IAFI News

Fourth and final meeting of NFAP -2022

The fourth and final meeting of the NFAP-2022 Review/Revision Committee was held on February 27, 2025, in the Spectrum Room, Sanchar Bhawan. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI, and many other IAFI members participated in the meeting. The committee finalized IND Footnotes, reviewed the frequency allocation table, and addressed feedback on Chapters 1, 2, and 3. A key proposal from IAFI, regarding the allocation of 10 MHz spectrum for BB-FPDR, was thoroughly discussed and approved. During the meeting, BSNL raised a request to include the 6440-6450 MHz frequency band in the IND Footnote due to its use for their GMPCS satellite gateway station at ALITC GZB. This request was met with objections, as BSNL has not raised the issue during the WG-3 meeting. BSNL subsequently apologized for the same.

ITU Space Connect series

The ITU Space Connect series delivers very informative monthly virtual episodes exploring the dynamic space sector. These sessions unite global industry leaders, regulators, and specialists to discuss a wide range of topics, including satellite technologies, space safety, climate monitoring, emergency response, and economic development. Each episode features expert presentations, interactive panel discussions, and opportunities for audience engagement, with materials made available through ITU's online portal, to examine the challenges and opportunities of our expanding space ecosystem and its growing impact on life on Earth. All materials are accessible through the ITU's online portal, enabling participants to delve into the challenges and opportunities of our expanding space ecosystem and its impact on Earth. The 12-episode series launched with 'LEO Satellite Constellation Fundamentals' on January 30, 2025 (E1), followed by 'Authorizing LEO Services - A Global Perspective' on February 27, 2025 (E2).

https://www.itu.int/space-connect/

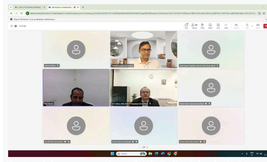
IAFI letter to Wireless Advisor, DoT

Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a letter dated February 25, 2025, requested the Wireless Advisor, DoT to consider permiting the use of antennas smaller than 1.2 meters in the Lower Ku-Band (13.75-14 GHz). IAFI acknowledged current Radio Regulations and ITU-R recommendations, which generally prohibit smaller antennas in this band. However, IAFI suggested that allowing such antennas would significantly benefit India's telecommunications infrastructure, particularly satellite communications, due to substantial available capacity. IAFI highlighted the following advantages:

1. Improved Accessibility and Coverage: Enhanced connectivity in urban and remote areas, supporting high-quality satellite-based services.
2. Cost Efficiency: Reduced capital and operational costs, making satellite communications more affordable.
3. Technological Advancements: Reliable communication performance enabled by efficient antenna designs and advanced signal processing.
4. Alignment with Global Trends: Maintaining competitiveness by aligning with international regulations that permit smaller antennas.

IAFI urged the Wireless Advisor to consider this regulatory change and assured that this regulatory modification would stimulate innovation and accelerate the expansion of satellite communication services in India, effectively addressing the escalating demand for broadband connectivity and efficient telecommunications solutions.

NCA-T Ghaziabad workshop on Satellite Broadband



The National Communication Academy - T (NCA-T) Ghaziabad, under the Department of Telecommunications, successfully conducted an online workshop on February 25, 2025, focusing on "Satellite Broadband: Trends, Opportunities, and Challenges." The event drew over 150 participants, including representatives from IAFI and DoT, BSNL, MTNL, various government bodies, TRAI, leading Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs), academic institutions, and industry experts. The workshop's primary objective was to illustrate the transformative role of satellite broadband in expanding global connectivity, especially in regions underserved by traditional infrastructure. Speakers emphasized how advancements in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) satellite constellations are supporting digital inclusion, strengthen 5G backhaul capabilities, and stimulate economic development. Key application areas explored included bridging the digital divide, enterprise and defense solutions, smart agriculture, and rapid emergency response. The workshop also provided a comprehensive overview of the challenges facing satellite broadband deployment, such as high implementation costs, spectrum allocation complexities, regulatory frameworks, and affordability concerns.
The workshop was inaugurated by the Director General of NCA-T, Ghaziabad. Presentations were then delivered by eminent speakers: Mr. Prafulla Kumar, VP (Tech) and Product Head (Satcom) at RJIO; Mr. Arun Agarwal, Deputy Director General (Satellite) at DoT HQ; Mr. Harsimranjit Singh Gill, Director of Sales at Intelsat; and Ms. Sonali Nanda, Deputy Director of the PMA Directorate at IN-SPACe.

IAFI comments/suggestion regarding GSR 82 (E) to Joint Secretary (T), DoT

As part of the development of new Telecom Rules under the Telecommunication Act, 2023, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released a draft Notification No. G.S.R. 82(E) on January 29, 2025, outlining the proposed Telecommunications (Standards, Conformity Assessment and Certification) Rules, 2025 and requested stakeholder feedback within 30 days. IAFI, after thorough consultation with its industry partners, submitted comprehensive suggestions and comments on February 28, 2025, to the Joint Secretary (T), DoT, to enhance the framework for telecommunications standards and conformity assessment in India.

https://iafi.in/system/static/uploads/pdf/IAFI-COMMENTS-%20GSR-CAB.pdf

TRAI Recommendations dated 28-02-2025 on the Framework for Service Authorisations

On June 21, 2024, the DoT requested the TRAI to provide recommendations on the terms, conditions, fees, and charges for telecommunication service authorizations under the Telecommunications Act 2023. TRAI initiated a stakeholder consultation on July 11, 2024, and subsequently submitted its recommendations to DoT on September 18, 2024. In response, DoT, on January 14, 2025, requested TRAI to reconsider specific aspects of its recommendations, particularly regarding the authorization regime. TRAI largely upheld its original recommendations, rejecting DoT's proposed changes. Specifically, for satellite-based services, TRAI reaffirmed its stance that a separate authorization is necessary, maintaining its recommendation of a distinct service authorization with lower financial obligations to encourage investment in this specialized and developing sector. TRAI reiterated its recommendation that a separate service authorisation with reasonably light financial obligations including low entry fees.

https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-02/Recommendation_28022025.pdf

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R Working Party 6C (WP 6C) - Programme production and quality assessment	03rd - 07th Mar 2025	22nd Feb 2025
ITU-T SG13 - Future networks and emerging network technologies	03rd - 14th Mar 2025	22nd Feb 2025
ITU-R Working Party 6A (WP 6A) - Terrestrial broadcasting delivery	05th - 12th Mar 2025	24th Feb 2025
ITU-R Working Party 6B (WP 6B) - Broadcast service assembly and access	10th - 13th Mar 2025	28th Feb 2025
ITU-R Study Group 6 (SG 6)	14th Mar 2025	02nd Mar 2025
ITU-R Working Party 7B (WP 7B) - Space radiocommunication applications	17th - 26th Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025
ITU-R Working Party 7C (WP 7C) - Remote sensing systems	17th - 26th Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025
ITU-R Working Party 7D (WP 7D) - Radio astronomy	17th - 26th Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025
ITU-R Radio Regulations Board (RRB)	17th - 21st Mar 2025	05th Mar 2025
APT: The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-3)	17th - 18th Mar 2025	06th Mar 2025
ITU-D Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia & Pacific for WTDC-25	20th - 21st Mar 2025	08th Mar 2025
APT: The 34th Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-34)	31st Mar - 2nd April 2025	24th Mar 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4C (WP 4C) - Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for MSS and RDSS	23rd April 05th May 2025	11th April 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4B (WP 4B)	30th April - 05th May 2025	18th April 2025
ITU-R Working Party 4A (WP 4A) - Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for FSS and BSS	05th - 16th May 2025	24th April 2025
APT: The 2nd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-2)	28th July - 01st Aug 2025	18th July 2025

Telecom Stories:

India's Communications Minister to Attend MWC 2025 in Barcelona: Jyotiraditya Scindia, India's Union Minister for Communications, will represent the country at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025 in Barcelona. MWC is a premier global event in the mobile technology sector, bringing together industry leaders to discuss advancements and innovations.

AI Agents Set to Take Center Stage at MWC 2025: The upcoming Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2025 in Barcelona is poised to showcase significant advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly focusing on AI agents. These programs, capable of executing multistep tasks based on simple directives, are nearing commercial deployment. Telecommunication giants like AT&T and Verizon, with their extensive customer service operations and intricate networks, are prime candidates for integrating AI agents. Major tech companies such as Amazon, Microsoft, and Alphabet (Google's parent company) are actively pursuing collaborations with these telecom leaders to solidify their positions in the public cloud infrastructure market, leveraging AI as a strategic asset.

Follow us on::

ITU-APT Foundation Of India 5th, Fifth Floor World Trade Center (Behind Lalit Hotel) Barakhamba Road New Delhi- 110001, India.
Contact No.: +91-11-45005163, 7017210403, 9999797700 - Website: iafi.in