

Comments on the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on allocation and Pricing for 2.3-2.4 GHZ, 2.5-2.69 GHZ, & 3.3-3.6 GHZ Bands dated 2nd May 2008

The frequency Bands already allocated to existing ISP's should be kept intact to allow them for their use for following reasons:

- a) After due consideration and payment of Spectrum Charges Department of Telecommunication had issued licenses to our Company for frequencies in 3.3 to 3.4 GHz in July 2007 consequently we and ISP's like us has acted upon towards the establishments of infrastructure consequent to the issue of the frequency licenses by the Department and has already incurred huge amount of expenses on infrastructures, equipments and their performance testing and any decision for relocating and taking such frequency allocation back will not only results into huge loss to such allottees and will also defeat the very purpose of Govt. of India to increase the broadband penetration.
- b) Since the technology of wimax is still in developing stages and feasible equipments are available only for few frequencies such as 3.3-3.4 GHz band and any decision or migration from such frequency will not only result in huge loss of the amount already invested but also make it impossible to roll out their services in near future which lead to a major setback to the internet / broadband industry as a whole.
- c) The spectrum Charges for the existing allottees should remain on per BTS basis only and not on the basis of Circle wide as such ISP's are already into operation and paying the same to DOT on per BTS basis as their business plans were made keeping in view the existing DOT policy towards spectrum Charges.

Further, forcing such migration to Circle Wide scheme will also affect the survival of small operators as they don't have the capacity to invest huge amount on establishing BTS stations to cover the whole Circle and will only favor the big operators who are already having their operation and infrastructure in the whole Circle.

- d) The reserve price should be applicable for new applicants in 3.4-3.6 GHz band and existing allocation should not come under the preview of reserve price, wherever applicable, as the authority need to recognize that the services offered by these ISP's are data and fixed in nature and the business/profitability is far lower than the telecom licensees who offers all types of services including data, fixed and voice.

Further, as compared to 2.3-2.4 GHz band in 3.4-3.6 GHz band the number of base station and equipment investment is much higher and also the indoor coverage is quite poor consequently in most cases needs outdoor equipment installation also, hence, any reserve price, if applicable, should not be more than 10% of the price in 2 GHz band.

Since the last few years the Government of India is taking initiative for spreading the internet/broadband in the Country but such frequent changes in their policies will defeat their own purpose because again rolling out new services takes huge amount of time, resources and efforts so it is suggested that existing operators with frequency allocation should be kept intact for the benefit of Broadband industry which will also help the Government in serving their own purpose.