

# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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## **TRAI releases Recommendations on Next Generation Networks (NGN).**

TRAI today issued its recommendations on issues pertaining to 'Next Generation Networks (NGN)'.

Due to technological advancements there is a trend towards unification of networks & services leading to the emergence of Next Generation Networks, which are predominantly IP based. The NGNs enable the service providers to provide a wide range of services (voice, data, video) over the same platform. In addition, NGNs also enable Fixed-mobile convergence/ substitution resulting into reduced demand on mobile services spectrum. Regulators in many developing and developed nations are attempting to lay down broad principles for NGN migration well in advance of the inevitable transition actually occurring, as in our country also.

### **Background:**

TRAI had issued a consultation paper on the issues related to NGN during January 2006 highlighting various issues related to Next Generation Networks like relevance and timing for transition to NGN, Regulatory & Technical issues as well as Migration related issues in

addition to background on NGN technologies and International case studies. After receiving comments from stakeholders and conducting Open House Discussions at Bangalore and Delhi to seek views of consumer organisations and other stakeholders, TRAI has finalised the recommendations.

### **Recommendations:**

Major thrust of TRAI's recommendations is to bring out the urgent need for converged/unified licensing regime to enable NGN networks to be utilized to their full capabilities and promotion of Broadband in the country. In addition, the need for awareness building about various aspects of NGN has been brought out.

The salient features of TRAI's recommendations are as follows:

- (i) Govt. should arrange to organize some interactive workshops/seminars through its various agencies like TEC, C-DOT, ALTTTC etc. on various aspects of NGN to bring awareness among different stakeholders. TRAI has already started this process.
- (ii) TRAI's recommendations for unified licensing regime dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2005 (as modified in recommendations on Issues relating to convergence & competition in Broadcasting & Telecommunications dated 20.3.06) should be considered expeditiously so that various operators can make best use of NGN platform to provide all types of telecom, data, video and broadcast services through a single license.
- (iii) It may be recalled that in the Broadband Policy, 2004, there is a provision for review of the performance of various operators regarding the Broadband services. Increase in Broadband penetration is a must for wider deployment of NGN services and since the policy targets for Broadband have not been met, it is the time to undertake the review of various recommendations on Broadband access related issues mentioned above. It is

reiterated that unless various operators are able to deploy NGN in access to provide multiple services its full benefits cannot be made available to customers.

- (iv) The items for review include reconsideration of Local Loop unbundling which can expedite the uptake of Broadband through the existing copper loops by bringing in competition, delicensing of spectrum in 5.1 to 5.3 GHz band for outdoor usage and also identification of some additional spectrum for Broadband access.
- (v) TEC should be entrusted the task to study and analyze various international developments pertaining to NGN in a time bound manner so as to incorporate the same in Indian context and develop interface requirements for the same.
- (vi) A cross industry joint consultative group consisting of TEC, Service providers, technical institutions, vendors etc. for analyzing NGN standards & their customization for national requirement should be set up.

In addition TRAI has decided to have a detailed consultation with stakeholders on the interconnection issues and QOS regulation for NGN. Also, TRAI has also decided to setup an expert committee named 'NGN eCO' involving experts from DOT, TEC, C-DOT, service providers, vendors and academia to deliberate upon the various migration and interconnection issues.

The measures indicated above will facilitate utilization of Next Generation Networks to their full capability.

The detailed recommendations are available on TRAI's website at: [www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in).

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