



News Release

Countdown for Number Portability Begins

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain - Monday 1 November 2010

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has published the final technical specifications for the implementation of Number Portability for Mobile and Fixed line telephony. The technical specification documents lay out the common technical standards and communication protocols to be followed by Licensed Operators in the Kingdom of Bahrain for the implementation of Number Portability. The Specifications are a set of three documents that are comprised of the Number Portability Process Specification, the Central System Specification and the Routing and Charging Specification.

According to the Number Portability Regulation, issued on 27 April of this year, Mobile Licensed Operators are mandated to implement Mobile Number Portability within 6 months of the publication of the Specifications, while Fixed Licensed Operators (including WiMAX providers) are mandated to implement Fixed Number Portability within 8 months of the publication of the Specifications.

Commenting on the issuance of the technical specification TRA's Chairman, Dr. Mohammed Al Amer said "Number Portability is another milestone in the liberalization of the telecommunications sector and will empower consumers to select the Licensed Operator that best suits their needs for fixed or mobile services."

TRA's ICT Director Mr. Ahmed Aldoseri said, "We anticipate and look forward to an effective implementation of the Number Portability service in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Enabling Number Portability in the Kingdom will provide consumers with greater flexibility and choice by being able to switch between different Licensed Operators without having to give up the number they are used to using. This should also provide the impetus for greater competition and creativity in product offerings as Licensed Operators vie to build consumer loyalty and attract new subscribers."

In preparation for the implementation of Number Portability, Mr. Aldoseri went on to say "TRA will soon be issuing a Request for Tender for the implementation of the Central System, which forms a key component of the Number Portability process. The Central System will be responsible for coordinating and exchanging the messages between Licensed Operators that

allow Number Portability to be implemented. The Central System will also maintain the database of Ported Numbers as well as measure the performance of all Licensed Operators involved in the Porting Process in order to ensure the rights and expectations of all participants are upheld.”

The full technical Specifications can be viewed on TRA’s website at www.tra.org.bh.

About TRA

Since its establishment in 2002 the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has been working with government, consumers, operators and investors to develop the Kingdom of Bahrain into the region’s most modern communications hub and to facilitate the growth of the market. As an exemplary Regulator for the region, TRA independently carries out its duties in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. More information about TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh .

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