



Telecom Regulatory Authority of India



Recommendations

on

Interconnection over IP Interface

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Recommendations on Interconnection over IP Interface

1. TRAI had issued a Consultation Paper on “Migration to IP based network” on 30th June 2014 which was followed by an Open House Discussion on the subject on 2nd December 2014. One of the issues in the consultation paper pertained to interconnection of an IP based network. In response to the consultation paper, some telecom service providers have submitted that as the imminent transition towards IP based network is widely anticipated, it is essential to amend the license conditions to explicitly provide for IP based interconnection.

2. Department of Telecom, vide its letter no. 20-281/2010-AS-I Vol.9, dated 10.11.2015 on the subject of ‘Regulation of IP interconnection charges’ have also mentioned that one of the issues of concern to the Telecom Industry is removal of restriction of Interconnection at IP level to ensure seamless IP interconnection and requested TRAI to indicate expected timeline for issuance of same.

3. Clause 27.3 of Unified License (similar clause in other license) specifically deals with interconnection between the networks of different licensees for carrying circuit switched traffic. The clause also provides for interconnection between a circuit switched network and an IP based network through a Media Gateway Switch. However there is no explicit mention of an interconnection at IP level between two licensees.

4. Further, in the National Telecom Policy (NTP-2012), Government of India has also envisaged the need to move towards a newer Unified Licensing regime which would exploit benefits of convergence, spectrum liberalization and facilitation of delinking of licensing from delivery of services to the end users. NTP-2012 clearly brings out the need for addressing the requirement of non-discriminatory interconnection including interconnection at IP level.

5. Considering the above, TRAI initiated a short consultation with the stakeholders vide “Consultation Note on IP Based Interconnection”, dated 27.11.2015. The stakeholders were asked to furnish their comments on the amendment to incorporate a provision in all relevant Licenses to the effect that licensees may also interconnect at IP level or any other emerging/latest technology specified by the licensor subject to compliance of Regulations/Directions/Determinations etc. issued by TRAI on the subject from time to time.

