

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 26/2020)

For immediate release

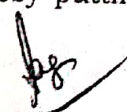
TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

TRAI issues a Consultation Paper on 'Framework for Technical Compliance of Conditional Access System (CAS) and Subscriber Management Systems (SMS) for Broadcasting & Cable services'.

New Delhi, 22nd April, 2020:- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a consultation paper on "Framework for Technical Compliance of Conditional Access System (CAS) and Subscriber Management Systems (SMS) for Broadcasting & Cable services" seeking comments of all stakeholders. Full text of the consultation paper is available on TRAI's website at www.trai.gov.in.

2. Pursuant to TRAI's recommendations dated 5th August 2010 on Digital Addressable Systems (DAS), the Government amended the Cable TV Regulation Act, 1995. The amendment laid down the roadmap for implementation of digitalization in cable television sector in four phases starting from June 2012. Digitalization in the cable sector was implemented in four phases and it has been completed all over the country by 31st March 2017. Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) brings in transparency among the service providers and meets the ultimate objective of allowing a consumer specific choice of television channels. CAS & SMS form the core systems to deliver the broadcasting services to consumers as per their individual choices, by enabling encryption to ensure content security.

3. The extant regulatory framework for Broadcasting and Cable Services envisions that CAS & SMS comply with the features as enumerated in Schedule III of 'The Telecommunication(Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017'. Schedule-III, inter-alia, specifies the benchmark features/ technical criteria for the CAS & SMS systems. However, these requirements are quite generic in nature. These requirements allow different type of CAS and SMS systems to exist in the eco-system. While some of the CASs deployed are using advance embedded security, others are based on non-standard solutions making it vulnerable to hacking, thereby putting



content security at risk. Moreover, most of the CAS companies do not have their own SMS, Middleware (MW) and User Interface (UI). This increases the dependency of the Distribution Platform Owners (DPOs) on the Third party (TP) software solutions. Many of the DPOs lack in-house technical expertise. Therefore, they face problems due to sub-standard solutions.

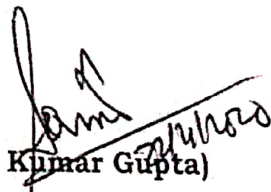
4. The Authority receives complaints from various broadcasters on regular basis regarding the piracy and distribution of pirated signals. As per analysis much of such piracy occurs due to deployment of CAS/ SMS that do not fully comply with security protocols as per extant standards. Stakeholders raised this issue as one of the major concerns during the annual Chief Executive Officers' interaction with the Authority held on January 14, 2020.

5. The Authority has examined the issues arising out of deployment of various CAS and SMS across the country. All these concerns reflect a need for compliance with minimum technical specifications before a CAS/SMS systems is installed in the network. With this background, TRAI brings out this consultation paper on *suo-motu* basis. The paper endeavors to deliberate upon the issues arising out of deployment of sub-standard CAS and SMS systems, underlying ill-effects and possible remedial measures.

6. Stakeholders are requested to provide written comments on the consultation paper by 20th May, 2020. Counter-comments may be submitted up to 3rd June, 2020. Comments will be posted on TRAI's website.

7. The comments/counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form, to Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Advisor (B&CS) TRAI, on the e-mail:- advbcs-2@traigov.in or jadvisor-bcs@traigov.in.

8. For any clarification/ information, please contact Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Advisor (B&CS) at Tel. No.: +91-11-23237922, Fax: +91-11-23220442 or at email-id above.


(Sunil Kumar Gupta)

Secretary, TRAI.