



19th November 2024

Shri Akhilesh Kumar Trivedi,
Advisor (NSL)
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
4th, 5th, 6th & 7th Floor, Block-F
World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar
New Delhi – 110029

Subject: Consultation Paper on The Terms and Conditions of Network Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023

Dear Sir,

This is in reference to the Consultation Paper issued by the Authority on 22nd October 2024 regarding “The Terms and Conditions of Network Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023”.

In this regard, we, Tata Teleservices Limited (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited [together called “TTL”] hereby enclose our response to the questions raised in your above-mentioned Consultation Paper.

We believe TTL response will be given due consideration.

Thanking you and assuring you of our best attention always.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

Mukesh Dhingra
General Manager – Corporate Regulatory Affairs
Tata Teleservices Limited
And
Authorized Signatory
For Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited

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At the outset, Tata Teleservices Limited and Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited [together called “TTL’] once again express our sincere gratitude to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for releasing Consultation Paper on “The Terms and Conditions of Network Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023” for stake holders’ comments.

Our submission to the question-wise response is as follows:

Q1. Whether there is a need to merge the scopes of the extant Infrastructure Provider-I (IP-I) and Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) authorization (as recommended by TRAI in August 2023), into a single authorisation under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: IP-1 (Infrastructure Provider-1) should not be clubbed with DCIP (Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider) authorisation as recommended by TRAI. The clubbing will be detrimental to the present IP-I registration holders as they will have to migrate to an authorisation, which will have financial and other compliance related obligations. IP-I registration holders provide infrastructure to help the service providers in rolling out services faster. IP-1 is thus a catalyst to the growth of telecom sector and bringing it under the authorisation regime, will make it unviable.

Q2. In case your response to the Q1 is in the affirmative, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications on –

(a) Eligibility conditions for the grant of the merged authorisation; and

(b) Area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of the merged authorisation.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q3. In case your response to the Q1 is in the negative, -

(a) What changes (additions, deletions or modifications) are required to be incorporated in the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of the IP-I authorisation under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 as compared to the extant IP-I registration?

(b) Whether there is a need to make certain changes in the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of the DCIP authorisation (as recommended by TRAI in August 2023)? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.



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TTL Comment: We suggest that scope of the IP-I should be enlarged to include provision of the active infrastructure to Telecom Service Providers.

Q4. (a) Which telecommunication equipment/ elements should be included in the ambit of ‘in-building solution’ (IBS)? (b) Whether there is a need to introduce a new authorisation under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding in-building solution (IBS) by any property manager within the limits of a single building, compound or estate controlled, owned, or managed by it? If yes, what should be the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of such an authorisation? Please provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q5. Whether there is a need to make any changes in the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of the Content Delivery Network (CDN) authorisation, as recommended by TRAI on 18.11.2022? If yes, what changes should be made in the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of the CDN authorisation? Kindly provide a detailed response with justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q6. Whether there is a need to make any changes in the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of the Internet Exchange Point (IXP) authorisation, as recommended by TRAI on 18.11.2022? If yes, what changes should be made in the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of the IXP authorisation? Kindly provide a detailed response with justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q7. Whether there is a need to make any changes in the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of the Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG) authorisation, as recommended by TRAI on 29.11.2022? If yes, what changes should be made in the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of the SESG authorisation? Kindly provide a detailed response with justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments



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Q8. Whether there is a need to introduce a new authorisation for establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding satellite communication network, which may be used to provide network as a service to the entities authorised under Section 3(1)(a) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? If yes-

(a) What should be the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of such authorisation?

(b) Whether an entity holding such authorisation should be made eligible for the assignment of spectrum for both feeder link as well as user link? Kindly provide a detailed response with justification

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q9. Whether there is a need to introduce an authorisation under Section 3(1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding ground stations, which may be used to provide ground station as a service (GSaaS)? If yes, what should be the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) for the authorisation to establish, operate, maintain, or expand ground stations, which may be used to provide GSaaS? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q10. Whether there is a need to introduce an authorisation under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding cloud-hosted telecommunication networks, which may be used to provide telecommunication network as a service to the authorised entities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? If yes, what should be the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of such an authorisation? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q11. What should be the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of the authorisation for Mobile Number Portability Service under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q12. What provisions should be included in the terms and conditions of various network authorisations under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 considering the various sections including Sections 4 to 9, 19 to 24, 32 to 42, 44, 45, 49, and 55 of the Telecommunications



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Act, 2023 and technological/ market developments in the telecommunication sector? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q13. What provisions should be included in the terms and conditions of various network authorisations under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 considering the policy/ Act in the Space Sector and other relevant policies/ Acts in the related sectors? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q14. What should be the terms and conditions for the merger, demerger, acquisition, or other forms of restructuring of the entities holding network authorisations under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Please provide a detailed response with justifications in respect of each network authorisation.

TTL Comment: It is suggested that there is a need to provide a simplified exit policy for TSPs for closure of business through merger and de-merger. It should be done in a time bound manner and to ensure the companies do not lose out on the value of assets they have created due to delays in regulatory approvals for the entities holding network authorisations under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.

Q15. What conditions should be made applicable for the migration of existing network licenses, registrations etc. to the new network authorisation regime under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

Q16. What procedure should be followed for the migration of existing network licenses, registrations etc. to the new network authorisation regime under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: (Qs 15 & 16) The existing conditions and procedure, as applicable for migration from UASL to UL, should be continued and made applicable to the migration from existing licenses to the new Authorisation regime under the Telecommunications Act ,2023.

However, if the licensee does not want to migrate to the Authorisation regime under the Telecommunication Act, 2023, it should be allowed to operate under its existing licence till it's expiry on the subsisting terms and conditions. This position should not be altered.

Q17. Whether there is a need to introduce certain new authorisations (other than the authorisations discussed above) to establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication networks under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? If yes, -



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(a) For which type of telecommunication networks, new authorisations should be introduced?

(b) What should be the eligibility conditions, area of operation, validity period of authorisation, scope, and terms & conditions (general, technical, operational, security etc.) of such authorisations? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q18. Whether there is a need to remove certain existing authorisations to establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication networks, which may have become redundant with technological advancements? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q19. Whether there is a need to club the scopes of certain authorisations to establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication networks into a single network authorisation under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for bringing more efficiency in the telecommunication networks? If yes, kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: TTL is of the view that the scope of the National Long Distance Service Authorisation and International Long Distance Service Authorisation should be merged. Going by the current scope of the NLD and ILD, there is similarity between them except the area of operations in as much as NLD can serve within the national boundaries and ILD can services beyond the boundaries of the country. Merging them into a single authorisation will ensure cost and operational effectiveness for the authorised entity, which will ultimately benefit the end consumer by ensuring better provision of services.

Q20. What provisions should be included in the terms and conditions of various network authorisations under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 to improve the ease of doing business? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: The current Licensing regime is unilateral in nature and amendment are issued without considering the views and objection into consideration of the Licensees. This has led to quite frequent changes in the License agreement and difficulties faced by Service providers to align their network/Business to changed regulatory environment.

In the light of the above TTL is of the view that any changes in the authorisation should be in consultation with the service providers and not unilateral. We also suggest that the Authorisation to be a live document, it should incorporate and align with the changes in the technology on a regular basis. The technology is changing very fast, and world over have moved from PSTN to IP based technology and our licenses are still stuck with PSTN.



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To keep pace with the technology and take advantage of the same for delivering world class services to customers, the authorisation should be a live document, incorporating changes to align with future trend in technology.

Q21. Whether there is a need for mandating a reference agreement between authorised entities establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding the telecommunication network, and authorised entities providing telecommunication services? If yes, -

(a) Between which type of entities, reference agreements are required to be mandated?

(b) What should be the salient features of the reference agreements between such entities? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: There is a need to have reference agreement between authorised entities establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding the telecommunication network, and authorised entities providing telecommunication services. This is required for the uniformity of the agreement among different entities. This should be in line with the reference agreement provided by TRAI for Interconnect Agreement. On the same line reference agreement between authorised entities establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding the telecommunication network, and authorised entities providing telecommunication services. This will help in reducing the conflict and litigation between the entities. This will ensure transparency, non-discrimination and non-predation.

The salient feature of the agreement should clearly define the scope of work, delivery of services, quality of services, withdrawal of service. The commercials should be left to the entities entering into the agreement.

Q22. Are there any other inputs or suggestions relevant to the subject? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q23. In case it is decided for merging the scopes of the extant Infrastructure Provider-I (IP-I) and the Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) authorization into a single authorization under the Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what should be the: -

(a) Minimum equity and net worth of the Authorised entity.

(b) Amount of application processing fees (c) Amount of entry fees (d) Any other Fees/Charge
Please support your response with proper justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments



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Q24. In case it is decided not to merge the scopes of IP-I and DCIP, what changes/ modifications are required to be made in the financial conditions of - (a) DCIP authorisation as recommended by TRAI in August 2023 (b) IP-I authorisation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 with respect to the extant IP-I registration? Please provide a detailed response with justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q25. In case it is decided to introduce a new authorisation under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding in-building solution (IBS) by any property manager within the limits of a single building, compound or estate controlled, owned, or managed by it, then-

(a) Whether there is a need to have financial conditions associated with such an authorisation?

(b) In case your response to the above is in the affirmative, then what should be financial conditions for such an authorisation? Please provide detailed response with justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q26. Whether there is a need to change/ modify any of the financial conditions of the IXP and CDN authorisations from those recommended by TRAI on 18.11.2022? If yes, please provide a detailed response with justification(s).

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q27. Whether there is a need to change/ modify any of the financial conditions of the Satellite Earth Station Gateway (SESG) authorization from those recommended by TRAI on 29.11.2022? If yes, please provide a detailed response with justification(s).

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q28. In case it is decided to introduce a new authorisation for establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding satellite communication network under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, then, what should be the financial conditions for such authorisation?

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q29. In case it is decided to introduce an authorisation under Section 3(1) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding ground stations, which may be used to provide Ground Station as a Service (GSaaS), then:

(a) Whether there is a need to have financial conditions associated with such an authorisation?



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(b) In case your response to the above is in the affirmative, then what should be financial conditions for such an authorisation? Please provide detailed response with justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q30. In case it is decided to introduce an authorisation under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for establishing, operating, maintaining or expanding cloud-hosted telecommunication networks, which may be used to provide telecommunication network as a service to the authorised entities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, then:

(a) Whether there is a need to have financial conditions associated with such an authorisation?

(b) In case your response to the above is in the affirmative, then what should be financial conditions for such an authorisation? Please provide detailed response with justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q31. For Mobile Number Portability Service authorisation under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, should the amount of entry fee and provisions of bank guarantees be:

(a) kept same as per existing MNP license.

(b) kept the same as recommended by the Authority vide its Recommendations dated 19.09.2023 (c) or some other amount/ provisions may be made for the purpose of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees. Please support your response with proper justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q32. For Mobile Number Portability Service authorisation under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, whether there is a need to review/ modify:

(a) Definition of GR, AGR, ApGR

(b) Rate of authorisation fee

(c) Format of Statement of Revenue Share and License Fee

(d) Norms for the preparation of annual financial statements

(e) Requirement of Affidavit Please provide your response with detailed justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q33. What financial conditions should be made applicable for the migration of the existing licensees/ registration holders to the relevant new authorisations under section 3(1) (b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Kindly provide a detailed response with justifications.



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TTL Comment: The existing condition applicable for migration from UASL to UL to be applicable for the migration of the existing licenses/ registration holders to the relevant new authorisation regime under Telecommunications Act ,2023. However, if the licensee does not want to migrate under the regime of Telecommunication Act, 2023. The entities have already paid entry fee for the authorisation valid for 20 years and should not be burdened further. it should be allowed to operate under the existing licence till it’s expiry.

Q34. In case it is proposed for introducing certain new authorisations to establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication networks under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, what should be the respective financial conditions for each of such authorisation(s)? Please provide a detailed response with justifications in respect of each network authorisation, separately.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q35. What should be the financial conditions for the merger, demerger, acquisition, or other forms of restructuring of the entities holding network authorisations under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023? Please provide a detailed response with justifications in respect of each network authorisation.

TTL Comment: Reduction of license fee to Zero for the Wireline Services and 3% for Wireless Services from the current 8% of the Applicable Gross Revenue, (ApGR) at the earliest. Wireline is the backbone of any economy to wither fast changing technology in Wireless that is coupled with investments whenever the change in technology takes place. At the same time, upfront investment in wirelines services including laying of fiber across the length and breadth of the country involves significant investment and realization is over very long period. Therefore, It is requested that the Government may consider bringing down the license fee to zero percentage of ApGR for those services that are delivered through Wireline. In fact, the Government in the right earnest abolished Spectrum Usage Charges for auctioned spectrum and allowed surrender of spectrum encouraging investment in growth of Wireless services. Once invested in Wireline/fiber network, it is not possible to exit easily as entire investment is sunk upfront by the Telecom Operator. Wireline is the backbone to enable various services including Wireless connectivity. Similarly, Wireline services require significant push from the Government by bringing down the LF to zero percentage. TRAI in its’s recommendation on “Roadmap to Promote Broadband Connectivity and Enhanced Broadband Speed” dated August 31, 2021, has recommended to provide incentive on LF exemption for proliferation of fixed line broadband. This will ensure that the rural geographies will get its due share of Wireline based connectivity that is missing currently.

Q36. In case it is decided to club the scopes of certain authorisations to establish, operate, maintain or expand telecommunication networks into a single network authorisation under Section 3(1)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, then, what should be the financial conditions for such



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authorisations? Please provide a detailed response with justifications for each network authorisation, separately.

- (a) The scope of services under the Long-Distance Service Authorisation should be the combined scope of services under the current ILD and NLD licenses should form the combined
- (b) The current terms and conditions of the individual NLD and ILD licenses should be made applicable to the Long-Distance Service Authorisation.

TTL Comment: No Comments

Q37. Whether there are any other issues/ suggestions relevant to the fees and charges? The same may be submitted with proper explanation and justification.

TTL Comment: No Comments