



News Release

TRA consults on the Regulation of Wholesale International Inbound Calls

Seef District, Kingdom of Bahrain - Monday 6 February 2012

In a step to achieve transparency in its operations and processes, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has issued a public consultation on the potential regulation of wholesale international inbound calls. Wholesale international inbound calls are supplied by Licensed Operators in Bahrain to foreign telecommunications operators to enable the completion of international telephone calls to subscribers in Bahrain.

In recent years, wholesale international charges for these services have been falling, reducing the cost for foreign operators to supply international calls into Bahrain. However, it appears that these cost reductions have not been passed through by other GCC operators into their retail call charges. As a result, end users in Bahrain have not benefited from lower costs of being called.

The Authority therefore proposes to establish minimum price floors for wholesale international inbound services supplied by Licensed Operators in Bahrain to GCC operators. The Authority is inviting interested parties to provide submissions by 23 February 2012.

The consultation document on the regulation of wholesale international inbound calls can be found on TRA's website at www.tra.org.bh.

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