

Written Comments by SITI NETWORKS LIMITED

With reference to

Draft

The Telecommunication (B&CS) Register of Interconnection Agreements Regulations, 2019

At the outset we welcome the Draft of The Telecommunication (B&CS) Register of Interconnection Agreements Regulations, 2019 prepared by the Authority for ensuring proper revenue arrangement between the stakeholders for smooth running of businesses and industry.

Our comments on the draft regulations is as below;

Clause 3 (2) :- The limit of two lakh subscriber fixed for reporting is unjustified and discriminatory as under this clause most of the entities will be left aside and only major MSO's would be covered for reporting. This will leave room for the independent MSOs & LCOs for not signing the agreements which shall make it difficult for the bigger MSO to sign the agreement with local cable operators. In such a case LCOs would avoid signing agreement with the other MSOs also as that some of the MSOs are not signing any agreement with LCOs for the services, thereby it would promote flouting the provisions of the Interconnection Regulations. In addition, it has been observed that in small areas the relationship between MSOs & LCOs are governed by oral relationship and by introduction of this clause it would promote violation of the provisions of Interconnection Regulations for signing of Written Interconnection Agreements.

In view of above it is proposed that there should not be any such exemption in reporting and all DPOs irrespective of their subscriber base should be obligated to file such information with the Authority.

Clause 5 (1) :- The proposed financial disincentives should be imposed only when there is no discrimination and all the Distributors are required to file the Register without any exception including the exception as mentioned in Clause 3(2) above. This will create discrimination among the DPOs who have a sizable share in a market but does not fall in the defined criteria and the DPOs who are operating in the bigger territory but has smaller share in such markets thereby making it difficult for the bigger players to operate in complied manner by getting interconnect agreements signed from the LCOs.