

Response to Consultation Note on Solution Architecture for Technical Interoperable Set Top Box

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Introduction:

At the Outset we would like to thank the Authority for publishing the Consultation Note on Solution Architecture for Technical Interoperable Set Top Box and giving us an opportunity to furnish our comments.

Comments on Solution Architecture for Technical Interoperable Set Top Box

We thank the authority for coming up with a viable solution for STB interoperability. We learnt that the Technical solution concentrates more with regard to STBs to be manufactured in future and to be deployed in the field. We request the Authority to take note that the digitalization of India is completed and the STBs installed in the market needs to be considered for interoperable technical solution. We do technically agree with the architecture described and would like to go ahead with it but do find below a few concerns to which we do need some clarification for better understanding the Consultant note:

1. In the current consultant note there is no mention/comment on the existing millions of STB's on the field and the way forward regarding making those existing STBs technically interoperable to be provided to secure the investments made by the Service providers. The Technical solution for the existing STBs may be looked into phased manner that facilitates interoperability between intra Service Providers i.e. between MSO and MSO / DTH and DTH and later it can be explored between across all the Distribution platform operators.
2. We would like to submit that in the market the Distribution Platform Operators also procuring and using the STBs manufactured with an inbuilt Chip in the STB instead of Smart Card/Viewing Card. It is either called CCA or Cloaked CA it offers the same level of security as a smart card solution. CCA technology ideally eliminates the logistical expenses and complexity associated with smart card distribution and reduces the total cost to Operator by 30 to 40% compared to Smart cards. The Solution for the interoperability of those Clocked CA may also be explored by the Authority and the C-DOT.
