



Workshop on
Public Open Wi-Fi Pilot
25 July 2017 (Tuesday)

Venue: **Hotel Radisson Blue Atria, Bengaluru**

Register at: <https://goo.gl/forms/Q7Uxg9LujsUbjI9D2>

Timings: Registration -2:00-2:30 pm

Conduct of Workshop- 2:30-5:00 pm

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a consultation paper on **“Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks”** on 13th July 2016 realizing the importance of public Wi-Fi networks as complementary to existing landline and cellular mobile infrastructure in improving broadband penetration and adoption in the country. A few of the important issues pointed out in the consultation paper for a successful, scalable and sustainable public Wi-Fi infrastructure in the country include (i) technical interoperability and seamless connectivity of Wi-Fi networks (ii) innovative payment, commercialization, and monetization models; and (iii) collaborative partnerships between various entities of the ecosystem.

After considering the comments from the stakeholders and further analysis, the Authority came out with its Recommendations on “Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks” on 09th March, 2017. Some of the recommendations were:

- A new framework should be put in place for setting up of Public Data Offices (PDOs). Under this framework, PDOs in agreement with Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs), should be allowed to provide public Wi-Fi services. This will not only increase number of public hotspots but also make internet service more affordable in the country.



- PDOAs may be allowed to provide public Wi-Fi services without obtaining any specific license for the purpose. However, they would be subject to specific registration requirements (prescribed by the DoT) which will include obligations to ensure that e-KYC, authentication and record-keeping requirements (for customers, devices and PDOs enlisted with the PDOAs) are fulfilled by the PDOAs. This will encourage village level entrepreneurship and provide strong employment opportunities, especially in rural areas.

Based on the recommendations, the Authority released a document on 07th July, 2017 inviting all interested parties to be part of Pilot Wi-Fi project. The framework architecture and specifications for the pilot were subsequently released on 12 July, 2017.

The Workshop is targeted at Public Data Office Providers/Aggregators (PDO/PDOA), App providers and Hotspot Hardware/Software/Service Providers.

The idea is to get valuable feedback and comments from the above stakeholders that can be input to TRAI on this very important theme.

Accordingly, all the prospective stakeholders are invited to attend the Workshop.