



Next Radio Ltd

Regd. Off. : Office Nos. I-17, I-18 and I-19,
10th Floor, Everest Building,
156, D. J. Dadajee Road,
Tardeo, Mumbai - 400 034
www.radioone.in

4th September 2017

Shri S. K. Gupta, Pr. Advisor (B&CS),
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Sub: Consultation Paper No. 7/2017 issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on Issues related to Digital Radio Broadcasting in India.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the captioned subject, please find below our suggestions/comments on the issues mentioned in Chapter 5 of the above referred consultation paper:

5.1 Is there a need to encourage or facilitate introduction of digital radio transmission at present? If so, what measures do you suggest and in which market?

The decision to introduce digital radio transmission needs to be taken by the Government considering its demand and scope. This should be implemented by Prasar Bharati and depending on its success it can be auctioned as a separate broadcasting medium.

5.2 Is there a need to frame a roadmap for migration to digital radio broadcasting for private FM broadcasters? If yes, which approach, mentioned in para 4.7, should be adopted? Please give your suggestions with justification.

In our opinion if at all introduction of digital radio broadcasting is felt necessary, it should be kept as a separate medium rather than a substitution for private FM radio broadcasting.

5.3 Should the date for digital switch over for radio broadcasting in India need to be declared? If yes, please suggest the date with suitable justification. If no, please give reason to support your view.

As explained earlier, instead of digital switch-over for radio broadcasting, digital radio broadcasting and FM radio broadcasting should be kept as separate mediums.

5.4 Is present licensing framework or regulatory framework restrictive for migration to digital radio broadcasting? Please explain with justification.

As explained earlier, digital radio broadcasting and FM radio broadcasting should be kept as separate mediums.

5.5 Should single digital radio technology be adopted for entire country or choice of technology should be left to radio broadcasters? Support your reply with Justification.

The choice on adoption of digital radio technology and should be kept at the option of the radio broadcasters.



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- 5.6 In case a single digital radio broadcast technology is to be adopted for the entire country, which technology should be adopted for private FM radio broadcasting? Please give your suggestions with detailed justification.**

FM radio broadcast should be kept distinct from Digital radio broadcast.

- 5.7 How issues of interference and allocation of appropriate spectrum allocation can be settled in case the option to choose technology is left to radio broadcasters?**

It is too early to comment on these issues. Once the decision to implement digital radio broadcasting has been taken, the methodology to allocate licenses can be framed.

- 5.8 Should the permission for operating FM channel be delinked from technology used for radio broadcasting? If yes, please provide a detailed framework with justification.**

As explained earlier, digital radio broadcasting and radio broadcasting should be kept as separate mediums.

- 5.9 Should the existing operational FM radio channels be permitted to migrate to digital broadcasting within assigned radio frequency? If yes, should there be any additional charges as number of available channels in digital broadcasting will increase? Please provide a detailed framework for migration with justification.**

The existing operational FM radio channels should be allowed to continue and digital radio broadcasting should be allowed as an independent medium.

- 5.10 Should the future auction of remaining FM channels of Phase-III be done delinking it from technology adopted for radio broadcasting? Please give your suggestions with detailed justification.**

Future auctions of remaining FM channels of Phase-III should be done whether or not digital radio broadcasting has/has not been implemented at the time of the Phase-III auctions.

- 5.11 In case future auction of remaining FM channels of Phase-III is done delinking it from technology, should the present auction process be continued? If no, what should be the alternate auction process? Please give your suggestions with detailed justification.**

As explained earlier, we recommend that Digital radio broadcasting and radio broadcasting should be kept as separate mediums and as such the auction process for both the mediums should be kept separate.



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5.12 What modifications need to be done in FM radio policy to use allocated FM radio channels in technology neutral manner for Radio broadcasting?

No change is recommended in the FM Radio broadcasting policy.

5.13 What measures should be taken to reduce the prices of digital radio receivers and develop ecosystem for migration to digital radio broadcasting?

It is too early to comment on this issue as this will depend on the supply and demand for the digital radio broadcasting devices.

For Next Radio Limited


Ismail Dabhoya
Group Chief Financial Officer



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