

## 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.