of the letter to the to the Chairman of the Argentine National Securities Commission from Nortel Inversora S.A., regarding France Telecom Group's sale of 48% of its holdings of shares of common stock of Nortel to W de Argentina Inversiones S.A.
3. Press Release titled, France Telecom divests its indirect interest in Telecom Argentina for US\$125 million.

FREE TRANSLATION

Buenos Aires, September 9, 2003

Buenos Aires Stock Exchange

Dear Sirs,

As Chief Executive Officer of Telecom Argentina STET- France Telecom S.A. ( Telecom ), I would like to bring to your attention a letter we received earlier today from Nortel Inversora S.A., Telecom 's majority shareholder, in connection with the sale of shares of common stock of Nortel Inversora S.A. by the France Telecom Group to W de Argentina Inversiones S.A.

I have attached hereto the letter from Nortel Inversora S.A.

Yours faithfully,

Carlos A. Felices

Telecom Argentina STET-France Telecom S.A.

Chief Executive Officer

FREE TRANSLATION

**NORTEL INVERSORA S.A.**

Buenos Aires, September 9, 2003

To the Chairman of the Argentine National Securities Commission

Dr. Hugo Medina

Dear Sir:

Nortel Inversora S.A. ( Nortel ), a holding company whose shares of common stock are currently owned in equal amounts by the France Telecom Group and the Telecom Italia Group, has been informed that as of today, subject to approval by the Argentine authorities, the France Telecom Group has sold 48% of its holdings of shares of common stock of Nortel to W de Argentina Inversiones S.A., a company owned by the Werthein family. In addition, the France Telecom Group has granted W de Argentina Inversiones S.A. an option to purchase its remaining holdings of 2% of Nortel s shares of common stock, which may be exercised at any time between January 31, 2008 and December 31, 2013.

We have attached hereto the press release issued by the France Telecom Group.

Yours faithfully,

María Elvira Cosentino

Nortel Inversora S.A.

Head of Investor Relations

**France Telecom divests its indirect interest in Telecom Argentina for**

**US\$125 million**

France Telecom announced today the sale of its indirect interests in Telecom Argentina to W de Argentina, an affiliate of the Los W group, a leading Argentinean investment company for a consideration in cash of US\$ 125 million.

France Telecom and Telecom Italia each hold approximately 34% of voting rights and a 25.5% economic interest in Nortel Inversora (Nortel), the holding company which owns 54.7% of Telecom Argentina's share capital. Prior to the sale, it is agreed that France Telecom and Telecom Italia will contribute their stakes in Nortel to a company created for this purpose, co-owned on a 50-50 basis by France Telecom and Telecom Italia. France Telecom will then sell 48% of this company's stock to W de Argentina, alongside with an option for the purchase of the remaining 2%. The option is exercisable by W de Argentina at any time between January 31, 2008 and December 31, 2013.

The total consideration for this transaction, including the option price, is of US\$125 million to be paid in full at closing.

The closing of the transaction is expected to take place as soon as all necessary authorizations will be obtained, in particular legal and governmental authorizations.

The Telecom Argentina group is one of Argentina's two main telecommunications operators. It provides local and long-distance telephony, mobile communications (through its subsidiary Telecom Personal), data and Internet access services in northern Argentina. It also operates a mobile license in Paraguay through one of its subsidiaries. In 2002, Telecom Argentina registered revenues of 3.2 billion pesos (approximately US\$ 1.2 billion) and had at year end a base of 3.6 million fixed lines and 2.7 million mobile customers.

Telecom Argentina stock is listed on the Buenos Aires and New York stock exchanges (as ADRs). Nortel preferred shares are listed on the Buenos Aires and New York stock exchanges.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

**Telecom Argentina STET-France Telecom S.A.**

By:           /s/ CHRISTIAN CHAUVIN          

Date: September 9, 2003

Name: Christian Chauvin  
Title: Vice-President