

Outcomes of Strategic and Retail Market Review

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In 2007 the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (“TRA”) initiated its Strategic and Retail Market Review. The objectives of the Review were to assess the status of competition in retail markets in the Kingdom of Bahrain and to define a set of proportionate regulatory measures to further competition and the interests of users.

The comprehensive consultation document on the Review released in August 2007 considered a wide range of issues and sought comments on proposed retail market definitions, competition assessment and regulatory measures. In addition to input from consumers, TRA has received several industry responses.

TRA is now releasing three documents:

- A Draft Statement that sets out the regulatory measures TRA will implement and an indicative timetable (Reference: MCD/0208/014);
- A Report that sets out TRA’s analysis and rationale behind regulatory measures and which summarizes and addresses the comments received (Reference: MCD/0208/015);
- A Draft Significant Power Market (“SMP”) Designation Determination in which Batelco is designated as a licensed operator with SMP in a number of relevant markets (MCD/0208/016).

TRA invites comments on the Draft Significant Power Market (“SMP”) Designation Determination and the timing of the regulatory measures contained in the Draft Statement from all interested parties. Comments should be submitted before 4pm on 30 March 2008.

The address to which responses should be sent is:

The General Director
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
P.O. Box 10353, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Alternatively, responses may be sent to TRA for the attention of the General Director by email to consult@tra.org.bh or by facsimile to +973 17 532 125.

In the interest of transparency, TRA reserves the right to make all submissions received available to the public, subject to the respect of confidential information received which will be evaluated by TRA in line with relevant legal provisions and TRA’s published guidance on the treatment of confidential and non-confidential information. As such, respondents are required to clearly mark any confidential information included in their submission. If a submission is marked confidential in its entirety, reasons should be given. TRA may publish or refrain from publishing any document or submission at its sole discretion.

Next steps

Once TRA has received and considered responses to the Draft SMP Designation Determination and the proposed timing for the introduction of regulatory measures contained in the Draft Statement, TRA expects to issue a Final Statement and SMP Designation Determination by the end of April 2008.