

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-Newsletter



AUGUST 2020



Dr R. S Sharma, Chairman, TRAI during Web Dialogue on “Digital Transformation for Digital Economies @COVID -19 South-Asia” in partnership with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and GSM Association (GSMA) on 30th July 2020

1. Regulations

1.1 Regulation on “The Telecommunication Interconnection (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2020”- Issued on 10th July, 2020.

TRAI has notified “The Telecommunication Interconnection (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2020” on 10th July, 2020, which makes easier the interconnection between any two Public Switched Telephone Networks (commonly referred to as the Fixed Line Networks), and between Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and National Long Distance (NLD) Network.

A consultation paper on the “Review of the Regulatory framework for Interconnection” was issued on 30th May, 2019 seeking comments and counter-comments from the stakeholders. In this regard, an Open House Discussion (OHD) was held on 19th August, 2019 at New Delhi. Based on the comments/inputs received from the stakeholders, discussion held during the OHD and after its own analysis, the Authority has notified “The Telecommunication Interconnection (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2020”.

The synopsis of the amendments to the “Telecommunication Interconnection Regulations, 2018”, is as follows:-

- (i) Within a service area, the location of POI, for calls between PSTN and PSTN or between PSTN and NLD network, shall be at such place as may be mutually agreed between the interconnection provider and the interconnection seeker.
- (ii) In case the interconnection provider and the interconnection seeker fail to agree, the location of POI, for calls between PSTN and PSTN, or between PSTN and NLD network, shall be at Long Distance Charging Centre (LDCC). In such a case, the carriage charge for carriage of calls from LDCC to Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC) and vice versa, as applicable shall be paid by the interconnection seeker to the interconnection provider.
- (iii) The existing POIs at the SDCC level, for calls between PSTN and PSTN, or between PSTN and NLD network, shall remain in operation for a period of at least five years or till such time the interconnected service providers mutually decide to close such POIs, whichever is earlier.
- (iv) The existing POI at the SDCC level, for calls between PSTN and PSTN, or between PSTN and NLD network, can be closed if the services of either of the interconnected service providers are discontinued in that SDCA.



2. Recommendations

2.1 Recommendations on 'Provision of Cellular backhaul connectivity via. Satellite through VSAT under Commercial VSAT CUG Service Authorization' dated 28th July 2020

Satellites provide telecommunication and broadcasting services, covering large geographical areas. Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) is one of the satellite communication technologies which is very useful for remote and inaccessible locations such as rural areas, ships, coastal regions, hills, etc. where there is limited or no terrestrial connectivity. The main advantages of VSAT technology is its rapid deployment with minimum training, scalability, lower operational costs and reliability of communication, in remote locations even in adverse situations.

The National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP), 2018, released by the Government of India, has *inter-alia* envisaged the various steps such as revising licensing and regulatory conditions, simplifying compliance requirements and expanding the scope of permissible services for the effective utilisation of High Throughput Satellite system through appropriate licensing mechanism.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT), through its letter dated 13th August 2019 had requested TRAI to furnish recommendations under the terms of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (as amended) by TRAI Amendment Act, 2000 on terms and conditions of Unified License and Unified License VNO agreement for permitting backhaul links for mobile network via. satellite through VSAT.

Based on the reference received from DoT, the Authority issued Consultation Paper (CP) on 'Provision of Cellular backhaul connectivity via Satellite through VSAT under Commercial VSAT CUG Service Authorization' on 29th January 2020, seeking comments of the stakeholders. In the CP, apart from the issues referred to by DoT, other issues such as sharing of infrastructure by a licensee for provisioning of other services authorized under the license, migration from formula-based spectrum charging (for satellite-based services) to AGR-based SUC and associated matters of accounting separation were also raised for comments of the stakeholders.

Based on the comments received during the consultation process and its own analysis, TRAI released its Recommendations on 'Provision of Cellular backhaul connectivity via. Satellite through VSAT under Commercial VSAT CUG Service Authorization' on 28th July 2020. TRAI recommended that the Commercial VSAT CUG Service provider should be permitted to provide backhaul connectivity for cellular mobile services through satellite using VSAT to the Access Service providers. Full recommendations may be accessed from the below link.

https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_28072020.pdf



3. Directions

3.1 TRAI issued Direction to all Broadcasters under section 13, read with section 11, of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, on 24th July 2020:

TRAI issued this Direction to all Broadcasters to ensure compliance of various provisions of the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Eighth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff (Second Amendment) Order, 2020 dated 1st January 2020 and the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2020 dated 1st January 2020

Through the direction, the Authority directed all the broadcasters to report to the Authority by 10.08.2020, name, nature, language, maximum retail prices per month of channels and maximum retail price per month of bouquets of channels, or composition of bouquets and also amend Reference Interconnected Offer (RIO) in compliance with the provisions of the above said tariff order and interconnection regulations.

https://traigov.in/sites/default/files/Direction_24072020.pdf

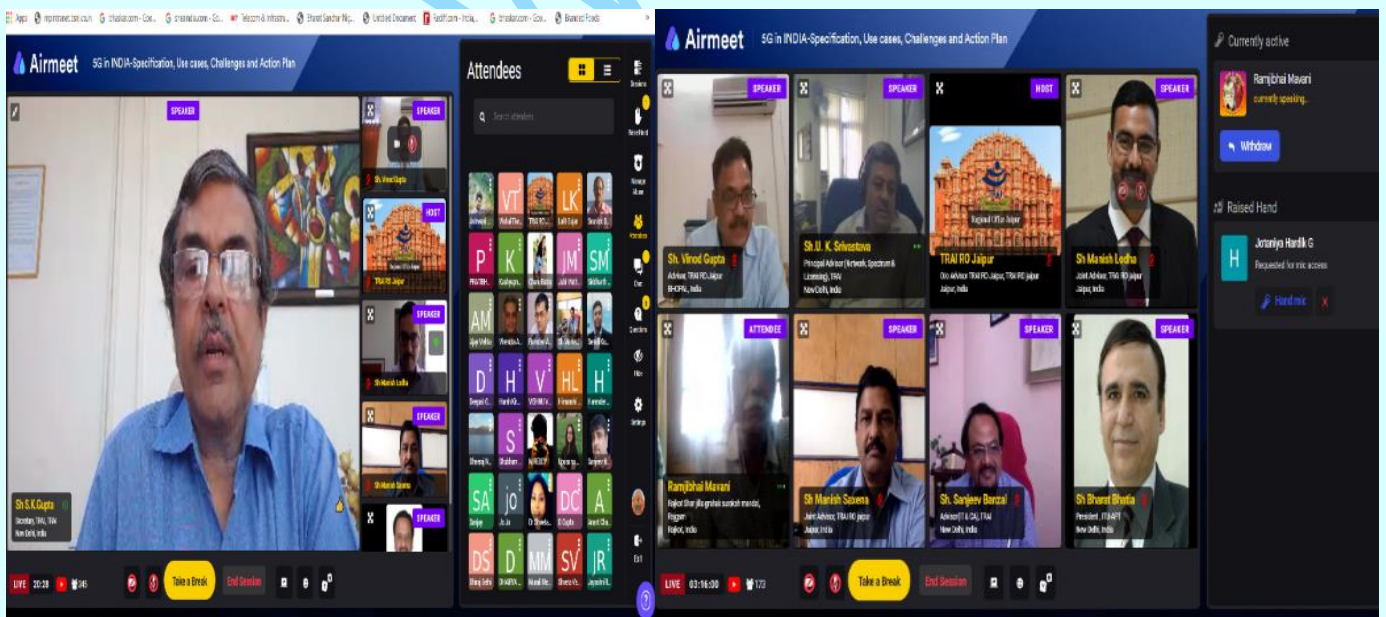


4. Seminar

4.1 TRAI conducted Seminar on "5G in India – Specification, use cases, challenges and Action Plan" held on 24th July by RO Jaipur

TRAI organized a seminar on "5G in India – Specification, use cases, challenges and Action Plan" held on 24th July on online platform by RO Jaipur.

This webinar is aimed to discuss the latest developments in the mobile communication technology - 5G, various use cases, network architecture, spectrum requirements, policy framework, action plan and regulatory challenges etc. in India. Various presentation and discussion will be done by the subject matter expert. This webinar will prove to be a good opportunity for learning, interaction, exchange of ideas and views and will be an enriching experience for every participant. The target audience comprising of senior official from Telecom Service Providers, Infrastructure providers, representatives of various industry associations, Consumer Advocacy Group, Faculty members, research scholars and students from various Engineering and Management institutes, Senior Officers from Union and State Government and consumers etc.



Seminar on "5G in India – Specification, use cases, challenges and Action Plan" on 24.07.2020

5. Open House Discussion

5.1 OHD on ‘Consultation Paper on Methodology of applying SUC under the weighted average method of SUC assessment, in cases of Spectrum Sharing’ held on 9th July 2020

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 9th July 2020 through Video Conferencing on ‘Consultation Paper on Methodology of applying SUC under the weighted average method of SUC assessment, in cases of Spectrum Sharing’.

The OHD was conducted on 9th July 2020, to obtain valuable inputs of the concerned stakeholders. Several stakeholders including, telecom service providers, industry associations etc. participated in the open house discussion. There was good response for conducting the OHD through video conferencing even during the COVID Pandemic.

Few snapshots



6. Other Information

6.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st May 2020.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless + Wireline)
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	620.21	17.65	637.85
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	523.70	2.12	525.82
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	1143.91	19.77	1163.67
Overall Tele-density (%)	84.69	1.46	86.15
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	54.22%	89.28%	54.81%
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	45.78%	10.72%	45.19%
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	664.40	19.38	683.77

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in May, 2020 were 960.78 million.

In the month of May, 2020, 2.98 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. Till the end of May, 2020, a total of 491.21 million consumers have availed MNP facility since its implementation.

6.2 TRAI has issued an updated list of Panel of Auditors to carry out audit of Digital Addressable System (DAS) on 28th July 2020.

Full details of the Directions/Orders/Consultation Paper/Report, Subscription Data, etc mentioned in this newsletter are available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in MahanagarDoorsancharBhawan, JawaharLal Nehru Marg, (Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.

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