



هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

Invitation for Expression of Interest in 30 MHz of paired Radio Spectrum in the band 1710 MHz- 1880 MHz

Clarification

3 April 2011

Expression of Interest, Ref: TOD/0311/004 entitled “Invitation for Expression of Interest in 30 MHz of paired Radio Spectrum in the band 1710 MHz- 1880 MHz in the Kingdom of Bahrain”, issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, 10 March 2010

Since publishing the Expression of Interest TRA has received the following questions:

Q1. Is this process only open to existing mobile operators, or could new players participate?

Q2. Would the future new licence (understood to be "post-3G" rather than 4G - is that right?) be an upgrade for the existing mobile operators, or an opportunity for a fourth operator to enter the market?

TRA Response

Nothing in this response is intended to imply that TRA is deviating from its policy of technology and service neutrality licensing. In the fourth paragraph of Section 1 of the EOI, TRA mentioned that it had been informed that from time to time significant congestion occurs within currently deployed mobile networks and had therefore decided upon a strategy for the temporary release of un-allocated spectrum in the band 1710 – 1880 MHz, amounting to a total of 30 MHz.

Although not explicitly stated in the EOI that the temporary arrangements described for the band 1710 – 1880 MHz (prior to a future competitive award process) were limited to the three existing licensed mobile operators, in order to relieve congestion on their networks it is the opinion of TRA that unassigned 1800 MHz spectrum should be awarded only to these operators.

All licences awarded in the Kingdom of Bahrain are technology and service neutral, therefore the temporary (and indeed the existing) assigned frequencies may be utilised for any generation of technology that an operator wishes to deploy, provided that there is compliance with any general or specific conditions of licensing.

It is believed that this response clarifies the points raised in the questions. TRA would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that the spectrum addressed by the EOI will likely be part of a future competitive award process for mobile spectrum in the Kingdom and as such the initial duration of the licence will be limited to six months, with the possible renewal thereafter on a two monthly basis. It would therefore not be appropriate to consider introducing a new operator into the market under such conditions.