

**Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 100/2016)**

For Immediate release

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

**TRAI releases the draft interconnection regulations for TV broadcasting services provided through addressable systems**

**New Delhi, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2016-** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released the draft Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2016 for consultation with the stakeholders.

2. On the matters of interconnection between the service providers, TRAI, in 2004, had released the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection Regulation, 2004 (13 of 2004) to regulate interconnection arrangements in analog mode, in vogue at that time and later its scope was expanded to include addressable systems such as Direct to Home (DTH), Head-end In the Sky (HITS) and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) etc. Subsequently the Authority also notified the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Digital Addressable Cable Television Systems) Regulations, 2012 (9 of 2012), specifically for cable TV services provided through Digital Addressable Cable TV Systems (DAS).

3. To keep in pace with the new technologies and advent of different distribution platforms in the broadcasting, TRAI initiated a holistic review of the existing regulatory framework for all type of addressable systems. From January to July 2016, consultations on issues relating to tariff, interconnection, register of interconnection agreements, quality of service and consumer protection were held with stakeholders in the form of comments, counter comments and open house discussions.

4. After taking into consideration the views of the stakeholders and internal analysis of TRAI, the draft regulations [the Telecommunication (Broadcasting

and Cable Services) Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2016] along with its explanatory memorandum have been prepared. The basic principles of non-exclusivity, non-discrimination, transparency, level playing field and fair competition have been retained in these draft regulations. Some of the new features of the draft regulations are as follows:-


- (i) A common interconnection framework for all addressable systems namely DTH, HITS, DAS and IPTV.
- (ii) "Must carry" provision for all addressable systems, on first come first serve basis. Distributor of television channels to publish information about its platform including available capacity and declare the rate of carriage fee.
- (iii) No carriage fee is to be paid by a broadcaster if the subscription of the channel is more than or equal to 20% of the subscriber base.
- (iv) The rate of carriage fee has been capped at 20 paisa per channel per subscriber per month. Further, the carriage fee amount will decrease with increase in subscription.
- (v) The distributors of TV channels may offer discounts on the carriage fee rate declared by them not exceeding 35% of the rate of the carriage fee declared.
- (vi) The interconnection agreements to be signed in accordance with the Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO).
- (vii) Broadcaster to offer to a distributor, a minimum of 20% of the maximum retail price of its pay channel(s) or bouquet(s) of pay channels as distribution fee. They may also offer discounts on the maximum retail price provided that the sum of discounts and distribution fee in no case shall exceed 35% of the maximum retail price, so declared.
- (viii) Standard format of application for distributor of television channels for obtaining signals of television channel(s) from broadcaster and standard format of application for a Broadcaster for access of network from distributor for re-transmission of a television channel(s).

- (ix) Format of subscription report to be provided by a distributor of television channels to a Broadcaster including free to air channels.
- (x) Updation in the technical specification for addressable systems.
- (xi) The framework for subscription audit & technical audits.
- (xii) Extension of Model Interconnection Agreement (MIA) and Standard Interconnection Agreement (SIA) framework applicable for MSOs to HITS and IPTV operators.

5. As part of the consultative process, the draft Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2016 has been uploaded on the TRAI website. The stakeholders are requested to provide their comments/ views on the draft regulations specifically on specific values suggested in the draft. The stakeholders are also requested to provide their inputs on completeness and consistency of the regulations within and with other draft regulations/ tariff orders. It is requested that the comments/ view are provided with adequate justification. It would be appreciated if stakeholders justify their comments in respect of specific values suggested in the draft regulations with supporting data and figures.

6. Stakeholders are requested to offer their comments/ views latest by 28.10.2016. The comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form, on the e-mail [sksinghal@traigov.in](mailto:sksinghal@traigov.in) or [gs.kesarwani@traigov.in](mailto:gs.kesarwani@traigov.in) . For any clarification/ information, Sh. Sunil Kumar Singhal, Advisor (B&CS) may be contacted at Tel. No.: +91-11-23221509, Fax: +91-11-23220442. Comments will be posted on TRAI's website.

7. The full text of the draft regulations is available on TRAI's website [www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in) .

  
**(U K Srivastava)**  
**Secretary I/C**