



## **ALL SET FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TRA DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PANEL 2006**

**MANAMA – 30 January 2006-** The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) announced today that it has completed the preparations for hosting the public hearing of its Development Review Panel, which will take place on 5 February 2006 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gulf Conventions Centre, Gulf Hotel Bahrain. The members of this year's Panel are Prof. Martin Cave - Director of the Centre for Management under Regulation, Warwick Business School, United Kingdom, Mr. Ian Martin - Senior Telecommunications analyst at ABN AMRO, Australia, and Mr. Robert Bruce - Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Digital Strategies at the Tuck School of Business in Dartmouth, United States of America.

The event will be open to the public, but prior registration is encouraged due to the limited availability of seats. This can be done by downloading the registration form from the TRA website [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh), or alternatively by contacting the TRA on telephone number 17520044 or fax 17532125.

Prior to the public hearing, the Panel members will be meeting with interested parties and members of the industry for two days, starting 1 February. These meetings are part of the Panel's review of the telecommunications industry in Bahrain. The TRA will not be present at the meetings, so as to ensure that members of the industry are able to express their views freely on the progress of the TRA and raise issues of concern.

The Panel will then announce their findings and recommendations at the public hearing on 5 February. There will also be presentations by the industry at the public hearing, from (in alphabetical order): Batelco, Lightspeed Communications, MENA Broadband Services and MTC Vodafone Bahrain.

There will also be a presentation by the TRA highlighting the progress and issues of 2005. In addition, similarly to last year, the attendees of the public hearing will have the opportunity to address the Panel, in order to voice their concerns and express their views on the development of the regulatory regime in the Kingdom.

The General Director of the TRA, Mr. A. Andreas Avgousti, commented: “We are looking forward to hosting this year’s public hearing. This forum will give the industry and the public the opportunity, in a transparent manner, to engage in an open discussion on the issues facing the market. We believe that the input we will receive from this is invaluable to the TRA, and will certainly help us evaluate the priorities ahead of us as we move forward in establishing a competitive market. We encourage all members of the telecommunications industry, consumers and consumer groups to become part of this effort by attending the public hearing on 5 February.”

### 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 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)

### About the TRA Development Review Panel

The TRA has always sought to carry out its duties in line with best international practices and to meet the highest standards of regulation for the benefit of the telecommunications industry and consumers alike.

With this in mind, the TRA has established, on an annual basis, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Development Review Panel. This is an independent panel, consisting of three members with experience in the area of telecommunications. The members of this year’s Panel are Prof. Martin Cave - Director of the Centre for Management under Regulation, Warwick Business School, United Kingdom, Mr. Ian Martin - Senior Telecommunications analyst at ABN AMRO, Australia, and Mr. Robert Bruce - Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Digital Strategies at the Tuck School of Business in Dartmouth, United States of America.

The Panel has been asked to carry out a review of developments in the market and the work of the TRA, as well as listen to the views of the industry. Based on these, the Panel will advise the TRA in a public hearing about areas for improvement. The TRA will take the Panel’s advice into account in planning its work and strategy for the next twelve months.