

COAI WELCOMES TRAI RECOMMENDATIONS ON INFRASTRUCTURE SHARING

New Delhi, April 11, 2007... COAI welcomes the recommendations of TRAI on infrastructure sharing. Complimenting the recommendations, **Mr. Sanjeev Aga, Chairman, COAI** stated that the **Authority has made a number of valuable and positive recommendations** that will **encourage and incent the infrastructure sharing movement and would help spread the same to all corners of the country.**

Mr. T V Ramachandran, Director General, COAI also welcomed the recommendations and stated that the **sharing of passive infrastructure has already commenced** amongst the private operators and that the **same would now take off** because of the recommendations of the TRAI.

He stated that the **industry supported the proposal of the TRAI that there should be a Joint Working Group to take spot decisions with regard to infrastructure in critical locations,** and averred that this would address one of the main concerns of the industry with regard to provision of seamless services.

Mr. Ramachandran also **welcomed** the light touch approach adopted by the TRAI, the recommendations to amend license to share active elements as well as backhaul and also **the emphasis laid by the Authority on the use of solar power and alternative fuels** and its recommendation that Government should **evolve a scheme of subsidy per site to operators using non-conventional energy.**

He said that the TRAI recommendation that **the total amount charged per tower should not be more than 1.2 times the amount being charged from individual service providers** would **definitely make infrastructure sharing an extremely attractive proposition as all operators are looking at ways and means to drive down their costs.**

Mr. Aga, however, added that while the recommendations to provide incentives from the USO Fund to service providers and infrastructure providers who have not qualified as beneficiaries is in line with an inclusive approach that the COAI favours, having elected for an auction, the government should now take no steps which could have the effect of defeating its own process, and relatively disadvantaging the winners.
