



Updated National Telephone Numbering Plan Released

**--This updated plan will pave the way for the introduction
of new services and number portability --**

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain – Wednesday 10 September 2008

Following a series of consultations and workshops with the industry, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) issued today an updated national telephone numbering plan.

Commenting on issuing the updated numbering plan, TRA's General Director Alan Horne said: "The technological changes that are taking place in telecommunications and evolution of new telecommunications services, have initiated the need to review the way numbers are used and allocated to operators. New number ranges will be opened up for use by operators offering any service over any technology. This will enable a progressive introduction of new converged services such as WiMax services".

Mr. Horne went on to say: "The basic requirement of any national numbering plan is to ensure that consumers of one operator can have access to other consumers connected to any other telecommunications network. Further, it is important to maintain an indication of the type of call charge that will be incurred by customers by looking at the first two digits of the number".

TRA's Technical and Operations Director Mr. Mohammed Mahmood said: "The Plan introduces a series of short codes for freephone, special services and premium charge serves. Short Codes (e.g. Emergency Services) are also extended to incorporate new government initiatives to enable direct emergency calls to specialist agencies such as the Coast Guard. TRA will start accepting applications from interested eligible licensed operators for new number ranges from 18 September 2008".

Along with the updated national numbering plan released today, TRA issued a public notice and a regulation to enact the National Numbering Plan. All related documents can be found on TRA 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 operators. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

Media Contact

Dana Chehab
Director of Communications and Consumer Affairs

Tel: +973 17 520000
Mobile: +973 39710033
Fax: +973 17 532125
Email: dchehab@tra.org.bh