



### **TRA announces the two highest bidders of the National Fixed Wireless Services (NFWS) licenses auction**

**Manama 13 December 2006-** The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain has announced that the two highest bidders of the National Fixed Wireless Services (NFWS) licenses auction were:

MTC-Vodafone Bahrain with a bid of BD 5,500,050.920  
Mena Telecom with a bid of BD 4,534,000.000

This announcement was made at the opening of the financial bids which took place at the Gulf Hotel today in the presence of representatives of the bidders, media and other officials invited by the TRA.

The Acting General Director of the TRA, Dr. Mohammed J.K. Alghatam, made the following statement after the announcement of the winners: "We will be awarding the Licenses by 8 January 2007, in accordance with the rules of the auction and after completion of the post-evaluation obligations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parties involved in this process beginning with the Ministry of Transportation, which played a vital role in issuing the Spectrum Policy for the Kingdom of Bahrain. Without such a policy we would not have been able to be here today awarding the licenses for the Fixed Wireless spectrum."

He further added: "I would also like to thank all those who contributed with their feedback throughout the various stages of this process. Last but not least, I extend my thanks to the TRA team and the international experts involved in the auction's evaluation process. I would also like to congratulate the two highest bidders today, and remind them that consumers in Bahrain are expecting to see and use new and innovative services that cater for their evolving needs."

### About the TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 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)

### Note to Editors

The NFWS licenses will pave the way for fixed wireless connectivity to customers for voice and data services. This in turn means that the companies which are successful in obtaining the licenses will be able to provide services to end customers. The licenses entitle the winners to offer local voice telephony, and subject to obtaining the additional relevant licenses, for which there is no limit, they can also provide internet services, international calls, etc.