



## **TRA consults on an online application system for WiFi and WiMax frequencies**

***-- Move aims to facilitate use of these technologies in the Kingdom --***

Manama, 8 July 2006 – The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority is planning an online system for frequency license registration for certain types of frequency application. This system will allow individuals, businesses and operators alike to obtain a license to use WiFi and Wimax spectrum in the Kingdom of Bahrain by simply filling in an online application form.

This approach would enable companies as well as individual users to use technologies such as Wifi that rely on spectrum usage at their own premises and connect wirelessly to the internet. It would also allow licensed Internet Service Providers in the Kingdom to provide wireless internet access throughout the Kingdom using technologies such as WiMax and Wireless LANs once they obtain the frequency license through the online registration system.

The aim of adopting this type of application is to enable all individuals, businesses and licensed operators who wish to use these frequencies to obtain the required license in a simple way whilst at the same time complying with the Telecommunications Law which mandates that any person using frequency in the Kingdom of Bahrain must have the relevant license.

The proposed system seeks to achieve ease for the user with legal compliance.

There will be no fees associated with this license, and it will allow its holder to use WiFi, WiMAX and other Wireless LAN technologies, in the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

It is worth noting that the light licensing approach adopted by the TRA is in line with best international practices, as an increasing number of countries worldwide are taking a light licensing approach when it comes to the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands, which can be used for WiFi and WiMax technologies. Most countries worldwide do not require users of this spectrum to even register in order to be able to use it. In Bahrain, the TRA has opted for an online registration system to satisfy the requirements of the Law as it requires any individual or operator to obtain the appropriate frequency license in order to use any type of telecommunications frequencies in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The TRA has issued a consultation outlining this approach and seeking public feedback before it makes its final decision in this regard.

The full consultation on the light licensing regulation can be viewed at the TRA's website [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh). The comments period will end on 20 July 2006.

### **Note to Editors:**

#### Explanation of Technical Terms :

**WiFi** – Wireless Fidelity – Short range, broadband wireless access technologies enabling wireless LAN (WLAN). WiFi is used to describe the technology to enable wireless access to the internet over a short distance (eg- homes/hotspots )

**WiMAX** – Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access – longer range, broadband wireless technologies enabling metropolitan area networks (WMAN) . WiMax is used to describe the technology to enable wireless broadband access over longer distances (eg- cities )

#### 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)

- 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.