

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 72/2014)

For immediate release

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

TRAI releases recommendations on Regulatory Framework for Platform Services (PS)

New Delhi, 19th November 2014: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has today released its recommendations on the 'Regulatory Framework for Platform Services'.

2. The salient features of the recommendations include, *inter alia*:
 - The definition of platform service and the content that can be carried on these channels.
 - Establishment of an online system by MIB to register all the platform services being offered. Registration is to be on the basis of a simple set of information and at a nominal registration fee of Rs. 1000 per channel.
 - Prior clearance from the district authorities of any local information; local affairs bulletins that may be transmitted is required;
 - DPO's desirous of providing platform services must be incorporated as a company under the Indian Companies Act, 2013.
 - Limitation on the number of such channels that a DPO may offer to a subscriber have been prescribed.
 - A time of 12 months have been prescribed for the DPOs to comply with the guidelines to be issued by MIB, in this regard.
3. In addition to the recommendations on Platform services, the Authority has *suo motu* made recommendations for a regulatory framework for ground-based broadcasters as well. This has been done to ensure that any TV channel that is distributed on any TV network in India is covered by a regulatory framework, whether it is obtained from a satellite-based broadcaster; produced by the network operator or sourced from a terrestrial broadcaster.
4. The recommendations for the ground-based broadcasters are largely the same as that for the satellite broadcasters, barring the requirements of seeking spectrum and approvals in that regard from DOT and DoS.
5. Retransmission of FM radio channels on TV channel distribution networks has been recommended provided that all the legal rights to do so are obtained. However, the Authority has said that this matter will be revisited at a later point in time, once the FM radio industry fully develops in India.



6. These recommendations have been issued in pursuance of references received from Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) on the issues related to ground based channels being operated at the level of cable TV operators and regarding the kind of programming services being offered by the DTH service providers to their subscribers

7. Full text of the recommendations is available on TRAI's website: www.trai.gov.in.



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Secretary, TRAI