

Information note to the Press (Press Release No.27/2016)

For Immediate release

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

TRAI releases a consultation paper on interconnection framework for broadcasting TV services distributed using addressable systems.

New Delhi, 4th May, 2016- Today, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a consultation paper on interconnection framework for broadcasting TV services distributed using addressable systems.

2. With digitization of cable TV services in urban areas, there has been a marked increase in number of subscribers receiving cable TV services using addressable systems. The number of subscribers being served by the DTH services has also gone up significantly. The Head-end in the Sky (HITS) services are also expected to make fast progress in making available digital broadcasting TV services in the country. Now majority of the subscribers in India are receiving TV signals through digital addressable systems.

3. The Authority under the provisions of TRAI Act notifies interconnection regulations, from time to time. So far the Authority has made the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection Regulations, 2004 (13 of 2004) dated 10.12.2004 and the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Digital Addressable Cable Television Systems) Regulations, 2012 (9 of 2012) dated 30.04.2012 as amended from time to time. The interconnection regulations prescribe the regulatory framework for interconnection arrangements between service providers. Based on this framework service providers finalize the commercial and technical terms and conditions to arrive at an agreement.

4. The interconnection regulations ought to evolve to keep pace with new developments in the sector to foster competition and promote orderly growth. To ensure non-discrimination and level playing field amongst the distributors using different digital addressable systems such as DTH, IPTV, HITS, and DAS, it may be in the fitness of things that the existing regulatory framework is reviewed to incorporate new developments and support growth of the sector while protecting the interests of consumers. This consultation paper aims at

fostering competition, increasing trust amongst service providers, facilitating ease of doing business, reducing disputes, improving transparency & efficiency, promoting sustainable & orderly growth and providing effective choice to consumers.

5. Comments and counter comments of the stakeholders are solicited on the various issues listed in the consultation paper. Stakeholders are requested to offer their comments/ views latest by **03.06.2016** and counter comments, if any, may be submitted by **17.06.2016**. The comments and counter comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form, on the email: **sksinghal@trai.gov.in** and **gs.kesarwani@trai.gov.in**

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