

**Information note to the Press**

**For Immediate Release**

**Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 61/2017)**

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**

**TRAI Releases Recommendations on "Cloud Services"**


**New Delhi, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017:** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued its Recommendations on "Cloud Services".

DoT vide its letter dated 31.12.2012 sought recommendations from TRAI on Cloud Services on broad eight categories namely Regulatory framework, Security over the cloud, Cost benefit Analysis, Quality of Service, Inter-operability, Incentivisation, Legal framework, Implementation Strategies of Cloud Services in Government. DoT subsequently clarified on 22.06.2015 that recommendations on Cloud Services need not be too specific on Implementation Strategies of Cloud Services in Government.

2. In pursuance of above reference from DOT, TRAI released consultation paper on "cloud computing" on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016 seeking the comments from the stakeholders and an Open House Discussion (OHD) was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017.
3. Based on the comments received, extensive discussions from stakeholders and further analysis, recommendations on "Cloud Services" have been issued and the same have also been placed on TRAI's website <http://www.trai.gov.in/release-publication/recommendation>. Some of the main features of recommendations are mentioned below:-
  - a) Light touch regulatory approach has been adopted to regulate cloud services.
  - b) DOT shall prescribe a framework for registration of Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) industry bod(y)(ies), which are not for profit. All CSPs above the threshold to be notified by the Government have to become member of one of such industry body.
  - c) Industry body will prescribe Code of Conduct (CoC) for its functioning which have to be followed by their members. In addition to CoC, there will be a governance structure of the Industry body aimed to support effective and transparent implementation, management and evolution of the CoC. Industry

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16/8/2017

- body, not for profit, may charge fee from its members, which is fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory.
- d) Industry body will also have a disclosure mechanism to promote transparency regarding interoperability, billing, data security and other related matters.
  - e) A Cloud Service Advisory Group (CSAG) to be created to function as oversight body to periodically review the progress of Cloud Services and suggest actions, if any, to the Government.
  - f) Telecommunication Standard Development Society of India (TSDSI) has been tasked to develop standards for ensuring interoperability for cloud services.
  - g) Government may consider enacting an overarching and comprehensive data protection law covering all sectors.
  - h) Government shall draw a robust Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to address the jurisdictional issues and amend existing MLATs to include lawful interception or access to data on the cloud.
  - i) Government shall continue its policy to promote cloud services through cloud infrastructure projects. Ministry of MSME may also continue to promote adoption of ICT in the sector including providing subsidies as being done at present.
4. Adoption of these recommendations will unleash the Potential of Cloud Computing in India to a next level by boosting cloud adoption and strengthening the trust in the Cloud.
5. In case of any clarification, Shri. Asit Kadayan, Advisor (QoS) can be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-2323-0404 or at email.id: [advqos@traf.gov.in](mailto:advqos@traf.gov.in).

  
(S.K. Gupta) 16.8.2017  
Secretary In-charge