

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**

**Press Release No: 21/ 2005**

**February 25, 2005**

**TRAI releases a Consultation Paper on Private Terrestrial TV Broadcasting Service**

TRAI today released a Consultation Paper on Private Terrestrial TV Broadcasting Service. The consultation paper covers the issues relating to allowing private broadcasters in the field of terrestrial television broadcasting.

Terrestrial television is the traditional method of television broadcast signal delivery. In India, at present, even though there are more than 100 television channels available on cable television networks, terrestrial television broadcasting remains in the exclusive domain of Doordarshan under Prasar Bharati. In almost all the developed countries in the world, terrestrial TV broadcasting is not exclusively reserved for the Public Service Broadcasters. Even in developing countries, private terrestrial television broadcast services are common.

The purpose of this Consultation Paper is to generate discussion on the appropriate policy and licensing framework for the introduction of Private Terrestrial Television Broadcast service in India. Given the developed status of the Cable/Satellite Services it is not clear whether there would be sufficient private interest. Therefore, after considering the inputs TRAI would either give its recommendation or go in for a more detailed consultation process.

The specific issues posed for consultation have been put together in Chapter-6. Written comments on these issues may please be furnished to Secretary, TRAI by March 31, 2005. The gist of the comments received will be posted on the TRAI's website. The full text of the consultation paper is available on the TRAI's website (<http://www.traigov.in/>).

It is proposed to hold Open House Discussions on the subject in May, 2005. Those interested in participating in the above discussions may please give their names at the above addresses by March 31, 2005 along with contact details so that the Open House Discussions could be planned accordingly.