No. 102-5/2019-NSL-II

Date: 21st February 2020

To
The Secretary,
Department of Telecommunications,
Ministry of Communications,
Sanchar Bhawan, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi - 110 001

Subject: Recommendations on 'Reforming the Guidelines on Transfer / Mergers of Telecom Licenses' – regarding.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through its letter No. 20-281/2010-AS-I (Vol.XII) (Pt.) dated 8th May 2019, inter-alia, DoT, inter-alia, informed that National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018 envisages Catalyzing Investments for Digital Communications sector as one of the strategies, and simplifying and facilitating Compliance Obligations by reforming the Guidelines for Mergers & Acquisitions, 2014 to enable simplification and fast tracking of approvals is one of the action plan for fulfilling the afore-mentioned strategy. Through the said letter, DoT requested TRAI to furnish its Recommendations on 'Reforming the Guidelines on Mergers & Acquisitions, 2014'.

2. In this regard, a Consultation Paper on "Reforming the Guidelines for Transfer / Merger of Telecom Licenses" was released providing the background information and seeking inputs of the stakeholders on reforms required to be made in the existing guidelines on Transfer/Merger of Licenses to enable simplification and fast tracking of approvals. Comments from nine stakeholders and counter comments from two stakeholders were received. An Open House Discussion (OHD) was conducted on 23rd December 2019 in New Delhi.

3. Based on the comments/inputs received from the stakeholders and on its own analysis, TRAI has finalized its Recommendations on 'Reforming the Guidelines on Transfer / Mergers of Telecom Licenses'. The same is enclosed herewith.

4. In keeping with the practice, a copy of this letter, along with the recommendations, is being placed on the website of TRAI (www.trai.gov.in).

Encl: As above

(S.K. Gupta)
Secretary, TRAI
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