



**Ministry of Transportation**



**Telecommunications  
Regulatory Authority**

**The Ministry of Transportation and the Telecommunications  
Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain invite comments  
on the future of spectrum policy and planning in the Kingdom.**

**MANAMA – 22 November 2005** – The Ministry of Transportation (MoT) and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) of Bahrain through a joint consultation document have today invited comments on their proposals concerning the future spectrum policy of the Kingdom.

The consultation takes into account the developments in wireless technologies and their needs in terms of spectrum, and seeks views so as to chart a long-term policy for Bahrain in this area. It invites comments on the overall principles of spectrum management policy, issues of spectrum pricing such as auctions and “beauty contests”, trials, and spectrum requirements for services such as WiMax, Fixed Wireless Access, and public and private mobile communications.

The consultation reflects the technology-neutral approach of Bahrain in terms of spectrum usage and the wish of the MoT and TRA to see the development of wireless technologies in Bahrain, which is in line with the steps taken since Bahrain became the first country in the region to have fully liberalised its telecommunications sector.

With this in mind, the MoT and the TRA continue their policy of transparency by inviting views from all interested parties about their proposals, so that decisions made at the end of the consultation process have taken into account the views of the industry and consumers.

Undersecretary of Ministry of Transportation, H.E. Sh. Mohammed Bin Khalifa Bin Ali Al-Khalifa, said: “There is no doubt about the significant impact of the consultation outcomes as it will consolidate the vision of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the Radio Frequency Spectrum, and, therefore, will establish the Kingdom to be the regional telecommunications industry model. We encourage participants to contribute to future telecommunications industry of the Kingdom of Bahrain by offering their suggestions.”

The General Director of the TRA, Mr. A. Andreas Avgousti, said: “The results of this consultation will influence the long-term development and roll out of wireless technologies in Bahrain, and by implication of the industry as a whole. We urge all interested parties, be they manufacturers, service providers or consumers, to work with us by offering their comments. The decisions taken now will be with us for a long time and their impact will be very significant, given that the number of licenses to be issued for spectrum are by their nature limited.”

**The deadline for comments is 21 December 2005**, and the full contents of the consultation can be viewed on the TRA’s website at [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh).

Aided by feedback, the final spectrum policy plan will be published along with a report on comments received.

#### About Mot

The Ministry of Transportation establish in 1971 keen on providing new policies, developing vital premises and strengthening the infrastructure of the important sectors : the Public Transport, Postal services, Telecommunications and Civil Aviation .

Through progression framework, the Ministry has been able to meet its objective and was able to modify its paths and adopt strategies that fulfill local, regional and international demands. Its work on privatization the public transport and opening the Telecommunication services market to meet advanced customers demands. The strategy was implemented through the methodology adapted by the Kingdome of Bahrain to open up the Telecommunication sector and restructure it. These developments culminated in the issue on 22nd October 2002 promulgating the Telecommunications Law and establishing the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority ( TRA ) .

#### About the TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. The TRA is an independent body and its duties and powers include protecting the interests of subscribers and users, and promoting effective and fair competition among established and new licensed operators. More information regarding the TRA can be viewed at [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh)

- The TRA will be happy to provide hard copies of the consultation document for interested parties who do not have access to the Internet. In addition, the TRA is happy

to provide copies in Braille or large print upon request and free of charge. The TRA can be contacted on telephone number 17 52 0044.