Consultation Paper on Interoperability of Set Top Box

Question No.	Question	Response
Q1	In view of the implications of non-interoperability, is it desirable to have interoperability of STBs? Please provide reasoning for your comment.	Yes, definitely required. Present players in the distribution industry know that, once the customers purchase their STB they can't switch to other and if they want to do so, again they have to pay the entire amount for Antenna, LNB, STB of other service provider. **At present I have Dish TV connection. Even after one month of tariff revision, they are still charging the old rate, which are at higher end. I had sent several mails to the customer care and even called but there is no favourable response, which is a gross violation of the tariff orders**. If I had the provision to switch to other service providers with the same setup definitely I would have shifted to other service provider. So I strongly support the initiatives that TRAI takes to implement interoperability of STBs.
Q2	Looking at the similar structure of STB in cable and DTH segment, with difference only in the channel modulation and frequency range, would it be desirable to have universal interoperability i.e. same STB to be usable on both DTH or Cable platform? Or should there be a policy/regulation to implement interoperability only within a platform, i.e. within the DTH network and within the Cable TV segment? Please provide your comment with detailed justifications.	I do not have technical knowledge. However, I feel there could be a policy to implement interoperability only within a platform, i.e. within the DTH network and within the Cable TV segment.

Q3	Should interoperable STBs be made available through open market only to exploit benefits of commoditization of the device? Please elaborate.	TRAI may issue the guidelines to all the service providers to have uniformity in the design and the functionality of the STBs. It may also set a standard for the same. Providing interoperable STBs in open market is also a good option. Customer will buy the STB of his choice within his budget just like the mobile phones.
Q4	Do you think that introducing STB interoperability is necessary with a view to reduce environmental impact caused by e-waste generated by non-interoperability of STBs?	Yes, definitely required. Otherwise there will be huge amount of e-waste which will be difficult to manage in long run.
Q5	Is non-interoperability of STBs proving to be a hindrance in perfect competition in distribution of broadcasting services? Give your comments with justification.	Yes, non-interoperability of STBs is a hurdle in competition. As mentioned in my response for Q1, one can't easily migrate to other service provider since it is not cost effective and the customer has to go with the present service provider, though he is not happy.
Q6.	How interoperability of STBs can be implemented in Indian markets in view of the discussion in Chapter III? Are there any software based solution(s) that can enable interoperability without compromising content security? If yes, please provide details.	No comments. Have no knowledge.
Q7	Please comment on the timelines for the development of ecosystem to deploy interoperable STBs for your recommended/ suggested solution	May be by January 2021.

Q8	Do you agree that software-based solutions to provide interoperability of STBs would be more efficient, reduce cost of STB, adaptable and easy to implement than the hardware-based solutions? If so, do you agree ETSI GS ECI 001 (01-06) standards can be adopted as an option for STB interoperability? Give your comments with reasons and justifications.	Yes, software based solutions could be cost effective when compared to hardware based solutions.
Q9	Given that most of the STB interoperability solutions become feasible through a common agency defined as Trusted Authority, please suggest the structure of the Trusted Authority. Should the trusted authority be an Industry led body or a statutory agency to carry out the mandate? Provide detailed comments/ suggestion on the certification procedure?	TRAI could be the regulatory authority or a team with representatives from GOI, TRAI and all the players in the distribution industry.
Q10	What precaution should be taken at planning stage to smoothly adopt solution for interoperability of STBs in Indian market? Do you envisage a need for trial run/pilot deployment? If so, kindly provide detailed comments.	Interoperability should be introduced on trial basis in metropolitan cities or in selected states.
Q11	Interoperability is expected to commoditize STBs. Do you	Interoperability will be beneficial to the end customers. As per the new tariff mandate by TRAI,

	agree that introducing white label STB will create more competitions and enhance service offerings from operator? As such, in your opinion what cost reductions do you foresee by implementation of interoperability of STBs?	NCF for first 100 channels is fixed at ₹ 130/-. Competition among the players in the distribution industry may bring down this. Also the service providers may offer discounts to the incoming customers on first recharge.
Q12	Is there any way by which interoperability of set-top box can be implemented for existing set top boxes also? Give your suggestions with justification including technical and commercial methodology?	No comments. Have no knowledge.
Q13	Any other issues which you may like to raise related to interoperability of STBs.	No other suggestions.