

1178/TRAI/ISP AI/20

January 28, 2020

Shri S T Abbas,
Advisor (Network, Spectrum & Licensing)
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan,
Old-Minto Road, Near Zakir Husain College,
New Delhi – 110002

Subject: ISP AI Response to TRAI Pre - Consultation paper on “Enabling Unbundling of Different Layers through Differential Licensing”

Dear Sir,

We congratulate the Authority to have come out with the Pre - consultation paper on the matter captioned above and sincere thanks for providing us the opportunity to submit our response on this matter.

We have enclosed our comprehensive response for your consideration. We believe that the Authority would consider our response in positive perspective and incorporate our concerns on the subject matter.

Looking forward for your favourable consideration.

Thanking you,

With Best Regards,
For Internet Service Providers Association of India



Rajesh Chharia
President
+91-9811038188
rc@cjnet4u.com

Encl: As above

ISPai Response to TRAI Pre - Consultation paper on “Enabling Unbundling of Different Layers through Differential Licensing”

Q1. In your view, what could be the possible benefits and anticipated problems in having an unbundled licensing regime? Kindly suggest the measures that can be taken to overcome the anticipated problems (if any).

Response: In our view the steps for further breaking down / unbundling the license regime into four parts will only increase the amount of regulation and hence adversely impact the ease of doing business.

As of now infrastructure (IP1) is by and large unlicensed with only simple registration requirements. The undue conditions of licensing on application services which are unregulated till now will decimate the innovation and growth of such application services.

Q2. In case it is decided to unbundle the different layers of licensing,

(a) What should be the different layers and their scope? What changes would be required in licensing regime to enable such a framework?

(b) Should there be a new regime of licensing on which the existing licensees should migrate within a specified time frame or there should be a parallel incentivized licensing regime for unbundled layers of license?

Response: We believe that existing licensing regime of Unified License and UL (VNO) is working fine and as of now no change is recommended. Without prejudice to aforesaid any new Regime should not be based on forced migration and existing licensees should be allowed to continue for their license time period. However there is no issue if there is voluntary migration due to incentives being offered to the existing licensees.

Q3. In case you are of the opinion that there is no need of unbundling of different layers of the license, what changes should be made in the existing licensing regime to

- (i) promote sharing to increase utilization of the existing resources, and**
- (ii) catalyse investments and innovation in Digital Communications sector?**

Response: Existing licensing regime is working apt however if any change is envisaged it should aim towards simplification of license regime in terms of levies required to be paid by the Operators, compliance processes and compliance costs in the licenses etc. which will ultimately catalyse investments in the sector. Also infrastructure sharing should be freely allowed in ISP license.

Q4. What other reforms / changes are required in the existing licensing regime?

Response: No comments