



Press Release

TRA Hosts a Discussion on the Deployment of Telecommunications Networks in New Property Developments

-- TRA aims to facilitate competitive choice of state-of-the-art services to the residents and tenants of the new developments --

Tuesday, 17 June 2008

On 16 June 2008 the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) hosted a meeting with more than 60 people attending, drawn from property developers, investors and telecommunications operators, to discuss the regulatory aspects of deploying telecommunications infrastructure in the new property developments.

TRA through this meeting started the discussion for defining an appropriate and effective regulatory approach in order to facilitate the investment in state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure at the same time supporting the competitive choice of telecommunications service providers.

At the meeting the consultancy firm JUCONOMY Consulting, appointed by TRA to study the subject, presented their findings, based on the interviews of the developers, telecommunications operators and research of the international experience.

Mr Tomas Lamanuskas, Deputy General director of the TRA, presented an outline of a future policy on the deployment of the telecommunications networks in new property developments. TRA proposed that developers take a more active role in ensuring that the people who live and work on or in their developments are able to enjoy advanced telecommunications services. Developers should, TRA suggested, invest in certain elements of telecommunications infrastructure (such as ducts, used to deploy telecommunications cables; internal cabling for the buildings etc.) to ensure the effective deployment of telecommunications networks in the respective territories and buildings.

TRA's Telecommunications Access and Infrastructure Manager Mr. Adel Al Showaikh said: "TRA is developing codes of practice to detail the standards required for telecommunications networks and infrastructure in order to assist Developers and Operators provide services meeting international best practice"

TRA's General Director Mr. Alan Horne said: "Having a competitive supply of state-of-the-art telecommunications services on offer for consumers will contribute to making the new property developments, an attractive option for living, working and investing in, and as such will contribute to further enhancing the status of Bahrain as the region's most modern communications hub".

It should be noted that newly developed properties are governed by the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and therefore the Telecommunications Law applies.

It is important that customers have the freedom to choose operators and services that they think satisfy their needs irrespective of where they live or work. Access to modern information and communication services is indispensable element of modern personal and business life. It is therefore important that plans of the developers adequately recognize the importance of a advanced telecommunications infrastructure.

Mr. Horne went on to say: "In a competitive telecommunications landscape and a relatively small market, a partnership and collective efforts between operators and developers is required in order to supply telecommunications services in the new property developments. Developers have to consider investing in at least the ducting in order to support the business case for telecommunications operators laying the electronic highways to the new offices and homes.."

TRA has published the presentations on its website www.tra.org.bh . Based on the discussions at the meeting TRA will now prepare the draft policy document on the deployment of telecommunications networks in new property developments for public consultation to be announced in due time.



From left Fabian Schuster, Wolfgang Reichl, Alan Horne, Tomas Lamanauskas and Ernst-Olav Ruhle



About TRA

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

Media Contact

Dana Chehab
Director of Communications & Consumer Affairs

Tel: 17 520000
Mobile: 3971 0033
Fax: 17 532125
Email: dchehab@tra.org.bh