

For Immediate Release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI releases recommendations on “Next Generation Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication networks”

New Delhi, 4th June, 2018– The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released recommendations on **“Next Generation Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication networks”**.

2. Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication supports a wide range of services related to day to day life of public such as maintenance of law and order, protection of life and property, disaster relief and emergency responses.

3. The advancement of technology has provided PPDR networks with latest and enhanced features in terms of capability, capacity and interoperability. Broadband PPDR supports wide range of applications such as sending live images, videos and texts apart from the voice communication. Existing PPDR networks in the country are analog and digital systems supporting narrowband voice and data communications. Introduction of advanced broadband PPDR communication networks can be a great enabler in decision making and handling of PPDR operations for personnel and organizations involved.

4. Keeping in view the need to have a robust policy framework for the introduction of an advanced, reliable, robust and responsive broadband PPDR communication system in the country, the Authority, consequent upon powers conferred upon it, under section 11 (1)(a)(ii) and (vii) of the TRAI Act 1997 (as amended), had *suo-motu* on 9th October, 2017 issued a Consultation Paper (CP) on ‘Next Generation Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication networks’ for the comments of the stakeholders.

5. Written comments on CP were invited from the stakeholders by 4th December, 2017 and counter-comments by 18th December 2017. The Authority received comments from seventeen (17) stakeholders and counter comments from two (02) stakeholders. An Open House Discussion (OHD) was also convened on 15th February, 2018.



6. The Authority has formulated its recommendations based on inputs received from the stakeholders, views expressed during the OHD and its own internal analysis. The salient features of the recommendations are:

- (a) Government to set up pan-India integrated Broadband PPDR (BB-PPDR) Communication Network (to be called "National BB-PPDR Network") based on 3GPP PS-LTE technology.
- (b) A hybrid model of BB-PPDR network in India should be put in place in which dedicated network for BB-PPDR communication funded by government be created in metro cities, border districts, disaster prone areas (identified by NDMA) and sensitive areas like J&K and North East by PSU like BSNL/MTNL and existing commercial network can be leveraged in other regions through any TSP.
- (c) Stringent SLAs to be put in place and operators should be mandated to provide mobile BTS and backpack devices in case of disaster when terrestrial network gets destroyed in order to make available communication facilities for PPDR agencies.
- (d) Setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to plan, coordinate and steer the nationwide BB-PPDR communication network implementation and its subsequent operation.
- (e) An advisory committee should be constituted that includes representatives from all disciplines of public safety, state government, central government and Ministry of Communications to provide domain specific advice to the SPV.
- (f) DoT should study the feasibility to do away with CMRTS license for PPDR agencies in a phased manner.
- (g) SPV shall be the nodal agency to coordinate with DoT for allocation of spectrum and other issues. The PPDR agencies and details of equipment deployed by them can be registered with DoT through SPV.
- (h) DoT should work out timelines to Phase out existing analog networks in PPDR in a phased manner. New spectrum assignments may be done only for deploying digital equipment.
- (i) Carrying out pilot testing of BB-PPDR dedicated network (dedicated spectrum and network) to be implemented through BSNL/MTNL,



funded by the central government, at five zones identified as disaster prone/sensitive areas to evaluate the efficacy of the proposed network.

- (j) Testing the efficacy of PPDR trunking service roaming on public telecom networks during pilot testing, and if found feasible, it should be implemented on pan-India basis.
- (k) 2x10 MHz of dedicated spectrum should be allocated nationwide to the SPV on no-cost basis for LTE based broadband PPDR networks.
- (l) 814-824/859-869 MHz should be assigned for nationwide BB-PPDR services as per APT Frequency Arrangement number G 3-1-4.
- (m) 20 MHz of spectrum in the frequency range 440-470 MHz (preferably 450-470 MHz) should be allocated for future evolution of broadband PPDR.

7. The recommendations on **“Next Generation Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR) communication networks”** have been placed on TRAI’s website www.trai.gov.in

8. For clarification/ information, if any, Shri S. T. Abbas, Advisor (Network Spectrum & Licensing), TRAI may be contacted at Telephone Number +91-11-23210481.


(S. K. Gupta)
Secretary, TRAI