

Information Note to the Press

Immediate Release

(Press Release No. 42/2020)

TRAI holds Open House Discussion on “Framework for Technical Compliance of CAS and SMS for Broadcasting and Cable Services”

New Delhi, 26th June 2020- Continuing with the novel initiative of holding Open House Discussions (OHDs) through online mode, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) held its 5th virtual (online) Open House Discussion (OHD) on 25/06/2020 on the consultation paper titled “*Framework for Technical Compliance of CAS and SMS for Broadcasting and Cable Services*”.

2. The endeavour of TRAI is to safeguard the interest of the stakeholders by avoiding undue exposure during pandemic, while ensuring that it continues to discharge its regulatory functions, without compromising on the principles of transparent public participation process.

3. There was a rich participation from various stakeholders with over 220 participants registering for the event from across the country. Apart from service providers and their associations, the participants consisted of technology providers, individual consumers, consumer groups, independent industry observers, media persons etc. The new format of the TRAI OHD provides the opportunity to the participants to participate with utmost ease from anywhere in India, even from their homes, which was unanimously appreciated by all the participants.

4. The Open House Discussion was held in continuation to the Consultation Paper released by TRAI on 22nd April, 2020 on “Framework for Technical Compliance of Conditional Access System (CAS) and Subscriber Management Systems (SMS) for Broadcasting & Cable Services” on suo-motu basis. The consultation process has been initiated in view of the frequent complaints of channel piracy, relaying of unencrypted signals, incorrect reporting of subscriptions etc. from various broadcasters and also, complaints from MSOs (often from small players) regarding support related and operational issues faced by them from technology providers.

5. There was a vibrant and intense participation from various stakeholders. Almost all the stakeholders agreed that current compliance mechanism is not adequate and there is need for additional measures.

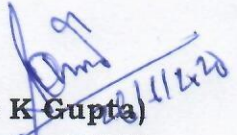
6. After conclusion of the detailed deliberations, which ran for almost four hours, the Authority provided one more opportunity to all the stakeholders to express their views on the issues under consideration in the consultation paper. Stakeholders may



submit additional comments/suggestions latest by 30th June, 2020 to Sh. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Advisor (B &CS) by email at advbcs-2@trai.gov.in .

7. The inputs received from all the stakeholders at various stages viz. Comments, Counter Comments in response to the Consultation Paper, oral and written inputs during the OHD etc. will be analysed on their merits and relevance. TRAI will accordingly finalize regulatory framework for “Technical Compliance of Conditional Access System (CAS) and Subscriber Management Systems (SMS) for Broadcasting & Cable Services” in due course, keeping in view the overall objectives of protecting the interest of consumers and other stakeholders and ensuring orderly growth of the sector.

8. The Authority acknowledges the stakeholders’ contribution and active participation in making the Open House Discussions fruitful. For any further information/ clarification, stakeholders may contact Sh. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Advisor B & CS-II at advbcs-2@trai.gov.in .


(S K Gupta)
Secretary, TRAI