



Guidance on the TRA License Application Process

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) is obliged to protect the interest of consumers by ensuring that licenses are granted only to those parties deemed capable of providing the relevant services. It is important therefore that applications for licenses are considered in the light of technical competence, financial probity and operational capability.

The TRA will consider telecommunications and frequency license applications on a case-by-case basis and will seek dialogue with each Applicant in order to ensure clear understanding of their proposal.

There are a number of general conditions that all Applicants for telecommunications licenses in Bahrain must fulfill - see section 26 of the Telecommunications Law for further information. These are that the prospective licensee:

1. must be a juristic entity incorporated in Bahrain or branch of a foreign entity licensed to operate in Bahrain. Note however that Bahrain -incorporated entities may be foreign owned;
2. must locate substantially all infrastructure and personnel associated with the provision of services in Bahrain, within Bahrain. It must maintain all operational activities associated with the provision of services in Bahrain, also within Bahrain.

The TRA will notify the Applicant in writing within 14 days of receipt of the application for a license, as specified in section 27(a) of the Telecommunications Law for telecommunications licenses and section 44(a) of the Telecommunications Law for frequency licenses, that it has received the application. After all the necessary documentation has been submitted and the license fees have been paid by the Applicant, the TRA will grant the license under the timetables provided for in the Telecommunications Law if the applicant meets the necessary criteria.

Applicant must be fully aware of the requirements of the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain and in particular the Telecommunications Law, Regulations issued by the TRA and license conditions for the licenses for which they apply.

Application forms for all licenses are available from the TRA web site, at www.tra.org.bh

For enquiries, email license@tra.org.bh



Types of individual license issued by the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority

License	Availability	Initial Fee	Renewal Fee
Mobile Telecommunications license This license allows provision of mobile Telecommunications service by its own network	(Two operating licenses have granted (to Batelco and to MTC-Vodafone) No further licenses of this type are currently available		
Paging Service license This license allows the commercial used of paging services to subscribers.	Available since Q1, 2004 No restriction on number of licenses available	BD 5,000	1% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity
VSAT license This license grants the use of Very Small Aperture Terminal, a digital satellite data network with small antenna diameter, for private use only	Available since Q1, 2004 No restriction on number of licenses available	BD 5,000	1% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity
Public Access Mobile Radio Service license This license allows the use of Public Access Mobile Radio in dispatch applications (e.g. by truck and taxi fleets.)	Available since Q1, 2004 No restriction on number of licenses available	BD 5,000	1% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity
International Telecommunications Facilities license This license authorizes the termination/ landing/ establishment of international connectivity and obligation and right to connect to other Bahrain licensed networks	Available since Q1, 2004 No restriction on number of licenses available	BD 20,000	1% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity
International Telecommunications Service license This license allows the provision of international voice and data services with requirement to deploy physical traffic aggregation structure	Available since Q3, 2004 No restriction on number of licenses available	BD 10,000	1% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity
National Fixed Services license This license allows the provision of national fixed voice and data services by its own network.	Available since Q3, 2004 No restriction on number of licenses available	BD 35,000	1% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity
Internet Exchange License This license provides the holders of internet service licenses with a connection mechanism in which internet communications are aggregated, transmitted and distributed to licensed internet services providers	One license has been granted to Bahrain Internet Exchange (BIX). No further licenses of this type are currently available . Additional such licenses may be granted after the second anniversary of the grant of the first license (BIX) which is 14th March 2006		



In addition to these individual licenses, the TRA also grants class licenses for Value Added Services and Internet Services provision, as indicated in the table below.

Types of class license issued by the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority

License	Availability	Initial Fee	Renewal Fee
Internet Service Provider license This license allows the provision of internet services but not including voice.	Available since 2003 No restriction on number of licenses available	BD 1,000	1% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity
Value Added Services license This license allows the provision of services over an existing network (e.g. card services)	Available since 2003 No restriction on number of licenses available	BD 1,000	1% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity

The TRA also grants frequency licenses for the use of frequency spectrum below 3THz. The availability, initial fee and renewal fee for these licenses depends upon the frequencies, bandwidth and use to which the applied frequencies will be put by an Applicant and any policies set by the TRA or the Ministry of Transportation (Directorate of Wireless Licensing, Frequency & Monitoring).