<u>**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**</u>

TRAI issues Consultation Note on "Model for Nation-wide Interoperable and Scalable Public Wi-Fi Networks"

New Delhi, 15 .11.2016 – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued a Consultation Note on **"Model for Nation-wide Interoperable and Scalable Public Wi-Fi Networks"**

1. The objective of this consultation note is two-fold:

    a) To explore whether the model proposed in this Note can be implemented for Public Wi-Fi networks to promote appropriate monetization and business models for sustainable and scalable infrastructure deployment.

    b) To explore the roles of different stakeholders in the Public Wi-Fi network value chain and build an ecosystem for promoting scalable and sustainable partnerships for large scale nation wide deployment.

2. It may be recalled that 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, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a consultation paper on **"Proliferation of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Networks"** on 13th July 2016. 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.

3. Comments and counter-comments on the Consultation Paper from various stakeholders were received which have been placed on TRAI's website. To augment the consultation process it was decided that a workshop be conducted which would enable holding meaningful discussions and arriving at possible solutions.

4. In the workshop held on 28th September 2016 at Bengaluru. TRAI, in academic partnership with the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B), set the stage for exploring the issues.

5. The workshop was attended by telcos, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), payment solution firms and start-ups, Wi-Fi solution providers, Wi-Fi/ mobile device makers, academia, system integrators, Network Equipment Manufacturers, Software Vendors, and government officials.

6. Experts from different areas and industry segments presented their view points and shared experiences. As a follow up on the deliberations and inputs received from the workshop, this consultation note intends to explore technical and commercial options for large scale nation wide deployment of Public Wi-Fi network infrastructure in the country.

7. Copy of the full text of the Consultation Note available on TRAI website: www.trai.gov.in. The written comments on the issues raised in the consultation paper are invited from the stakeholders by 25th November, 2016. For any clarification/information Shri Arvind Kumar, Advisor (Broadband & Policy Analysis), TRAI may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23220209 Fax No. +91-11—23230056.

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