

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 72/2017)

For Immediate Release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI releases recommendations on “Introduction of UL (VNO) for Access Service authorization for category ‘B’ license with districts of a State as a service area”

New Delhi, 8th September, 2017– The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today issued its recommendations on **“Introduction of UL (VNO) for Access Service authorization for category ‘B’ license with districts of a State as a service area”**.

2. Through its reference dated 11th July, 2016 the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has requested TRAI to issue recommendations for Access Service authorization for category ‘B’ license with districts of a State as a service area for Virtual Network Operators (VNOs).

3. In the wireline segment, in order to supplement its efforts of providing telecom facilities to the public, DoT introduced a scheme called Direct Inward Dialing (DID) in the year 1994 to provide facilities of group Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange (EPABX) by private entities as franchisees of DoT.

4. Pursuant to TRAI recommendation on ‘Introduction of Virtual Network Operators in telecom sector’ dated 1st May 2015, DoT issued guidelines on 31st May, 2016 for the grant of Unified License (VNO). Further, vide its notification dated 5th July 2016, DoT separately issued guidelines for grant of UL (VNO) for authorization for category ‘B’ license with districts of a State as a service area for entrepreneurs like Direct Inward Dialing (DID) franchisees.

5. The Authority issued a Consultation Paper on ‘Introduction of UL (VNO) for Access Service authorization for category B license with districts of a State as a service area’ was issued on 20th March, 2017, seeking the comments / counter comments of the stakeholders. Comments from fifteen (15) and counter-comments from two (2) stakeholders have since been received and have been uploaded in the TRAI Website. Open House Discussion (OHD) was conducted on 6th July, 2017 with the stakeholders.

6. After analyzing various issues involved and considering the comments received from stakeholders in their written responses and during the OHD, in-house analysis & research, the Authority has finalised the recommendations. The salient features of the recommendations are:

- A new category of authorization may be introduced under Unified License (VNO), for Access Service as Category ‘B’, license with districts as a Service Area on non-exclusive basis. To continue their services, existing DID franchisees should migrate to UL (VNO) Category ‘B’.



