



Press Release

TRA Issues Draft Guidelines on Telecommunications Infrastructure Deployment

-- The guidelines aim to promote further competition and choices in fixed line market--

Tuesday 25 March 2008

TRA has published today, for public consultation, the Draft Guidelines for Telecommunications Infrastructure Deployment.

TRA's General Director Mr. Alan Horne, commenting on the occasion, said in a statement: "Although the fixed line services are liberalized since 2004, until now new market players have faced obstacles in deploying country-wide alternative cable networks in practice. Effective access to public and private properties to deploy telecommunications infrastructure is identified as a key element for fair and sustainable competition in the telecommunications market. As such TRA, supported by the Second National Telecommunications Plan is working to remove the barriers for infrastructure deployment, in order to enable all appropriately licenced telecommunications operators the facility of installing their own physical networks. This will promote investment in infrastructure and will lead to the provision of more choice for consumers in the telecommunications market".

The draft document provides all licensed operators of public telecommunications networks and other concerned parties the necessary guidelines, specifications, and conditions for the design, deployment, operation and protection of telecommunications network infrastructure in public and private property.

As part of its role to promote effective and fair competition among licensed operators, TRA has already set-up a Telecommunications Technical Office which now provides the interface to interact on behalf of the industry with the Central Planning Unit of the Ministry of Works for the planning and deployment of any new telecommunications infrastructure.

TRA's Telecommunications Access and Infrastructure Manager Mr. Adel Al Showaikh said: "The Guidelines published today in the consultation document will enable fixed line operators to lay their networks under fair and transparent processes and procedures. This will help operators become more competitive in providing choices of telecommunications services with better quality and prices".

Interested parties can submit their comments on the draft guidelines to TRA by 4:00 on 22 April 2008. The Guidelines document can be viewed on TRA's website www.tra.org.bh

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 operators effective and fair competition among existing and new licensed. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh