

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

PRESS RELEASE
(19th APRIL 2003)

Implementation of IUC Regulation notified by TRAI

The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) Regulation, 2003 (1 of 2003) was notified by TRAI on 24th January 2003. The date of effect for actual implementation of IUC was 1st April 2003. However, this was subsequently changed to 1st May 2003.

In the mean time some of the operators had informed TRAI that they face technical difficulties in implementation of the IUC Regulation. These include separate allocation of local SDCA numbers for fixed and WLL (M) sectors, increase in the depth of analysis in switches, increase in number of records for Routing and IUC computation in dynamic mode, need for CDR based billing system, requirement of CLI information across networks, requirement of CCS7 signalling at POIs.

Based on the representations on the issue, TRAI had convened a meeting with the Basic Service Operators, Cellular Operators, National and International Long Distance Operators on 7th April 2003 so that a consolidated view could be taken to address the problems envisaged in implementation of the IUC. In the meeting, various options for implementation of IUC were suggested by the Operators. It was decided that a committee be set up to explore all options on the issue of implementation aspects of IUC regime and suggest possible alternatives so that implementation of the IUC Regulation takes place from 1st May 2003. BSNL was made convenor of the committee.

The committee after detailed deliberations has suggested four options in implementation of IUC along with its strengths and weaknesses. As per report of the Committee no single option was acceptable to all the stakeholders. The Authority felt that all the four options given in the report of the committee including any amendments need to be discussed in the presence of TRAI officials so that an acceptable solution could emerge and accordingly a meeting was arranged on 19th April 2003 with all the stakeholders.

The options suggested by the Committee and possible solutions were discussed with all the stake holders today. Implementation of IUC Regime shall take place on the scheduled date of 1st May 2003. The generic interim solution that emerged in today's meeting was to implement Option 1. Under this option, the reconciliation of data will be done by BSNL on an off-line basis. The interim

phase will end by 31st March 2004 with implementation of CDR based billing system by all operators including BSNL. The Authority is also taking up with the Licensor a related issue of standardisation of WLL(M) Numbering for all BSOs.