



Nine bidders compete for the National Fixed Wireless Services licenses
-- TRA publishes full list of bidders and their associates --

Manama 2 December 2006 – A total of nine bidders have submitted bids for the National Fixed Wireless Services (NFWS) licenses. On 30th November 2006, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) announced that the list of bidders is as follows:

Bidder	Bidder's Associates
ATCO Clearwire Telecom Limited	ATCO Clearwire Telecom Bahrain WLL Qatar Telecom (QTel) QSC State of Qatar
Bahrain Telecommunications Company BSC	Government of Bahrain Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Co BSC Cable & Wireless Plc General Organisation for Social Insurance
The Blue Zone East LLC	Ahmed M. Hady El-Mahdawy Ahmed E. El-Mahdawy Fawzia A. El-Mahdawy Lamia Ahmed El-Mahdawy

Etisalcom Wireless Co WLL	Etisalcom Bahrain WLL Al Qudra Holding Company
Kalaam Telecom Bahrain BSC (c)	Kalaam Telecom Holding BSC (c) Kalaam Limited Company WLL Al Shoibi Group
Mena Telecom WLL	Comsat Holding WLL Kuwait Finance House – Bahrain BSC (c)
MTC-Vodafone, Bahrain BSC	Sh. Ahmed Ali Abdulla Al-Khalifa Mobile Telecommunications Company (KSC)
Nuetel Communications SPC	Osos BSC Closed Eutelia SpA
Reliance Communications Limited	Reliance Bahrain ADA Group

In accordance with the rules of the auction, the deadline for submitting bids was 28th November 2006. The evaluation process of technical aspects of the bids by the TRA's dedicated bid-evaluation team has already commenced. This team will be responsible for evaluating the bids to ensure that they meet the prequalification criteria. Once a bid passes the prequalification stage it will then be eligible to participate in the next stage, which is the financial bids evaluation, scheduled to take place on 13th December 2006.

The bids that do not meet the prequalification criteria will be re-evaluated by a panel of experts, who are independent from the TRA. The panel of experts consists of Mr. Peter Alexiadis, Mr. Nigel Attenborough and Mr. Peter Walker. The panel will re-evaluate the unsuccessful bids and provide the TRA with their recommendations on whether these bids meet the qualification criteria or not. The final decision following the panel's recommendation will reside with the TRA.

The financial bids will be opened on 13th December 2006. The licenses will be awarded to the two highest bidders provided that they meet the post-announcement requirements. It should be noted that only the financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on the day.

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 directly 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.

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