

PRESS RELEASE

Allotment of Spectrum to GSM Operators

NEW DELHI September 12, 2007... The COAI today made a legal representation to DoT, asking DoT to make available requisite spectrum to the GSM operators as per the criteria laid down by the Government.

Mr. TV Ramachandran Director General COAI said that the **GSM operators had been facing a severe crunch on spectrum** and have been waiting for months or even years to get spectrum. He stated that the **non-availability of spectrum was affecting both new licensees** who were yet to get their initial allotments and **also the operators who had far exceeded the subscriber linkages** that had been prescribed by the Government.

He pointed out that the **extent of delay was as much as almost three years** in some cases and that **non availability of spectrum for such long periods was affecting the operators both financially as well as hampering their ability to commence network rollout and / or expand their networks** and also in **maintaining proper and necessary quality of service**.

Mr. Ramachandran stated that he verily believed that several applications for allotment of spectrum had been cleared by all the relevant competent authorities, thus clearly the spectrum was available for allotment. He **expressed concern that despite such clearances, the actual allotments had still not taken place**.

Mr. Ramachandran also **expressed concern on the recent spate /flood of applications for new UAS licenses**. He apprehended that that as the applications were **from companies with no telecom background, it was possible that these were just proxies for vested interests**. The legal representation called upon the **DoT to lift the corporate veil** to determine the real entities behind the applications **so that competition was not compromised and no entity or promoter group was able to directly or indirectly breach any conditions laid down under policy and license**.

Mr. Ramachandran also stated it would be **desirable that the DoT first address the applications that were already pending** with it when it last issued licenses (December 2006). In this regard, he pointed out that **amongst the license applicants, the existing GSM players** who already have a **presence in other service areas have an a priori right and must be given first preference and priority in the award of license as these operators had been disadvantaged by the Government policy of 2003** from expanding their footprint as desired.

Please find attached as **Annexure-1**, a copy of our detailed representation to DoT on this subject.