

TRA Consults on its Draft Three-Year Work Plan

Plan focuses on the sector development, safeguarding the consumers and the transition to an ICT environment

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The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has released its Draft Three-Year Work Plan for 2010 – 2012 for public consultation, which sets out TRA's priorities for the coming three years.

TRA's Deputy General Director Mr. Rob Middlehurst said "This draft Work Plan identifies and priorities those tasks, over and above the day-to-day work of TRA, required to ensure that through the continued development of the telecommunications sector consumers are offered choice in the supply of competitively priced leading edge communications services. This plan has been produced following a series of meetings with industry stakeholders and builds on the competition based regulatory framework already adopted by TRA,"

Building on the achievements of the previous work plan published in 2007 this draft three year Work Plan has been prepared taking into consideration the progress against the previous work plan issued in 2007, the regulatory measures arising from the Strategic and Retail Market Review, issues of concern to the industry and stakeholders, the Economic Vision 2030 of the Kingdom, the Second National Telecommunication Policy, and TRA's revised Vision and Mission statements.

It sets out the projects that TRA believes should be undertaken in the coming three years in order to develop competition in the sector and to facilitate end user choice through the ease of market entry created through the implementation of initiatives such as Local Loop Unbundling and Number Portability in addition to formalising a process by which additional frequency bands will be made available for commercial use through the Spectrum Release Plan and improving both the availability and affordability of broadband connectivity through increased international capacity to Kingdom of Bahrain.

The draft Plan also focuses on developing the business continuity capabilities of the Kingdom of Bahrain through the identification of critical national infrastructures and a coordinated disaster recovery plan pertinent to communications infrastructures.

Consumer interests will receive an increased level of focus in this plan with the introduction of consumer protection guidelines and the identification of potential and real hazards associated with the use of the internet.

The transition from a telecommunications sector to an ICT sector in order to more fully support the achievement of the Economic Vision 2030 is already underway. TRA will support the development of the appropriate legislative tools and enabling environment in which ICT convergence will occur.

In line with TRA's transparent approach and open dialog with all its stakeholders, TRA is consulting the public on this plan in order to gain assistance in setting out the telecommunications sector's priorities. TRA encourages detailed feedback on the draft Work Plan, as this plan will form the route map of the telecommunications sector for the coming years. TRA will be pleased to receive comments from all interested parties until 4 p.m. on 22 April 2010.

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 into the region's most modern communications hub and to facilitate the growth of the market. As an exemplary 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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