



BATELCO RIO APPROVAL – NOTICE BY THE TRA

The TRA has issued the following clarification concerning its approval of Batelco's Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO) dated 15th August 2005, which approval is effect as of 28th August 2005.

According to section 57(b) of the Telecommunications Law, a public telecommunications operator (PTO) determined by the TRA to have a dominant position in a relevant market is obliged to publish a RIO subject to TRA approval within three months of such determination and every six months thereafter. The TRA notes that the RIO is considered a 'live' document that is re-submitted for TRA approval every six months by a PTO in a dominant position, and therefore the TRA expects modification and development of the RIO where appropriate in response to market requirements and developments.

Batelco, having been determined by the TRA to have a dominant position in a relevant market for the purpose of interconnection, submitted a draft Reference Offer (RO), which included those services and terms constituting the Reference Interconnection Offer, to the TRA for approval. Following extensive discussions between the TRA and Batelco, further draft versions of the RO were submitted to the TRA, the last one being on 15th August, which has been approved by the TRA on 28th August 2005.

The TRA wishes to make clear that it has only formally approved the offer of interconnection services offered by Batelco contained in its RO dated 15th August 2005. Batelco's RO includes terms and tariffs concerning interconnection services and it is these terms and tariffs that are specifically referred to as the RIO as per the Telecommunications Law. Batelco's RO also contains terms and tariffs for other services such as access services and wholesale services, which have not been reviewed by the TRA.

Operators wishing to enter into an interconnection agreement should not that the TRA only approved the RIO as the minimum offer that Batelco must provide to operators seeking interconnection services. It is open for any party to agree any commercial arrangements. No operator is obliged as a matter of law to enter into an interconnection agreement upon the terms of the RIO. However, in negotiating an interconnection agreement, the parties should be mindful that in approving the RIO, the TRA acknowledges that its terms and tariffs are fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory.

The following table identifies the parts of Batelco's RO that have received TRA approval.

Reference Offer (Version 15th August 2005)	
Parts	TRA Approval Status
Reference Offer Body Document	Effective 28 th August 2005, to the extent that the terms and conditions relate to interconnection services (as opposed to access or wholesale services).
Schedule 1 - Service Descriptions	Only Schedule 1 Part 1: Interconnection Services (Nos. 1-1 to 1-11 inclusive) – effective 28 th August 2005.
Schedule 2 - Notification and Acceptance of Service Request	Effective 28 th August 2005, to the extent that the terms and conditions relate to interconnection services (as opposed to access or wholesale services).
Schedule 3 – Charges	Only Interconnection Services Section.
Schedule 4 – Billing and Collection	Effective 28 th August 2005, to the extent that the terms and conditions relate to interconnection services (as opposed to access or wholesale services).
Schedule 5 – Ordering and Provisioning	Effective 28 th August 2005, to the extent that the terms and conditions relate to interconnection services (as opposed to access or wholesale services).

Reference Offer (Version 15th August 2005)	
Parts	TRA Approval Status
Schedule 6 – Fault Management	Effective 28 th August 2005, to the extent that the terms and conditions relate to interconnection services (as opposed to access or wholesale services).
Schedule 7 – Facilities Access Service	Not part of RIO review and currently subject to further ULL consultation and subsequent determination by the TRA.
Schedule 8 – Dictionary and Rules of Interpretation and Construction	Effective 28 th August 2005, to the extent that the terms and conditions relate to interconnection services (as opposed to access or wholesale services).
Schedule 9 - Supply Terms	Effective 28 th August 2005, to the extent that the terms and conditions relate to interconnection services (as opposed to access or wholesale services).

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
29th August 2005