



Press Release

TRA consults on introduction of new Value Added Services licence

Monday 24 March

TRA issued last week a consultation on the possibility of introducing a new licence to enable Value Added Services licensees the right to utilize numbering.

Mr. Alan Horne, General Director of TRA, noted that due to a peculiarity of the telecommunications law, value added services licensees could not obtain telephone numbers or codes directly from TRA. “Based upon a number of representations from interested parties raising this issue we could see no reason why value added service providers should not be able to obtain numbers. This licence is prepared to ensure that VAS licensees can apply for and legally hold numbers. This will allow them to associate their value added services to specific numbers that they control. It is hoped that this will unlock further competition and value in the telecommunications sector in Bahrain”.

Mr. Horne added, “TRA is still intending to issue a unified licence, however at present we don’t anticipate that this will be issued until the end of 2008 to early 2009. As such the consultation asks interested parties whether they consider this issue of VAS numbering should be addressed now through the introduction of this licence, or at a later stage through the unified licence.”

Interested parties can submit their comments to TRA by 5:00 pm on 17 April 2008. The consultation document can be viewed on TRA's website www.tra.org.bh

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 operators effective and fair competition among existing and new licensed. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh