



TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

NEWS LETTER

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January 2016

Dear Friends,

This newsletter brings you the information and developments that have taken place during the month of January, 2016.

A) Regulation/Direction/Tariff:

1. Draft direction on delivering broadband services in a transparent manner on 20.01.2016

Department of Telecommunication vide its Notification NO. 4/4/2009-Policy-I dated 18th July, 2013, amended the definition of broadband which reads as under :

“Broadband is a data connection that is able to support interactive services including Internet access and has the capability of the minimum download speed of 512 kbps to an individual subscriber from the point of presence (POP) of the service provider intending to provide Broadband service.”

Accordingly, a draft direction to modify the earlier direction NO. 4-1/2011 BB&PA dated 27th July, 2012 consistent with the above revised definition of broadband has been circulated seeking comments of stakeholder.

2. The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Digital Addressable Cable Television systems) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations,2016:

Telecom Regulatory authority of India (TRAI), on 07.01.2016, released the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Digital Addressable Cable Television System) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations,2016.

2. It was observed from the interconnection details submitted by the service providers that signals of TV channels are being provided by several broadcasters to Multi System Operators (MSOs) and MSOs to Local Cable Operators (LOCs) even in the absence of valid interconnection agreement in writing. It was also observed that continuation of retransmission of signal without valid interconnection agreement, on the pretext of continued mutual negotiations, often results into disputes and sometimes abrupt disconnection which affects the quality of service to the consumers.

3. Through this amendment, the Authority has explained that it shall be mandatory for the broadcaster of pay channel to enter into written interconnection agreement with the multi system operator for retransmission of its pay channels irrespective of whether subscription fee is paid by the multi system operator to the broadcaster or not.
4. The amendment provides for sufficient time (minimum sixty days) for entering into new interconnection agreement before the expiry of existing interconnection agreement between the service providers for retransmission of TV signals. After this amendment, no scope will be available in the name of mutual negotiations, for continuing the provisioning of TV signal after expiry of the existing interconnection agreement
5. The multi system operators are mandated to inform the consumers in the event of failure to execute new interconnection agreement, about date of expiry of its existing interconnection agreement and disconnection of TV channels, fifteen days prior to the expiry of existing interconnection agreement to enable the consumers to take informed decision in respect of their choice.

3. Direction dated the 12th January 2016 to all the Unified Access Service Providers and Cellular Mobile Service Providers to submit the data through web-service of network parameters :

This direction mandates the cellular mobile telephone service providers, to submit to TRAI, the master cell data of network parameters and upload daily cell network parameters data to server of TCCMS portal of TRAI through web-service in the prescribed format. This will enable TRAI to have faster access to information on network parameters.

B. Recommendation:

1. Letter dated 6th January 2016 regarding adoption of Aadhaar based e-KYC service

Through letter dated 6th January 2016 the Authority has recommended to the DoT for acceptance and adoption of Aadhaar based e-KYC service alongwith Aadhaar based e-sign as a valid alternative process to the existing process for digitally signed, biometric based verification of the new mobile subscribers.

2. Recommendations on “Valuation and Reserve Price of Spectrum in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands” dated 27th January 2016

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued Recommendations on “Valuation and Reserve Price of Spectrum in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz,

900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands” on 27th January 2016.

2. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had sought the Authority’s Recommendations on Reserve Price and associated conditions for auction of 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands. DoT also sought the Authority’s recommendations on the liberalization of administratively allotted spectrum in 900 MHz band.
3. TRAI had issued a consultation paper on “Valuation and Reserve Price of Spectrum in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz bands” on 26th November 2015 seeking the comments of the stakeholders. An Open House Discussion was conducted by TRAI on 4th January 2016 at New Delhi.
4. After considering the comments received from the stakeholders and further analysis, the Authority has come out with its recommendations on **“Valuation and Reserve Price of Spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz Bands”**. The salient features of the recommendations are given below:
 - APT700 band plan should be adopted for the 700 MHz (698-806 MHz) spectrum band with Frequency Division Duplex (FDD) based frequency arrangement. Entire available spectrum (2x35MHz) in the 700 MHz band should be put to auction in the upcoming auction.
 - DoT should carry out carrier re-assignment exercise in the 800 MHz band at the earliest and ensure that entire spectrum that is available with DoT for commercial use should be put to auction.
 - The DoT, in coordination with Defence and the TSPs, should complete harmonization process in the 1800 MHz band before upcoming auctions so that the entire spectrum that is made available due to this exercise is put to auction.
 - Rollout obligations for 700 MHz band: All towns/villages having population of 15,000 or more but less than 50,000 to be covered within 5 years and all villages having population of 10,000 or more but less than 15,000 to be covered within 7 years.
 - Audit for all allocated spectrum both commercial as well as spectrum allocated to various PSUs/Government organizations. This should be done by an independent agency.
 - Recommended reserve price for various spectrum bands is as per table given below:

RECOMMENDED RESERVE PRICE (In Rs. Crore)							
LSA	700 MHz	800 MHz	900 MHz	1800 MHz	2100 MHz	2300 MHz	2500 MHz
	Per MHz (Paired)					Per MHz (Unpaired)	
Delhi	1595	848		399	554	143	143
Mumbai	1192	727		298	461	146	146
Kolkata	596	160		149	116	33	33
AP	971	606		243	272	68	68
Gujarat	952	285	673	238	258	39	39
Karnataka	740	303	558	185	328	98	98
Maharashtra	1272	799		318	341	58	58
Tamil Nadu	900	360		225	344	132	132
Haryana	186	57	151	47	55	8	8
Kerala	334	243		83	177	16	16
MP	331	408		83	123	8	8
Punjab	308	119		77	91	21	21
Rajasthan	364	204		91	140	6	6
UP (East)	459	219	776	115	110	9	9
UP (W)	384	182	739	96	111	12	12
West Bengal	183	82		46	52	5	5
Assam	158			40	46	2	2
Bihar	248	136	444	62	86	6	6
Himachal Pradesh	64	24		16	20	1	1
Jammu & Kashmir	52			13	11	1	1
North East	44			11	12	1	1
Orissa	152	57		38	38	4	4

C. Consultation Paper :

1. Open house discussion (OHD) on the consultation paper on “Draft Model & Standard Interconnection agreements between MSO and LCO for offering cable TV services through Digital Addressable System (DAS)”

An open house Discussion (OHD) on the consultation paper on “Draft Model & Standard Interconnection agreements between Multi system Operator (MSO) and Local Cable Operator (LCO) for offering cable Tv services through Digital Addressable system (DAS) was held on 28th January,2016 at Lakshmiptat Singhania Auditorium, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, PHD House, 4/2, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi. Large number of cable Operators, Multi System Operator and Consumer Associations were attended the above OHD.

2. Consultation Paper on “Tariff issues related to TV services”

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), on 29.01.2016, released the Consultation Paper on “Tariff issues related to TV services” This consultation is an attempt to create an enabling environment for growth of the sector in the light of various developments related to technology, emergence of multiple distribution platforms, evolving business models, and enhanced addressability across platforms. The objectives of current consultation were:-

- i. To carry out a review of existing Tariff arrangements and developing a Comprehensive Tariff Structure for Addressable TV Distribution of “TV Broadcasting Services” across Digital Broadcasting Delivery Platforms (DTH/Cable TV / HITS / IPTV) at wholesale and retail level.
 - ii. To ensure that the tariff structure is simplified and rationalized so as to ensure transparency and equity across the value chain.
 - iii. To ensure that subscribers have adequate choice in the broadcast TV services while they are also protected against irrational structure and price hikes.
 - iv. To encourage the investment in the TV sector
 - v. To encourage production of good quality content across different genres.
2. Further, the major issues covered in the consultation paper were :
- a) Tariff models at wholesale and retail levels
 - b) Channels pricing mechanism and methodologies
 - c) Issues related to Niche Channels
 - d) Pricing of High Definition (HD) channels
 - e) Ease of channel or bouquet subscription
 - f) Channel visibility on Electronic programme Guide (EPG)
 - g) Pay-per-programme viewing and tariff options
 - h) Variants of channels
 - i) Carriage, Placement and Marketing fees

D. Miscellaneous :

i) Telecom Subscription Data as on 30th November, 2015

Particulars	No. of Wireless subscribers (in Millions)	No. of Wire-line Subscribers (in Millions)	No. of Total subscribers (Wireless + Wire-line) (in Millions)
Urban Subscription	577.84	21.08	598.92
Rural Subscription	431.61	4.64	436.25
Total Subscription	1009.46	25.72	1,035.18
Overall Tele-density	79.78	2.03	81.82
Share of Urban Subscription	57.24%	81.94%	57.86%
Share of Rural Subscription	42.76%	18.06%	42.14%

No.of Broadband Subscribers	115.11	16.38	131.49
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- Mobile Number Portability requests increased from 181.50 million subscribers at the end of October, 2015 to 186.69 million at the end of November, 2015. In the month of November, 2015 alone 5.19 million requests have been made for MNP.
- Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in November, 2015 were 907.07 million.

ii) Consumer Outreach Programmes:

During January, 2016 TRAI has organized Five Consumer Outreach Programmes for the benefits of Telecom & Broadcasting consumers (Name of Regional Office in bracket):

Shivpuri (MP)	13.01.2016
Bhiwani (Haryana)	19.01.2016
Guwahati (Assam)	28.01.2016
Chidambaram (Tamil nadu)	28.01.2016
Indore (MP)	29.01.2016

iii) Interactive programme on “EMF Radiation from Mobile Towers”:

TRAI organised an Interactive programme on EMF Radiation from Mobile Towers on 18th January 2016 at Hotel The Sonnet, Kolkata, large number of consumers, officers from Government Departments, representatives from Consumer Forums, Resident Welfare Associations, Builders Community, registered CAGs and other Consumer Welfare Organisations, members of academia, Press and Media and representatives of TSPs participated in the programme. The participants were informed that government has implemented stringent norms to ensure that there is no adverse effect on human health from mobile tower emissions. Various issues related to mobile tower radiations were clarified by officers from TRAI and TERM CELL during the programme.

Full details of the Directions/Orders, Recommendations, Consultation Paper, Subscription Data, etc as mentioned in this newsletter are available on our website www.trai.gov.in.

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