



No. ITU-APT/L/2023-24/852

February 5, 2024

To,
Dr. Neeraj Mittal
Chairman, DCC & Secretary (T) Department of Telecommunications,
Ministry of Communications,
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi – 110001

Subject: Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication Services

Dear Sir,

At the outset, we extend our gratitude for a ground-breaking and forward-looking Telecommunications Act, 2023 (“Telecom Act”), introducing seminal reforms in the Indian telecom landscape. We would also like to extend our gratitude to DoT for the comprehensive Satellite Communications (SatCom) reforms in 2022.

The Indian Space Policy of 2023, complementing the vision of the Honorable Prime Minister, has opened new avenues for India's digital economy through space communications, allowing private SatCom players to offer commercial services. SatCom holds immense potential for broader socio-economic benefits, bridging the digital divide in remote areas and addressing the country's disaster, maritime, and defence needs.

The Telecom Act prescribes that spectrum for certain satellite-based services, including: Radio backhaul for telecommunication services, In-flight and maritime connectivity, Teleports, Television channels, Direct To Home, Headend In The Sky, Digital Satellite News Gathering, Very Small Aperture Terminal, Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellites, National Long Distance (NLD), International Long Distance, Mobile Satellite Service in L and S bands” shall be assigned on an administrative basis.

Over the past two decades, the government has been assigning satellite spectrum to VSAT and other telecom players administratively. While the Industry looks forward to the issuance

of Rules under the Telecom Act, the guidelines for the administrative allocation of spectrum for satellite services, including VSAT and NLD, are already in place. VSAT and other similar operators have received satellite spectrum allocations in accordance with their requirements under the current guidelines and are actively providing satellite services.

In order to avoid any potential delays in the launch of services by new VSAT and other satellite operators, we sincerely request that any application for assignment of satellite spectrum under VSAT and other similar service authorizations under Unified Licence should be processed immediately under the existing guidelines. Such requests/applications should not be delayed pending the issuance of Rules under the Telecom Act. Needless to say once the Rules are issued, they will be equally applicable to operators in this domain.

We hope our above submission will be considered favorably and necessary actions will be taken in this regard.

Thanking you,
Yours Sincerely,



Bharat B Bhatia,
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CC:

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