



News Release

TRA is publishing a Renesys Study on Bahrain Internet Ecosystem

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain - Monday 19 October 2009

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) is announcing today the publication of a study on Bahrain's Internet Ecosystem. The study, conducted by the Internet intelligence authority Renesys, is providing a comprehensive overview of the evolving relationships between Bahrain's Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and the international telecommunications carriers serving Bahrain and the Region.

The report provides a detailed snapshot of the Internet Ecosystem as of August 2009, identifying key strengths and potential weaknesses of Bahrain's Internet connectivity, as well as some historical context to help the reader understand the present state of the market.

Highlight on some of the key findings:

- Bahrain is one of the most connected countries in the Region, in relation to the size of its population. Growth in the number of Internet-connected organizations indicates that active competition is happening in the domestic market.
- Bahrain's access to the Internet is periodically threatened by physical disruption to international network cables, causing instability and network congestion; however, the country's Internet access appears to be more consistently stable than many other regional markets.
- Bahrain's business customers lack true alternatives to diversify their Internet transit purchases and expand their eBusiness initiatives, in part due to capacity constraints of some market participants.
- Bahrain is falling behind in the creation of domestic Internet content, resulting in low domestic traffic volumes and significant traffic imbalances with the United States and Europe, where most popular content is currently hosted.

Additional highlights are provided concerning the role of Batelco, the Bahrain Internet Exchange (BIX), and key alternative ISPs in the growing diversification of the Internet Ecosystem.

“Global markets are increasingly competitive, and industry players and financial institutions have to make some critical business decisions in the current financial crisis,” said TRA General Director Alan Horne. “Availability and affordability of Internet services, capacity and content will be key elements in attracting foreign investment and sustaining competitive growth in the Kingdom in the coming years.”

“Renesys was pleased to have the opportunity to work with the TRA to create this detailed study of the entire national Internet Ecosystem,” said James Cowie, Renesys Chief Technology Officer. “We documented significant progress toward the development of a diverse, resilient set of relationships among Bahrain's emerging ISPs, their regional partners, and the key international providers who serve the region. Some work remains, but all the ingredients are here to support Bahrain's growth as a regional ICT center over the next decade.”

The full study is available on TRA and Renesys web sites and Report will be presented next Monday by Renesys and TRA during the 1st Europe – Middle East – North Africa Regional ITS Conference (20th European Regional ITS Conference), held in the Kingdom of Bahrain from 26 – 28 October 2009.

About TRA

Since its establishment in 2002 the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has been working with government, consumers, operators and investors to develop the Kingdom of Bahrain as the regions most modern communications hub and facilitating the growth of the market. As an exemplar Regulator for the region, TRA independently carries out its duties in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. More information about TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

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About Renesys

Renesys is the leading provider of global internet intelligence, providing governments, multinational corporations and Internet service providers with a comprehensive, real-time understanding of the Internet marketplace. The Renesys family of products delivers situational awareness, information assurance, security and business intelligence, helping ensure safe, secure and robust connections for those who need them most.

Renesys is headquartered in Manchester, New Hampshire, USA.

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