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Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

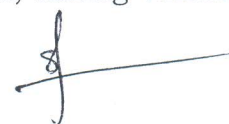
TRAI Releases Recommendations on “Allocation and pricing of Microwave Access (MWA) and Microwave Backbone (MWB) RF carriers”

New Delhi, 29th August, 2014 - The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today issued its recommendations on **“Allocation and pricing of Microwave Access (MWA) and Microwave Backbone (MWB) RF carriers”**.

The DoT had requested TRAI in November 2012 followed by additional clarifications in June 2013 and August 2014 to furnish its recommendations for “Allocation and pricing of Microwave Access (MWA) and Microwave Backbone (MWB) RF carriers” in terms of Clause 11(1)(a) of TRAI Act, 1997 as amended.

Now the Authority has finalised its recommendations on the subject. The salient features of the recommendations are:

- The Authority has recommended a ceiling on the number of MWA carriers that can be assigned to a TSP which is based on the quantum of access spectrum held by the TSP. TSP should be assigned MWA carriers as per their request as long as it is within the ceiling limit.
- The assignment of MWA carriers should be done on an exclusive basis for the various spectrum bands in 13-42 GHz range for the entire Licence Service Areas whereas the assignment of MWB carriers should be done on a link-to-link basis.
- The assignment of MWA and MWB carriers should continue to be done on administrative basis.
- Assignment of both access spectrum and MWA carriers should be done simultaneously within a period of one month from the date a TSP makes the payment for access spectrum, failing which TSP

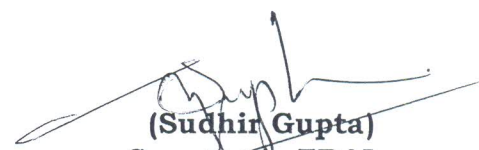


should be paid compensation at the SBI PLR rate of the amount it had already paid to acquire the access spectrum.

- The higher frequency bands viz. 26 GHz, 28 GHz, 32 GHz, 38 GHz and 42 GHz should also be earmarked for fixed point-to-point MW carriers.
- The prevailing spectrum charging mechanism based on % AGR for MWA carriers should be continued. However, for MWB carriers, the charging should be done on a link-to-link basis as is being done for all other terrestrial MW links.
- The charges for MWA carriers in the 13/15 GHz band, 18/21 GHz band, 26/28/32 GHz band and 38/42 GHz bands should be 0.17%, 0.12%, 0.1% and 0.07% of AGR per carrier respectively.
- Spectrum charges for MWB link shall be Rs. 13,900/- per KM per annum.
- Present spectrum charges for terrestrial Point-to-Point MW links (other than MWB links used in cellular network) should be rationalized and should be the same as have been recommended for MWB links.
- In order to increase broadband penetration in India, the usage of high capacity backhaul E-band (71-76 / 81-86 GHz) and V-band (57-64MHz) may be explored for allocation to the telecom service providers. Both E-band and V-band should be opened with 'light touch regulation' and allotment should be on a 'link to link basis.

The recommendations on "Allocation and pricing of Microwave Access (MWA) and Microwave Backbone (MWB) RF carriers" have been placed on TRAI's website www.traigov.in

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