



Press Release

TRA works to enable subscribers to retain their numbers when changing operators

**-- Consultancy project on the implementation of number portability has
been launched --**

Wednesday, 18 June 2008

The Director General of TRA Alan Horne welcomed representatives from Mott MacDonald and Horrocks Technology (consortium) as consultants for the number portability project.

"In commissioning this project the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Bahrain (TRA) has intensified its efforts to enable number portability for mobile and fixed line customers. Number portability increases competition by enabling consumers to change operator without having to change their number, and seek better deals from operators. It is a key feature of most competitive telecommunications markets. TRA has appointed us to guide the implementation of number portability in Bahrain, taking advantage of the best practices in other countries." John Horrocks, Director at Horrocks Technology Ltd, said.

The Strategic and Retail Market Review document published in February 2008 identified number portability as one of the key measures to improve competition in the Kingdom and ensure that subscribers' choice is not hindered by unnecessary barriers, including restriction to transfer their number to their new service provider.

TRA's Technical Advisor and number portability project manager Ahmed Aldoseri said "In order to build on an open model of collaboration with the industry and key stakeholders, TRA established an industry working group to jointly develop an implementation of number portability, and successfully held the first session of the working group on 26 May 2008. With the complex nature of transferring numbers between local operators, it is vital that all operators effectively participate in the drafting exercise of all number portability processes to ensure a successful implementation."



From Left Ahmed Aldoseri of TRA; John Horrocks of Horrocks Technology; Chris Pollard of Mott McDonald; and Alan Horne, General Director of TRA.

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 operators. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

Media Contact

Abdulelah Abdulla
Communications Executive

Tel: +973 17 520000
Mobile: +973 36368555
Fax: +973 17 532125