

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

**October 30, 2006
Press Release No. 101/ 2006**

TRAI LAUNCHES REGULATION ON INTELLIGENT NETWORK SERVICES FOR STAKEHOLDERS' COMMENTS

Consumers are today offered a number of innovative services made available through Intelligent Network (IN) deployed by telecom service providers in their network. Free phone or Toll Free Number, Virtual Calling Card (VCC) for long distance calls, Premium numbers for special services offered and Tele Voting Services are examples of services offered through IN platforms. Under the present dispensation these services do not flow to all the subscribers and can only be accessed by subscribers of a specific operation.

With the induction of new basic and cellular operators in the Indian Telecommunication network a multi-operator environment has emerged. It became necessary to finalise necessary technical and regulatory inputs for the introduction of IN services based on the IN platform and Inter-Network accessibility in a Multi-Service Multi-Operator environment in the country. To enable consumers of all service providers to avail such IN services, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had issued a Draft Regulation on 2nd December, 2005 for comments of stakeholders. Earlier to this draft paper, the Authority had constituted an Expert Committee in 2003 to make specific recommendation on technical and regulatory issue. TRAI also received written comments from various service providers/associations and also had detailed discussions with them. This was followed by series of consultations with the telecom service providers. The Draft Regulation appreciating various comments/suggestions received from the various service providers has now emerged which is placed on TRAI's website on 30th October 2006 for further comments of stakeholders, if any, within 7 days i.e., expiring on 6th November 2006. It is proposed to finalise the regulation after internal deliberations on all the comments that may be received on this draft regulation. The final regulation will aim to enable all telecom consumers in the country to have access to Multi-

operator Multi-service IN platform and no operator will be permitted to block his consumers from accessing IN platform belonging to other service providers. The regulation also provides that the service providers will have to adopt standard agreement in case they fail to arrive at mutually acceptable agreement within a specified time. The regulation mandates all service providers to provide interconnection to all eligible service providers so that subscribers of all Access Providers will have a choice of using the IN services of other service providers.

The Draft Regulation is available on TRAI's Website (www.traigov.in) under "What's New" and stakeholders have been requested to give their comments and observations by 6th November 2006 to TRAI.

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