



Press Release

COAI welcomes TRAI's approach towards enhancing 2100 MHz spectrum



New Delhi, January 1, 2015

COAI welcomed the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) recommendations on Valuation and Reserve Price of 2100 MHz spectrum. The TRAI has recommended a base price of INR 2,720 crore per megahertz (MHz) for 2100 MHz spectrum for the 22 telecom circles in the country. TRAI has also reiterated its suggestion 2100 MHz band spectrum should be auctioned along with other bands (800, 900 and 1800MHz), in February 2015. COAI appreciates the TRAI's suggestion to auction the 2100 MHz spectrum alongside the other bands, as this will help relieve the acute spectrum crunch faced by the operators. The industry is also encouraged with the TRAI recommendation regarding auction of the entire 15 MHz of spectrum which will be vacated by Defence as has been informed by the Ministry of Defence.

Mr. Rajan S. Mathews, Director General, COAI, said, *"We are happy that TRAI has taken into consideration the broad requirements for the development of progressive telecommunications eco-system in the country. It is essential that the fundamental resource of spectrum is augmented so as to support this objective, which is common to the government as well as the industry. Overall, we are happy with the approach of the regulator in acknowledging the needs for an emerging mobile broadband network in the country."*

COAI also compliments the TRAI, Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT, Hon'ble Minister of Defence, DoT Secretary and Defence Secretary for the path breaking agreement on 2100 MHz spectrum swap which will enhance the overall quantum of spectrum that was urgently required for commercial use. This will facilitate the implementation of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'Broadband for All', and is a right step to make adequate spectrum available for auction.

COAI also welcomes the Authority's gesture in asking the Government to resolve the issue of interference in 2100 MHz spectrum allocated in certain areas. As the operators have not been able to properly roll out services in these service areas, it is depriving the customers of the benefits of 3G services and is becoming a stumbling block in meeting the Government's objectives on "Digital India" in these areas.

At the same time, we feel that a reduced period of 3 years for completion of roll-out obligations may be strenuous for the operators as roll-outs consist of various aspects including developing the requisite infrastructure, which may pose a challenge for such a short period. It may be noted that till date, even the Test Procedure for roll out testing has not been finalized by the Government.

About COAI

COAI was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society. COAI's vision is to establish India as the global leader of innovative mobile communications infrastructure, products and services and achieving a national teledensity of 100%, including broadband. The association is also dedicated to the advancement of modern communication and towards delivering the benefits of innovative and affordable mobile communication services to the people of India.

www.coai.in

For further information please contact:
Kaustuv Sircar, COAI: +91-9999610522