

SUMMARY

Satellite Communications is expected to play a major role in connecting the underserved and unserved areas of the country in the coming years. Many new applications are being developed world wide to meet the growing user demands and requirements, in particular by using LEO satellites. The activities are on a growth trajectory with huge commercial potential. Participation of Non-Government-Private-Entities (NGPEs) in space activities is expected to expand the space economy.

In order to enhance the role of private enterprises in satellite communications, Government of India has decided to permit NGPE's to carry out various satellite related activities including launch of spacecraft on board a launch vehicle, establishment/ operation of launch infrastructure and providing space based services including operation, control and station keeping of spacecraft by establishing and operation of ground segment/ stations.

At present there is no national law governing the use of satellites and the DOT administers the satcom policy under the existing Indian Telegraph act through the regulator TRAI and TDSAT. ISRO has proposed to create a new national level nodal agency to promote, hand hold, permit, monitor and supervise space activities by NGPEs. This agency, to be called Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACE) is proposed to be established by ISRO. In this scenario, role of existing regulatory bodies such as TRAI, TDSAT and DOT in this process needs to be clearly delineated and understood by all the stake holders.

This conference will aim to put forth the views of stake holders in the satellite communications industry on these issues.