



TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY **ANNOUNCES NEW MOBILE LICENCE AWARD**

- Following a rigorous selection process, the Board of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (“TRA”) is pleased to announce the award of a licence to provide mobile telecommunications services in Kingdom of Bahrain to MTC Vodafone.
- The licence is awarded under the Telecommunications Law decree No. 48, which came into effect on 23 October, 2002. The license will be formally granted by the TRA on **22nd April, 2003**, at which time there will be a full press conference.
- There will be a press conference to formally announce the award and the procedure involved in the selection process. This will be held at 12 noon on Sunday 20th April 2003 at the Radisson Diplomat Hotel.
- The new licensee will compete with Batelco to meet fast expanding demand for Mobile services within the Kingdom.

Commenting on the announcement Dr Mohammed Alghatam, Chairman of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) said:

“The TRA should like to thank all ten (10) organisations that applied for this license. The applications were generally of a high quality, and the Kingdom of Bahrain has been fortunate in being able to choose from such a wide range of applicants.

All users of mobile telecommunications services within Bahrain will begin to benefit immediately from the introduction of competition. Users of a range of other telecommunications services will also see positive changes as the TRA awards licenses in other areas of service provision over the coming months.



The award of this license marks a significant development not only in terms of the Telecommunications Sector, but also within the wider context of the liberalisation, and thus stimulus of the whole economy of the Kingdom, from which all citizens will benefit.

The TRA has applied parameters and processes in the mobile licensing process that are consistent with free market principles and thus will encourage vigorous competition and ensure that both Batelco and the new licensee are in a position to pass maximum benefits to their users, whilst growing their businesses and creating employment.

TRA now invites operators and investors to consider the further business opportunities, in Bahrain, that follow upon the important step that has been taken today”.