**For Immediate Release**

**Information Note to the Press (Press Release No. 87 /2018)**

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**

**TRAI releases Recommendations on "Promoting Local Telecom Equipment Manufacturing"**

**New Delhi, 3rd August, 2018**: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued its Recommendations on "Promoting Local Telecom Equipment Manufacturing".

2. The Authority had suo-moto issued a Consultation Paper on "**Promoting Local Telecom Equipment Manufacturing**" on **18th September, 2017** with the objective of realistically assessing India's true potential in equipment manufacturing and to arrive at the recommendations to the Government that would enable Indian telecom equipment manufacturing sector to transition from an import-dependent sector to a global hub of indigenous manufacturing.

3. Comments and counter-comments received from the stakeholders were published on TRAI's website. An Open House Discussion was also conducted in New Delhi on **14.03.2018**.

4. Comments and counter-comments received from the stakeholders along with the additional inputs received during the Open House Discussion were considered by the Authority before formulating its recommendations.

5. Some of the recommendations made by the Authority are as follows:

(a) The progress of indigenous telecommunication equipment manufacturing in the country should be monitored in Department of Telecommunications (DoT) at least at the level of Member, Telecom Commission. A dedicated unit in DoT should be made responsible for facilitation and monitoring of

telecommunication equipment design, development, and manufacturing in the country.

(b) India should aim to achieve the objective of 'net zero imports of telecommunication equipments' by 2022. For this purpose, Telecom Equipment Manufacturing Council (TEMC), should identify and recommend specific areas of priorities.

(c) For promoting research, innovation, standardization, design, testing, certification and manufacturing indigenous telecom equipment, Telecom Research and Development Fund (TRDF), with initial corpus of Rs. 1000 Crore, should be created. Subsequently, setting up of Telecom Entrepreneurship Promotion Fund(TEPF) and Telecom Manufacturing Promotion Fund(TMPF) should also be considered.

(d) A Telecommunication Equipment Development Board (TEDB) should be constituted in the DoT, under the Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC), for faster and coordinated decisions relating to funding of and incentives for design, development, and manufacturing of telecommunication equipment in the country. It should be responsible for facilitating innovation, R&D(Research and Development), testing and certification, and manufacturing in the telecom sector in the country.

(e) Universities/ technical institutes offering specialization in telecommunication technologies and system design should be setup/ identified near the Telecom Products Development clusters.

(f) Telecommunication Technology and Systems Design Labs should be setup in these Universities/ technical institutes in collaboration with Telecom Equipment Manufacturers and Telecom Service Providers.

(g) Participation of indigenous research institutions, telecom service providers, and telecom equipment manufacturing companies in deliberations at international organizations like

IEEE, 3GPP, One M2M, ITU, and ETSI etc. should be encouraged.

(h) Permissions for trials of new technologies/ products and running pilot projects should be simplified.

(i) Alternate Dispute Resolution Framework for time bound resolution of patent licensing disputes should be institutionalized in the country.

(j) A common portal should be developed for self declaration of Standard Essential Patents (SEP) by the patent holders in the telecom products. The portal should have the facility for listing of registered telecom product design, manufacturing, marketing, and System Integration (SI) companies along with their designs/ products so that development of the complete ecosystem in the country can be facilitated.

(k) To expand understanding about patent filing policies and procedures, the patent information cells should be created in leading Universities/ technical institutions to be identified for promoting research, innovation, and development of telecom technology and systems designs.

(l) Telecom Engineering Centre should be made responsible for regulation and accreditation of telecom products testing and certification agencies in the country.

(m) Mandatory testing and certification of the telecom equipments in the country should be started at the earliest.

(n) To expedite setting up of testing and infrastructure facilities in the country, the Government should incentivize setting up of such facilities by private entities. These facilities should be accredited by the Telecom Engineering Centre.

(o) All telecom products meant for use in the telecommunication network or by consumer and marketed in the country should be classified as either fully finished imported products or Indigenous products. Indigenous products should be further

classified into Made in India Products, Designed in India Products or Designed and Made in India Products.

(p) DoT should immediately review its PMA policy, issued in October 2012, so that the products specified under the Policy as well as the norms of the value addition specified in the Policy can be aligned with the present day's local market realities.

(q) PMA policy should be made applicable for all public telecom networks to address the national security concerns.

(r) Telecom Service Providers should be incentivized for deploying indigenous telecom products, beyond the quantities to be mandated under the PMA, by giving them graded incentives.

6. The recommendations have been placed on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in.

7. For any clarification/information Sh. Sunil Kumar Singhal, Advisor (BB&PA) may be contacted on Tel. No. +91-11-23221509 or email: sksinghal@trai.gov.in.

30.5.2018

(S.K. Gupta)
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