



## **ADVANCEMENT IN KINGDOM'S TELECOMS MARKET PRAISED ON WORLD TELECOMS DAY**

### ***-- Bahrain Telecoms Sector on Track to Complete Liberalisation in July 2004--***

**MANAMA – 16 May 2004** –To mark World Telecommunications Day – an annual global event -- the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) hailed the ongoing progress being made in the Kingdom's telecommunications sector. Further, on this occasion, the TRA confirmed that the liberalisation process, which was began in 2002, is on track with the market in Bahrain due to be fully open to competition in all areas by July 2004 – making the Kingdom a role model and the first Gulf state with a fully liberalised market environment.

The past year has seen great advancement in Bahrain – especially in the mobile telecommunications sector -- where the benefits of competition have seen enhanced service, greater choice and more value in terms of pricing for the users of mobile telecommunications services in the Kingdom.

It is expected that as the market fully liberalises in July 2004 and competition begins in additional segments in the months and years ahead that similar benefits will be seen across the broader spectrum of telecommunications services.

Commenting on the occasion, General Director of the TRA, Mr. Andreas Avgousti said, "There is no better time than on this day to highlight the great advancements that have been made in Bahrain's telecommunications sector. The process of liberalisation in Kingdom has moved forward in an efficient and transparent manner, which has resulted in the creation a world-class regulatory and market environment that can attract new operators and effectively deliver the promised

benefits of competition to current market players as well as telecoms users in Bahrain. As we move toward the full liberalisation of the market in just a few months time, we continue to encourage users, investors and operators to work with the Authority and the industry to create the region's most dynamic and competitive market.”

More information on Bahrain's telecommunications sector can be found on the TRA website at [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh).

### **About the TRA**

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. The 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 the TRA can be viewed at [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh)

- ✓ The TRA will be happy to provide hard copies of the draft regulation document, for those who do not have access to the internet. The TRA can be contacted on telephone number 17 540 120.