



## **TRA-UAE and TRA-Bahrain sign MoU for cooperation in telecommunications sector**

### ***Regulatory authorities agree to exchange know-how, resources and personnel***

**Manama 19 March 2006,** The UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA-UAE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Bahrain (TRA-Bahrain) recently formalising cooperation between the two independent regulatory organisations.

The MoU was signed between Mohamed Nasser Al Ghanim, Director General and Board Member of TRA-UAE and A. Andreas Avgousti, General Director of TRA-Bahrain, at Le Royal Meridian in Abu Dhabi, UAE, during the third Arab Regulators meetings in Abu Dhabi, which is hosted by UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.

Mohamed Nasser Al Ghanim, Director General of TRA-UAE said: “The MoU ushers in a welcome era of co-operation between UAE and Bahrain, in the increasingly competitive world of telecommunications. In a globally interlinked world, communication technology is crucial to economic development and public governance. This MoU will go a long way in strengthening the regional telecommunications sector and will result in better services for the regional consumer.”

The memorandum sets the grounds for TRA-UAE and TRA-Bahrain to exchange operational expertise and also share the use of each other’s regulatory instruments.

Andreas Avgousti, General Director of TRA-Bahrain said: “The telecommunications industry is increasingly vital to the Middle East’s rapidly expanding economies and techno-savvy society. As regulators we aim to establish a regulatory framework that is robust and addresses the needs of the industry. The MoU is a progressive initiative that complements the already strong ties between Bahrain and UAE and will allow our two authorities to benefit from each other’s regulatory know-how and resources.”

Through the MoU, the two agencies have agreed to cooperate in areas such as licensing; Internet; telecommunications spectrum management; dealing with competition in fix net, mobile and Internet

services markets; promotion of infrastructure development; laying down procedures for rules and the public process; determining regulatory approaches to anti-competitive behaviour in the marketplace; universal services; policies and interconnection.

The MoU states that representatives of TRA-UAE and TRA-Bahrain will meet regularly and at least once a year in order to exchange data, research findings and technical information. These meetings will be held alternately in the UAE and in Bahrain.

Under the terms of the MoU, the two authorities may exchange specialist staff and conduct training and development programmes for enhancing the level of expertise and skills of personnel from their respective organisations. Additionally, both the agencies have agreed to liaise with each other in their day-to-day operations.

#### **About TRA Supreme Committee:**

The Supreme Committee was formed by UAE federal government, and is headed by H.E. Sultan Al Mansoori, UAE minister of Government Sector Development. The rest of the Supreme Committee members are H.E. Ahmad Al Hamiri, representative of the President Office and H.E. Saeed Al Ghafli, and Ahmad Bin Byat, representative of the Vice-President office.

#### **About TRA Board of Directors:**

The supreme committee appointed the aboard of directors for TRA whose membership currently includes H.E. Mohamed Al Qamzi as Chairman of the Board, H.E Essam Al Tamimi, H.E Nasser Bin Obood, H.E Ahmad Al Hebaishi Al Mazrouie and TRA Director General H.E. Mohamed Al Ghanim.

#### **About TRA-UAE:**

The Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRA) was set up by government decree No. 3 of 2003. The TRA is a regulatory body that oversees the telecom sector and the licensees in the UAE in accordance with the terms of Legislative Decree no.3 of 2003, and implements the instructions of the Supreme Committee for Telecommunications.

The TRA is an independent body and its duties include ensuring telecom services are available to all provinces of the country, assuring that the licensed operators fully follow established rules and regulations, protecting the interests of subscribers, developing telecom sector and helping to implement the best and most advanced technologies.

**About TRA-Bahrain:**

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 protecting the interests of subscribers and users, and promoting effective and fair competition among established 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 consultation document for interested parties who do not have access to the Internet. In addition, the TRA is happy to provide copies in Braille or large print upon request and free of charge. The TRA can be contacted on telephone number 17 52 0044.