

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Press Release No. 58/2011

**TRAI issues Consultation Paper**

**on**

**“Issues related to prescribing Minimum Channel Spacing, within a License Service Area, in FM Radio Sector in India”**

New Delhi, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2011: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a consultation paper on “Issues related to prescribing minimum Channel spacing, within a license service area, in FM Radio sector in India”.

2. The policy guidelines, for expansion of FM radio Broadcasting services in India through private agencies for Phase III, were issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2011. These policy guidelines provide for 839 new private FM stations in 294 cities across the country.

3. Meanwhile, the industry has been demanding that more number of channels be put up for bidding, especially in A+ and A category cities, in order to provide better choice to the consumers, realistic bidding process, better business opportunities for the operators of the private FM channels and higher revenue to the Government through efficient use of the FM radio spectrum by reducing the minimum channel spacing.

4. Keeping in view the demand of the FM radio operators, the technological developments and viability of the FM operations in city wise category, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has requested TRAI to reconsider the issue of reduction in minimum channel spacing and release of additional frequencies in A+ & A category cities.

5. In order to bring out and suitably analyze the issues concerning minimum channel spacing among FM channels within a license service area and thereafter make appropriate recommendations to the Government, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has come up with a consultation paper. This consultation paper analyses the issue of minimum channel spacing among the FM channels in light of the factors such as selectivity of the FM radio receivers, capability of combiners to effectively combine closely spaced channels, multiplicity of transmitting sites within the service area, mode of funding in case of up-gradation/creation of transmission setups is required.

6. Full text of the Consultation Paper is available on TRAI's website ([www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in)). Written comments on the issues raised in this consultation paper are invited from the stakeholders by 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2011, and counter-comments on the comments by 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2012. The comments and counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form, to Mr. Wasi Ahmad, Advisor (B&CS) on the e-mail address: [advbcs@traigov.in](mailto:advbcs@traigov.in) or [traicable@yahoo.co.in](mailto:traicable@yahoo.co.in). The comments can also be mailed to address given below or faxed to 011-23220442. Comments and counter-comments will be posted on the TRAI's website. For any further clarifications please contact Mr. Wasi Ahmad, Advisor (B&CS) on 011-23237922.

**Contact details in case of any clarification:**

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**Authorized to Issue: Advisor (B&CS)**