

**Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 23/2017)**

For Immediate Release

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**

**TRAI releases Consultation Paper on “Introduction of UL (VNO) for Access Service authorization for category B license with districts of a State as a service area”**

**New Delhi, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2017** – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a Consultation Paper on “**Introduction of UL (VNO) for Access Service authorization for category B license with districts of a State as a service area**”.

2. The Department of Telecommunication (DoT), through its reference dated 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 has requested TRAI to issue recommendations for Access Service authorization for category ‘B’ license with districts of a State as a service area for Virtual Network Operators (VNOs).

3. In 1994, DoT introduced a scheme of operation called Direct Inward Dialing (DID) to provide facilities of group EPABX by the private entities as franchisees of DoT.

4. Pursuant to TRAI recommendation on ‘Introduction of Virtual Network Operators in telecom sector’ dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015, DoT issued guidelines on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2016 for the grant of Unified License (VNO). Further, vide its notification dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016, DoT separately issued guidelines for grant of UL (VNO) for authorization for category ‘B’ license with districts of a State as a service area for entrepreneurs like Direct Inward Dialing (DID) franchisees.

5. Now, TRAI has issued this Consultation Paper, raising specific issues, for consideration of stakeholders. Therefore, this consultation paper is limited to the issues related to the modalities for the introduction of UL (VNO) Cat-B for Access Service authorization for service area under geographical area of a District of a State/UT). The Consultation Paper has been placed on TRAI’s website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in).

6. Written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper are invited from the stakeholders by **17<sup>th</sup> April, 2017** and counter-comments by **24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**.

7. The comments and counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form at [advmn@trai.gov.in](mailto:advmn@trai.gov.in). For any clarification/information Shri Sanjeev Banzal, Advisor (NSL), TRAI may be contacted at Telephone Number +91-11-23210481.

  
**(Sudhir Gupta)**  
**Secretary, TRAI**