



*Press Release*

## **Six Undertakings Interested in Becoming the Third Mobile Operator in Bahrain**

Sunday, 11 May 2008

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has received a total of seven responses to its request for expressions of interest in the award process of the licence for the third mobile network operator (MNO). Six companies expressed their interest to compete for the right to become a third MNO.

The responses received cover different aspects of the award process of the third mobile license, such as preferred spectrum band(s), amount of spectrum required, and any additional measures, such as infrastructure sharing, national roaming, any exclusivity period required and the preferred license award mechanism, which are considered to be essential for the entry of a third MNO.

The information gained from the responses will aid TRA in the development of the tender documents and supporting information memorandum. TRA also intends to appoint a consultancy company to assist in the design of the award process of the third mobile license.

TRA's General Director, Mr. Alan Horne, said: "Looking at the responses received we are greatly encouraged by the level of international interest that has been shown in the Bahraini telecommunications market. The responses are from a mixture of companies interested in investing in the future of Bahrain including both local companies with international partners, and international companies new to the telecoms sector of Bahrain.

Mr. Horne added: "The number of responses received does not necessarily reflect the full amount of interest in the third mobile license in Bahrain, as some companies may prefer to submit their bids without expressing any interest at this time".

TRA's Market & Competition Director and project manager of the award process, Mr. Robert Middlehurst, said: "We would like to thank all local and international operators for expressing their interest and for their valuable input that will help us formulate an efficient and transparent process for the award of the third mobile license".

## **About TRA**

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. 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 TRA can be viewed at [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh)

## **Media Contact**

Abdulelah Abdulla  
Communications Executive

Tel: 17520000  
Mobile: 36368555  
Fax: 17532125