



Telecommunications Regulatory Authority ready to Host the First Annual TRA Development Review panel

Manama 25 January 2005 – The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority has announced that all preparations are completed for hosting its first annual Development Review Panel that will take place next Sunday, 30th January, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Bahrain. The event will be open for the public to attend and entry will be free, but advance registration is necessary as there is limited availability of seats. This can be done by downloading the registration form from the TRA website www.tra.org.bh and faxing it to 00973 17401513, or by telephoning 00973 17402624 with your details.

The meeting on the 30th January will follow on from the fact finding visit of the panellists in Bahrain on 15th- 16th January 2005, during which they conducted a series of meetings with existing and prospective licensees including Batelco and MTC Vodafone, officials from Ministry of Transportation, The Chamber of Commerce and The Consumer Protection Society in addition to other organizations and interested parties. They also met with representatives of companies that were involved in the bids for the second mobile licence in 2003.

The Panel which is chaired by Professor Martin Cave, the Director of the Centre for Management Under Regulation at Warwick Business School in the United Kingdom, together with Mr. Christopher Wright, who is Special Adviser Regulated Industries, at Slaughter and May, Solicitors in the United Kingdom and Mr. Ian Martin, who is the Senior Telecommunications Analyst at ABN AMRO Bank in Australia will announce their findings and recommendations concerning the TRA in public during the TRA Development Review Panel event on the 30th of this month.

There will also be presentations made by the industry and consumers at the same event. The TRA has invited some of the current licensees to make their presentations, in addition to a prospective licensee and the Consumer Protection Society on behalf on consumers. In addition Mr Andreas Avgousti, the General Director of the TRA will give a presentation on the achievements of the TRA. This step to invite the above mentioned parties to make presentations to the Panel public meeting aims to give the members of the public and the press the opportunity to hear from them too before the Panel findings and so that they can better participate in the Questions and Answers part that will follow and which again will be open to all who attend.

The General Director of the TRA Mr Andreas Avgousti said: “We are looking forward to a most interesting, and possibly lively meeting, at which the performance of the organisation responsible for regulating the telecommunications industry in Bahrain will be looked together with expectations of consumer and the industry. The way the panel has been set up and in particular the public nature of the meeting on the 30th ensures the highest standard of transparency and accountability achieved by any regulator internationally. We look forward to the input from the Panel so as to pave the way for further improvements in the way the TRA functions as well as from all those who will attend the public meeting of the Panel. It is an opportunity for everyone, consumer or industry player alike, to input its views on the way we develop” ”.

About the TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA).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