

# **TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

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## **PRESS RELEASE No. 24 /2006**

### **TRAI PROVIDES ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON MOBILE NUMBER PORTABILITY**

TRAI today released its Recommendations on mobile number portability. Mobile Number Portability (MNP) allows Mobile subscribers to change their service provider while retaining their subscriber number. Portability benefits subscribers, encourages improvement in quality of service through increased level of competition between service providers, rewarding those operators having better customer service, network coverage, and service quality.

2. Considering the present status of telecom services in India, TRAI considers it an appropriate time to initiate process for implementing Mobile Number Portability so as to increase customer convenience, Quality of Service and further enhance competition among service providers in the Mobile sector.

3. The following are Salient features of TRAI recommendations on Mobile Number Portability:

- ❖ Mobile Number Portability implementation process should be initiated in our country. A time frame of 12 months between the acceptance of recommendation by the Government and launch of this facility is recommended. It is recommended that this facility should be available to mobile subscribers tentatively by 1st April 2007.
- ❖ Government may mandate all UASLs/CMSPs to implement Mobile Number Portability. Further, it is recommended that initially MNP be introduced within the service Area only.
- ❖ It is appropriate to implement MNP in phased manner starting from metros and A category service areas followed by B then C category service areas within the interval of six months.
- ❖ A direct solution i.e. All Call Query Method be implemented for mobile number portability in India.

- ❖ Mobile Operators through neutral third party shall establish logically centralised database with not more than 5 regionally located databases. Cost of this database shall be borne proportionately based on subscriber base by each operator. This database shall be the depository for the ported numbers.
- ❖ Any other issues relating to creation of database, interfaces, performance parameters, service levels shall be resolved by discussion and coordination among all the stakeholders. A steering committee consisting of operators, industry association and TEC under the aegis of TRAI shall be constituted to workout the details of these implementation issues.
- ❖ Customer shall approach recipient operator for porting
- ❖ In respect of porting charges, only Recipient operator shall be permitted to charge a fee for successful porting.
- ❖ Provision may be made by the licensor in the license indicating TRAI shall issue regulation in this regard
- ❖ Common setup costs for Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC), Clearing House would be borne by operators based on the subscriber market share of operators as on 1st Jan 2007.

4. The issue of cost of implementation and therefore cost to the customer has been carefully analysed by the TRAI. It is estimated that even if the entire cost is transferred to the porting customer, it works out to a one time payment of around Rs.200 which will enable the operator to recover his investment cost in 3 to 5 years.

5. The issue of Fixed Number Portability was also examined and it was found that the reasons of non availability of private operators networks in all SDCAs (roughly tehsils) and the numbering scheme being SDCA based besides existence of huge legacy networks etc., the Authority has come to the conclusion that this is not the appropriate time for introducing Fixed Number Portability.

6. The details of the recommendation on MNP may be seen at TRAI's website : [www.traigov.in](http://www.traigov.in)

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