

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 41/2014)

For Immediate release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI Releases Recommendations on “Guidelines on Spectrum Sharing”

New Delhi, 21st July, 2014 - The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today issued its recommendations on “**Guidelines on Spectrum Sharing**”.

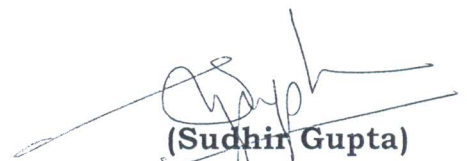
In February 2014, the Authority had constituted a Steering Committee consisting of senior officers of TRAI and representatives of all the TSPs to frame the guidelines for spectrum sharing. On the basis of deliberations in the Steering Committee and its own analysis, the Authority has finalised its recommendations on ‘Guidelines on Spectrum Sharing’. The salient features of the guidelines are given below:

- Spectrum sharing refers to an arrangement between two access licensees (CMTS/UASL/UL (AS)/UL) where both licensees having access spectrum, in the same band, pool their respective spectrum in the same Licence Service Area (LSA) for their simultaneous use, using a common Radio Access Network (RAN). The shared RAN will be connected to the core networks of each of the licensee. Both the licensees will continue to hold their primary right over their own spectrum.
- The basic objective of spectrum sharing is to provide an opportunity to the TSPs to pool their spectrum holdings and gain the better spectral efficiency. Spectrum sharing would involve both the service providers utilising the spectrum. Leasing of spectrum is not permitted.
- All access spectrum i.e. spectrum in the bands of 800/900/1800/2100/ 2300/2500 MHz will be sharable provided that both the licensees are having spectrum in the same band.
- Both the licensees, willing to share their spectrum, shall inform the licensor at the time of entering into spectrum sharing agreement.

- At present, there are many licensees having administratively assigned spectrum in the 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz band. If any one of the two licensees, sharing their spectrum, has administratively assigned spectrum in that band, then after sharing, they will be permitted to provide only those services which can be provided through administratively held spectrum.
- If both the licensees are sharing that spectrum which has either been assigned through an auction in the year 2010 or afterwards, or on which the licensee has already paid the prescribed market value (as decided by the Government from time to time) to the Government, they can offer services using all those technologies (namely GSM, CDMA, WCDMA, LTE etc), which they can independently provide through their own spectrum holding.
- Considering the fact that spectrum sharing results in better spectral efficiency, a portion of additional capacity created needs to be counted for the purpose of applying the prescribed spectrum caps of 25% of total spectrum assigned and 50% in a band. For the limited purpose of applying the prescribed market caps, 50% of the spectrum held by the other licence in the band being shared shall be counted as the additional spectrum being held by the licensee.
- Considering the fact that spectrum sharing results in additional quantity of spectrum with both the licensees to serve higher number of consumers, the SUC rate of each of the licensees post-sharing shall increase by 0.5% of AGR.

The recommendations on 'Guidelines on Spectrum Sharing' have been placed on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in

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