

**Information Note to the Press (Press Release No. 29/2018)**

For immediate release

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

**TRAI releases Recommendations on “Ease of Doing Business in Broadcasting Sector”**

**New Delhi, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018-** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released its recommendations on “Ease of Doing Business in Broadcasting Sector”.

2. The Indian broadcasting landscape presents a vibrant picture with presence of a large number of TV and Radio channels as well as multiple distribution platforms. The Authority has taken several measures, from time to time, to protect the interests of consumers as well as service providers and to ensure orderly growth of the sector. While the Broadcasting sector so far has been replete with success, the Authority is of the view that this sector has immense potential to move on a higher trajectory of growth, by removing procedural bottlenecks, and making business propositions more attractive.

3. To facilitate ease of doing business in the Broadcasting sector, it is necessary that the procedural framework for grant of permission/ registration/ licenses, introduced over a period of time, is reviewed. The processes which are redundant or which do not have any connection with the stated objective of the policy and/or those which do not lead to any value addition should be done away with. Further, the processes which are inefficient and obsolete should be re-engineered.



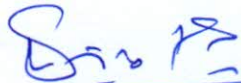
4. In this background, the Authority *suo motu* issued a pre-consultation paper on "Ease of Doing Business in Broadcasting sector" on 19th April, 2017 to identify relevant issues which need to be addressed for ease of doing business in the Broadcasting sector. Thereafter a detailed Consultation paper was issued on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 for seeking suggestions on possible improvements in various processes for creating business friendly environment in the sector. Subsequently, an open house discussion was held on 1st November 2017, in Delhi, to seek the further views of the stakeholders on various issues.

5. After analyzing the comments of the stakeholders as well as internal analysis, the Authority has finalised its recommendation. Some of the key recommendations are:

- (i) The process of granting of permission/ license/ registration for broadcasting services should be streamlined by removing redundant processes, re-engineering necessary processes, and making them efficient using ICT.
- (ii) The Government should setup an online integrated portal for broadcasters, teleport operators, and distributors of TV channels, which should facilitate the filing, processing and tracking of applications, payments, frequency assignments, endorsements and renewals with common database.
- (iii) The security clearances required for grant of permission/ license for broadcasting service should be issued within a period of 60 days.
- (iv) The existing procedures of referring the applications to empanelled Chartered Accountants and Dept. of Revenue for verification of relevant compliances, do not lead to any value addition. Therefore it should be replaced by a system of self-declaration.
- (v) Allocation of spectrum for the commercial satellite usage should be carried out throughout the year. The current procedure of intermittent opening of window neither has any stated objective nor it ensure judicious use of space spectrum.



- (vi) The Wireless Operating License issued by WPC should be valid for period equivalent to service license/ permission period with a provision of renewal on an annual basis.
  - (vii) All processes, including time taken by MIB, WPC, DoS, MHA, and NOCC for issuing permissions/ licenses for broadcasting services, should be completed within 6 months period.
  - (viii) The procedure for effecting changes in the logo, name, language and format should be simplified.
  - (ix) The registration of LCO and its renewal should be carried out through online portal.
  - (x) The Government should contemplate creating a centre of excellence exclusively for broadcasting services.
6. The full text of the recommendations is available on TRAI's website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in). For any clarification/ information, Sh. Sunil Kumar Singhal, Advisor (B&CS) may be contacted at Tel. No.: +91-11-23221509, Fax: +91-11-23220442.

  
**(U. K. Srivastava)**  
**Secretary I/c, TRAI**