

Towards World-class Telecoms through

TRANsparency

in Liberalisation of the Market.



Prior to 2002, the telecoms market in Bahrain was monopoly-based with the Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) providing all the telecommunications services in the Kingdom. Service options were limited and services were considered overpriced in comparison with world markets. That was the starting point of the liberalization process and the work of the TRA.

The Telecommunications Law sets out the timetable for the liberalization of the telecommunications sector in Bahrain up to completion in July 2004 when the remaining licenses will be made available. By the end of 2003, the following steps had been completed and events taken place:

May 2002	The Government formulates its policy for the telecommunications sector.
October 2002	Enactment of Telecommunications Law Creation of the TRA
December 2002	Formation of the TRA's Board of Directors
January 2003	Proposed licensing of second mobile operator announced Consultation on interconnect services
February 2003	Consultation on National Numbering Plan Determination on Methodology of Definition of Telecommunications Markets Determination on Dominance & Significant Market Power
March 2003	Determination on Dominance in Interconnection Markets Deadline for applications for second mobile license
April 2003	Award of second mobile license to MTC Vodafone-Bahrain.
May 2003	Statement on Consultation Process Consultation on Ownership Regulation Determination on Batelco's Cost of Capital Consultation on Quality of Service
June 2003	Issue of Batelco licenses Second consultation on Interconnection Markets Consultation on accounting separation
August 2003	Consultation on Retail Price Controls Announcement of Availability of VAS & ISP Licenses Determination on interconnection Determination on cost of capital Consultation Regulation
September 2003	Issue of National Numbering Plan
October 2003	Regulation on Ownership
November 2003	Interconnection Order
December 2003	Start of parallel run of new 8 digit numbers (old numbers to work along with new until cut off date in 1st June 2004) MTC Vodafone Bahrain launches its mobile services Consultation on carrier pre-selection General Director appointed

Chronology Of Events