



**ASSOCIATION OF UNIFIED TELECOM SERVICE PROVIDERS OF INDIA**

# AUSPI

## NEWS BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2011

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We Welcome our New President Mr. Madhav Joshi and Vice President Mr. Amit Mathur.

*Congratulations*

#### TRAJ CONSULTATION PAPER/ LETTERS

- A. On 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011, TRAI issued a direction regarding exemption from the limit of one hundred SMS per SIM per day for non-commercial communications categories as follows:-
- a. Dealers of the Telecom Service Providers and DTH Operators for sending request for electronic recharge on mobile numbers;
  - b. e-ticketing agencies for responding to e-ticketing request made by its customers.
  - c. The social networking sites - Facebook, Twitter, Orkut, LinkedIn and GooglePlus to its members pertaining to activities relating to their accounts based on their verifiable options.
  - d. Agencies providing directory services – Justdial, Zatsa, Callezee, Getit and Askme
- B. On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011, TRAI has placed on its website a notification of extension of time to receive comments on Consultation Paper "IMT-Advanced Mobile Wireless Broadband Services".
- TRAI has extended the last date for submission of written Comments by stakeholder upto 31st October 2011 and for counter comments upto 7th November, 2011.
- C. TRAI vide letter no. 402-21/2010-FN dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011 reminded the Association that their Member Service Providers have not submitted the CDRs to TRAI in Carriage Charge matter in compliance to Supreme Court order of 30.08.2010. TRAI has requested the Association to remind their Members to submit their respective CDR's to TRAI by 23.09.2011.
- D. On 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011, TRAI issued notification in connection with UCC Regulation [The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (sixth amendment)

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Regulations, 2011 (5 of 2011)] After the allocation of 140 series for the fixed line numbers by DOT, now TRAI has issued this notification which is being implemented from 27th September 2011.

### II. TRAI MEETING

- A. TRAI Regional Workshop on Consumer Education in Telecommunication for Eastern Region was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 at Ranchi.
- B. On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011, a Meeting under the Chairmanship of Advisor (QoS) was held on establishment of web based complaint tracking system by service providers i.e. TSPs have to have a mechanism on web based system for tracking of complaints registered by the Consumers in their CRM.
- C. TRAI Workshop on Cloud Computing was held on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Hyderabad.
- D. TRAI meeting to discuss "Development of MIS Application Software for Online data collection and report generation on turnkey basis" was held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Conference Room, TRAI.
- E. The Secretary General, AUSPI and DG COAI had a meeting with Chairman TRAI on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in connection with two Draft Regulations (i) The Telecom Consumers Complaint Redressal Regulations, 2011 and (ii) Telecom Consumers Protection Regulations, 2011.
- F. TRAI APT Workshop on "Regulatory Framework for emerging Telecom Environment" was held on 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Hotel Shangri La, New Delhi.

### III. THE TELECOM COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS CUSTOMER PREFERENCE REGULATIONS

- TRAI Regulation "The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations" effective from 27th September, 2011.
- Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT Shri. Kapil Sibal was the Chief Guest. Shri. Sachin Pilot, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications & IT and Shri. Milind Deora, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications & IT was the Guest of Honour.
- TRAI has prescribed a limit of 100 SMS per day per SIM for all the customers
- The limit of 100 SMS does not apply to the Transaction messages like from a bank to its customers or from Airlines to its passengers, and likewise from the schools to the students/ parents.
- The time restriction of 9 pm to 9 am does not relate to the transactional messages which can be sent at any time.
- In order to address the genuine requirements of customers, TRAI has issued a Direction on 27th September 2011 exempting certain categories from the limit of 100 SMS per day. These are agents of telecom
- Service providers for sending electronic recharge messages, e-ticketing agencies, certain social networking sites and certain Directory services. It is open to the Authority to notify further categories, as and when warranted.

### IV. DOT LETTERS

- A. On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011, DOT through an email requested the TSPs to submit the data of SP Codes currently used by them.
- B. On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011, DOT vide letter No.800-25/2010-VAS, in response to ACT Letter in connection with amendment to the

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license agreement regarding enhancement of LI capacity, stated that they have not agreed to the suggestions and requested licensees to make necessary arrangements for implementation of the requirement.

- C. On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011, DOT through an email requested comments with reference to the recent license amendment of 31.05.2011 regarding security related concerns. The mail gives details of compliance required for various amendment in the license.
- D. On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011, DOT vide letter No.800-33/2010-VAS issued Instructions to service providers on Disaster Resistant Building and Towers for communication services. DOT has also requested comments from TSPs regarding self certification and sample audit for framing suitable Guidelines on Disaster Resistant Telecom Building with special reference to earthquake and cyclone.

### V. DOT MEETINGS

- A. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of NWG-05 was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in TEC.
- B. DCC meeting of Switching Division to discuss TEC Drafts GRs/IRs was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in TEC.
- C. Meeting of Service Providers /Content Providers to review the progress of IPv6 Implementation NGN was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in Sanchar Bhawan.
- D. TEC's Manufacturers Forum meeting concerning Certificates of Approval for mobile handset was held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- E. DOT meeting w.r.t Working Party 5D Study Group-5 (ITU-R) meeting was held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in Sanchar Bhawan.
- F. DOT meeting to deliberate on the Security Issues while implementing IPv6 was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in Sanchar Bhawan.
- G. USOF meeting on the Pilot Project Scheme for Access to ICTs & ICT Enabled Services for

Persons with Disabilities in Rural India was held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in Vigyan Bhawan.

- H. TEC Sub-committee Meeting for discussion on draft requirement on Certificate of Approval (CoA) of Mobile handset was held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 in TEC.

### VI. AUSPI LETTERS

- A. On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011, AUSPI submitted a letter to Hon'ble MoC&IT on Special Audit Report, since no response was forthcoming on our letter of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 addressed to Secretary (T), the issues relating special audit was again taken up with the MOC & IT reiterating the points already raised by AUSPI in its earlier submission.
- B. On 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011, AUSPI furnished the required information sought by TRAI for re-examining port charges since it was last amended on 1.4.2007.
- C. On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011, AUSPI submitted a letter to DOT regarding DOT's proposal of levying uniform license fee for all telecom service licenses which would include IP-I registered organizations.  
  
AUSPI requested DOT that UASL, CMTS and other service providers may be permitted to deduct charges paid to IP I operators for passive infrastructure from Gross revenue for computing AGR for the purpose of license fee, spectrum usage charges, microwave charges and all other AGR based payments.
- D. On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011, AUSPI furnished comments to TRAI on some issues relating to the process for MNP porting of enterprise/bulk connections.
- E. On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011, AUSPI submitted a letter to TRAI in reply to TRAI's letter seeking compliance of Telecom Service Providers on TRAI Direction on Value Added Services of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

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AUSPI stated that:

- a) Our members are in compliance with 9(ii). As required they are informing the customer the due date for renewal of service, the charges for renewal and toll free telephone number for unsubscribing the VAS. Such information is sent through SMS at least 3 days before the due date for renewal of service.
- b) With regard to 9 (iii), we wish to submit that our members are not following negative charging leading to depletion in balance. Our members are hence in compliance with this clause.
- c) With regard to 9(i), AUSPI stated that process of implementing the directive our members have run into several customer and technical issues which we would like to bring to your attention for resolution. Additionally, there have been several rounds of discussions on the modalities to incorporate the changes in our current infrastructure which would also engage the complete VAS eco system, up gradation of Service Providers' current systems.
- F. On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011, AUSPI submitted a letter to Secretary (T), DOT on LD charges against rollout obligation under UAS License for CDMA based Cellular Services.

AUSPI requested that

- a. the LD charges of rollout if at all must take into consideration of all SACFA delays and should be calculated after following the 10th February 2009 amendment in letter and spirit.
- b. Treat date of receipt of application for testing by TEC as the date of registration.
- G. On 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011, AUSPI submitted a letter to TRAI for deferment of timing of the consultation process on IMT-Advanced technologies as the new telecom policy and decision of the WRC -2012 are yet to come.

On our request, TRAI has finally extended date of submission of response by 31st October

and counter comments by 7th November, 2011.

- H. On 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011, AUSPI submitted a letter to Secretary (T), DOT on Special Audit Report. AUSPI requested DOT that pending final judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court DOT may not raise any additional demands of license fee and spectrum charges based on special audit findings as these would be subject to the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- I. On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011, AUSPI submitted a letter to Secretary (T) as a rebuttal to the allegations raised by some vested interest that the spectrum holdings for CDMA and GSM streams should be combined for the purpose of payment of spectrum usage charges.

AUSPI effectively defended the allegations raised by these lobbies through this letter and requested DoT to reject any proposal to levy spectrum usage charges on the combined GSM & CDMA spectrum.

- J. On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011, AUSPI submitted a letter to Chairman TRAI regarding Poor network coverage at T3, Indira Gandhi International Airport.

AUSPI requested TRAI to urgently intervene and direct WAISL, to follow TRAI Regulations on QoS and provide adequate network coverage in T3.

- K. On 13th September 2011, AUSPI submitted a letter to Member (T) seeking some clarifications on the guidelines issued by DOT in 2008 on infrastructure sharing.

AUSPI sought clarification as to whether service providers can go ahead with sharing active infrastructure with other service providers without amendment to their existing UASL and in case amendment is required, the same may kindly issued.

- L. On 12th September 2011, AUSPI submitted a letter to Secretary (T) seeking clarifications on compliance required by DOT on EMF radiation as well as the provision of proper signage.



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AUSPI requested the government not to take harsh view on the supplementary requirements. It was also requested that no penalty may be prescribed in case service providers are not able to meet supplementary requirements and thereafter penalty amount may be reviewed in consultation with the stakeholders.

### **VII. JOINT INDUSTRY LETTERS**

- A. On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011, a joint industry letter was submitted to Chairman, TRAI regarding BSNL's circular on recovery of distance based carriage charges in respect of intra circle cellular calls handed over by private operators at LDCC TAX(s) of BSNL from 01.04.2009 onwards.

The industry associations requested TRAI to kindly ensure that IUC Regulation 2009 issued by TRAI is duly implemented by BSNL.

- B. On 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011, a joint industry letter was submitted to Hon'ble MOC & IT to register the protest of the industry consequent to media reports that the Minister has given in-principal approval to the Draft National Frequency Allocation Plan 2011.
- C. On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011, a joint industry letter was submitted to CMD, BSNL regarding recovery of distance based carriage charges in respect of intra circle cellular calls handed over by private operators at LDCC TAX(s) of BSNL from 01.04.2009 onwards.

The Industry Associations requested CMD BSNL to kindly intervene in this matter and issue instructions / directions to the circle heads to abide by the TRAI Regulations and withdraw all disconnection notices to the operators to avoid any inconvenience that may be caused to the subscribers of both the networks

- D. On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011, a joint industry letter was submitted to Hon'ble MoC&IT regarding recovery of distance based carriage charges in respect of intra circle cellular calls handed over

by private operators at LDCC TAX(s) of BSNL from 01.04.2009 onwards.

The Industry Associations requested Hon'ble MoC&IT to intervene in this matter and issue instructions to BSNL not to unilaterally commence any coercive action for collection such as disconnection of Interconnection or encashment of Bank Guarantees.

- E. On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011, a joint industry letter was submitted to Chairman, TRAI regarding recovery of distance based carriage charges in respect of intra circle cellular calls handed over by private operators at LDCC TAX(s) of BSNL from 01.04.2009 onwards.

The Industry Associations requested Chairman, TRAI to intervene in this matter and issue instructions to BSNL not to unilaterally commence any coercive action for collection such as disconnection of Interconnection or encashment of Bank Guarantees

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The Industry Associations requested Secretary (T), DOT to intervene in this matter and issue instructions to BSNL not to unilaterally commence any coercive action for collection such as disconnection of Interconnection or encashment of Bank Guarantees.

### **VIII. ACT LETTERS**

- A. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011, a joint industry letter was submitted to Member (T), DOT regarding Amendment to the UAS License agreement regarding LI Capacity.

### **IX. MEETINGS**

#### **A. AUSPI MEETING**

- i. 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of AUSPI was held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at AUSPI Office.



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- ii. AUSPI meeting with KPMG to brief TRAI consultation paper on IMT was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- iii. 119th Executive Council Meeting of AUSPI was held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

### **B. JOINT INDUSTRY MEETING / ACT MEETING**

- I) Joint Industry Meeting to discuss the issue of POI Disconnection by BSNL was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- II) A Joint Industry meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka regarding BBMP Right of Way issue was held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- III) ACT meeting with Hon'ble Home Minister and DGP, J&K to discuss subscriber verification issues was held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- IV) Joint Industry Meeting regarding TRAI Direction on VAS was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- V) Joint Industry Meeting with CMD BSNL to Discuss Carriage Charges issue was held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- VI) Joint Industry Meeting to discuss the issue of BSNL Carriage Charges issue was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- VII) Joint Industry Meeting of Sub-Group on VAS was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

### **C. OTHER IMPORT EVENTS**

- I) 8<sup>th</sup> ASSOCHAM e-Governance Summit 2011 was held on Hotel Taj Mahal, New Delhi.
- II) TRAI function to mark the coming to force of The Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulation was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at Hotel Ashoka.
- III) 3G India 2011 International Conference was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.

- IV) PTC Seminar "Ubiquitous Broadband: Overcoming the Roadblocks" was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.
- V) Voice&Data VAS 2011 Summit & Awards was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011.
- VI) FICCI Consultative Meeting on draft National Competition Policy was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011.
- VII) Interactive Discussion on Rolling out of Broadband Services of RailTel Corporation of India was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- VIII) First Meeting of CII Sub-Committee on Content & VAS was held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011.
- IX) 3rd Green Telecom India 2011 was held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

### **X. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- I) **1<sup>st</sup> October 2011:** TDSAT Seminar on Regulatory Framework and Dispute Resolution in Telecom, Broadcasting and Cable Services Sectors" at Chandigarh.
- II) **4<sup>th</sup> October 2011:** India IPv6 Task Force – 2nd Meeting of Oversight Committee in Sanchar Bhawan.
- III) **12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011:** Working Party 5D Study Group-5 (ITU-R) meeting at Goa.
- IV) **24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011:** ITU Telecom World 2011 at Geneva.

### **XI. TELECOM BYTES**

#### **~~✍~~ LIFE AFTER 100**

No Mobile Phone user can send more than 100 text messages per SIM Card, per day from September 27, 2011.

#### **WHO SUFFERES?**

The average mobile phone user with a fondness for texting will bear the brunt of it.

**IMPLICATIONS**

Students who prefer texting to calling as it is cheaper; Individual professional, who needs to stay on clients radars; Housewife sending out party invites will be affected by the limit.

**SOLUTIONS**

- Keep each message within the **160 character limit**.
- Use Internet Based instant messaging services on smartphones instead of sending SMSs.
- Get a dual SIM phone to double daily allowances of SMSs.



*Source: Media*

**WE RISK LIFE USING MOBILE PHONES ON ROADS**

In a recent study conducted, it has found that over half of the pedestrians risk their lives by using a mobile phone while crossing a busy road.

Emailing and texting while navigating traffic has turned more commonplace with 58% of men and 53% of women spotted in the activity.

*Source: Media*



*View on AUSPI website [www.auspi.in](http://www.auspi.in)*