



Press Release

## SC disposes COAI writ petition to auction 514.8 MHz of spectrum

**New Delhi, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013:** The Hon'ble Supreme Court, on Wednesday, acknowledged COAI's prayer and disposed off the writ petition (No.408 of 2012) filed by COAI, thereby enabling the auction of the entire quantum of quashed spectrum i.e. 514.8 MHz. This would essentially comprise of the entire spectrum withdrawn by the government in lieu of the 144 cancelled licences as per the Supreme Court's order dated 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2012.

COAI expressed its satisfaction at the ruling. **Mr. Rajan S Mathews, Director General**, said, *"This brings clarity on the issue and is a welcome move for an industry which faces acute shortage of spectrum and is below par in terms of availability and utilisation of the precious resource on an international scale. Freeing up the spectrum would enable better quality, outreach and delivery of services to the consumers. It will also ensure that a valuable resource like spectrum is used optimally and does not lie unused and wasted."*

The COAI counsel had pointed out that the order dated 15.02.2013 is clear and the Supreme Court had mandated that the entire quantum of quashed spectrum i.e. 514.8 MHz of spectrum must be put to auction. The COAI counsel also handed over the letter written by COAI asking DoT to comply with the order dated 15.02.2013 of the Supreme Court. After hearing both the parties, the Supreme Court, while disposing off the writ petition, referred to the prayers of the writ petition and stated that the order dated 15.02.2013 is clear and that no fresh orders have to be passed.

### **About COAI:**

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society dedicated to the advancement of communication, particularly modern communication through Cellular Mobile Telephone Services. With a vision to establish and sustain a world-class cellular infrastructure and facilitate affordable mobile communication services in India, COAI's main objectives are to protect the common & collective interests of its members. (<http://www.coai.in/>).