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TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Tel No.011-23220209
Fax No.011-23230056
Email: advifn@traigov.in
Website: www.traigov.in

TRAI releases Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC)”

New Delhi, 27th April, 2011 – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today released a consultation paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC)”. This consultation paper is available on TRAI’s website www.traigov.in.

Interconnection Usage Charges are the wholesale charges payable by one telecom service provider to another for use of the latter’s network for originating, terminating or transiting or carrying a call. Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) Regime is an essential requirement to allow subscribers of one service provider to communicate with the subscriber of other service providers in multi-operator environment. The IUC regime determines not only the revenue accruals to the service providers but also how this revenue is to be distributed among various service providers. Though Interconnection Usage Charges are not directly related to retail tariff, but they play a major role in determining the level of retail tariffs offered by the service providers. A number of factors like increasing competition, massive growth of subscribers, changes in retail tariff and in the cost of providing services, and adoption of new technologies by the service providers necessitate periodic review of the IUC Regime.

Public consultation through this consultation paper seeks views of the stakeholders on various parameters of fixing of components of the Interconnection Usage Charges. Stakeholders are requested to furnish their written comments to the Advisor (I&FN), TRAI by 18th May, 2011. Counter-comments, if any, may be sent by 25th May, 2011. Comments and counter-comments would be posted on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in. The comments and counter-comments may also be sent by e-mail to jafn@tra.gov.in or tra.gov@gmail.com.

Contact Details in case of any clarifications:

Arvind Kumar
Advisor (Interconnection & Fixed Network)
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan,
Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110 002.
Telephone:011-23220209 Fax: 011-23230056
Email: advifn@tra.gov.in.

Authorised to issue: