



*News Release*

## **TRA Re Launches GSM Guard Band Frequency Licence Auction**

Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain, Monday 16 February 2009

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) today announced it has re launched the auction process for the GSM Guard Band Frequencies Licence, after it had established that the two bids received in December 2008 were non-compliant with the auction rules.

TRA invites submissions of bids to acquire the GSM guard band frequencies.

Mr Alan Horne, TRA's General Director stated "The rejection of bids for non-compliance reasons illustrates the importance of paying attention to the details of the requirements as outlined in the invitation to tender which we take seriously, and this should be an important lesson for any company that plans to enter this auction process. TRA adopted international best practice in its auction process. The process is designed to award the Licence to a company that can maximise the use of a scarce resource, in this case spectrum, and provide consumers with the best service".

According to the timetable for the auction process, set out in the invitation to tender document, the 23rd April 2009 is the final date for submission of bids, and the winner is anticipated to be announced by the end of May 2009.

In order to ensure rapid deployment of services, prospective bidders will have to demonstrate a prior ability to operate services using technologies in these or similar frequency bands. The Licence will be awarded based upon a combination of the technical and commercial merits, as well as a valid sealed financial bid, and the highest bid wins the licence.

The use of the GSM Guard Band frequencies will allow important niche services to be provided, which require wireless connection, e.g. home delivery services, telemetry services for fleet vehicles, public utilities and wireless security. Such user applications can be satisfied by the use of innovative IP based technologies.

The Invitation to Tender is available on TRA's website ([www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh)). It contains all the relevant details of the award process and guidelines for the preparation of bids and their subsequent evaluation by TRA. In addition, the invitation to tender contains the application forms, and a draft copy of the frequency licence to be awarded to the winner.

## **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](http://www.tra.org.bh)

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