



هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات  
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

**Domain Name Registration Office  
ccTLD Registry Solution  
Request for Expressions of Interest**

**Version 1.0 [Final]**

**Reference No. ICT/0210/021**

**22 February, 2010**

**Public Document**

**Deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest:  
Thursday 04 March, 2010, 4:00pm local time**

## **Background**

1. The telecommunications market in the Kingdom of Bahrain has been transformed following Government policy to stimulate the national economy. In October 2002, Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 promulgated the Telecommunications Law that enabled liberalisation of the telecommunications sector and the formation of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)
2. TRA is an independent body and has a direct responsibility to ensure effective liberalisation of the telecommunications market, oversee fair competition, give private investors confidence with regard to competition and make available the related telecommunication resources, such as the radio spectrum and numbers, in a fair and transparent manner
3. The Minister Responsible for Telecommunication's Resolution No. 3 of 2008 (the "Resolution") further added the responsibility of organising the registration and management of .bh country code Top-Level Domains (ccTLD) to TRA to manage as a national resource via the establishment of a Domain Name Registration Office (DNRO)
4. According to the Decision, and with the necessary coordination with the current body managing Bahrain's ccTLD, TRA is required to effectively manage end-to-end processes related to Bahrain's ccTLD through the DNRO, including registration activities, hosting of root servers, maintenance operations and settling and collecting fees for assigned domain names.
5. TRA intends to acquire a suitable solution for the management of the .bh ccTLD. TRA will do this through means of a limited, invitation-only, Request for Proposals (RFP). As such, TRA invites interested companies to indicate their interest in being invited to bid for this project.

## **The Role of this Document**

6. This Request for Expressions of Interest will allow TRA to invite selected solution providers to submit a proposal for a ccTLD Registry solution. TRA is, in particular, seeking Expressions of Interest in bidding for the right to provide the necessary technical systems for the DNRO, through means of a limited, invitation-only RFP.
7. This Request for Expressions of Interest does not constitute an offer or invitation to participate in any assignment process or proposal for a ccTLD Registry solution, nor does it constitute the basis of any contract which may be concluded in relation to any bidding exercise or in respect of any award of contract. This Request for Expressions of Interest shall not bind TRA to award any contract or extend any invitation.

8. Individual responses to this Request will not be disclosed to the public, and the identities of any parties/companies responding will be kept confidential.

### **Scope of RFP**

9. The scope of the ccTLD Registry RFP is limited to the supply, installation and implementation of a ccTLD Registry software solution for the DNRO, including relevant screens and portals. Hardware may be procured through the winning bidder or through TRA's own channels, at the discretion of TRA.
10. The Registry solution will be maintained and operated by TRA staff who will be trained by the winning bidder.

### **Legal Framework**

11. The Telecommunications Law of the Kingdom of Bahrain (issued under Legislative Decree No. 48 in October 2002) (the "Law") is the law that regulates telecommunications markets in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Law established TRA as an independent regulatory authority that oversees the telecommunications sector.
12. Section 3 of the Law describes the duties and powers of TRA.
13. The Minister Responsible for Telecommunications' Decision No 3 of 2008 describes the duties and powers of TRA with respect to managing the .bh ccTLD.

### **Proposed Indicative Time Line**

14. In this Draft Statement TRA indicates that it intends to issue the RFP for the DNRO ccTLD Registry solution by mid-March, 2010. In line with this commitment, TRA anticipates awarding the contract to the selected bidder by May, 2010.

### **Responses to this document**

15. Respondents should send any Expressions of Interest to:

The General Director,  
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA),  
P.O. Box 10353,  
Manama,  
Kingdom of Bahrain.

16. Alternatively, e-mail responses may be sent to TRA's email address at: [ict@tra.org.bh](mailto:ict@tra.org.bh)

The deadline for responses is **4.00 p.m. on Thursday 04 March, 2010.**