

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

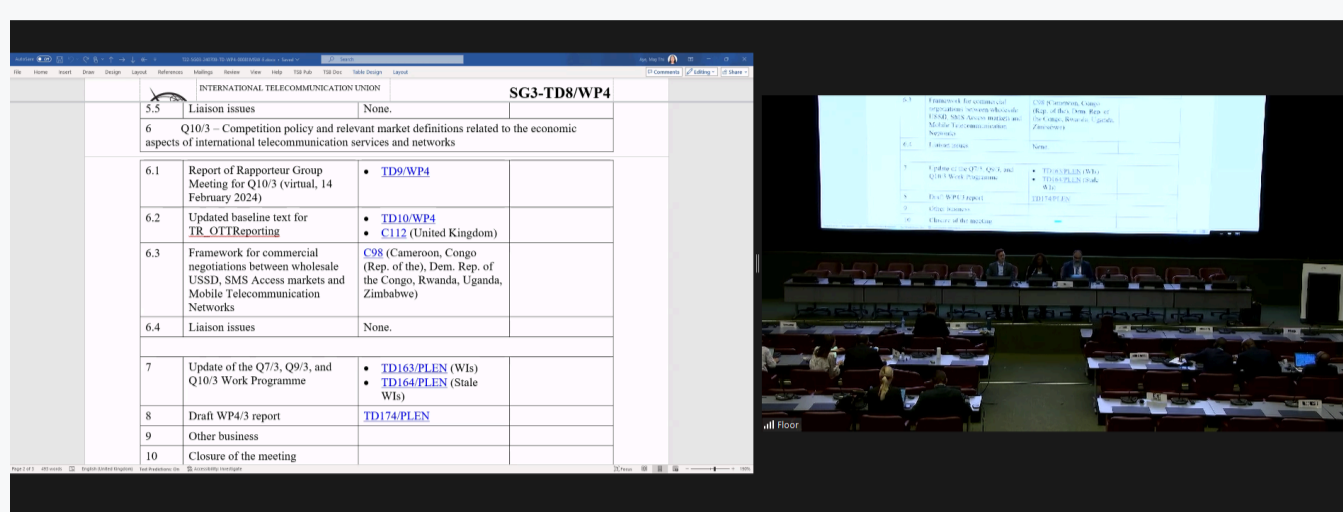
IAFI News

Open House Discussion (OHD) by TRAI



On April 4, 2024, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released a Consultation Paper seeking stakeholder feedback on the auction of spectrum in the 37.0-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40.0 GHz, and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands designated for IMT services. TRAI received a total of 12 comments, including one from the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI). To further engage stakeholders, TRAI conducted a virtual Open House Discussion (OHD) on July 10, 2024, from 11:15 AM to 12:20 PM. TRAI representatives included Chairman Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Secretary Shri Atul Kumar Chaudhary, Principal Advisors (Network, Spectrum & Licensing) Shri Sheo Bhadra Singh and Shri Akhilesh Kumar Trivedi, Advisor (Network, Spectrum & Licensing-II) Shri D. Manoj, Principal Advisor (Finance) Shri Amit Sharma, and Advisor (Finance & Economic Analysis-II). While most stakeholders advocated for an immediate auction, Ms. Anjali Hans from VI (Vodafone Idea) expressed a different view. Citing the lack of a mature ecosystem in the 37.0-43.5 GHz band, she proposed that TRAI postpone the auction process. Additionally, a few stakeholders suggested reserving some spectrum for Frequency Division Duplex (FDD) technology to support microwave backhaul connectivity. In response to the feedback, the Chairman of TRAI agreed to extend the deadline for submitting valuable suggestions by seven days.

Meeting of SG-3 of ITU-T:



The ITU-T Study Group - 3 meeting on tariff and accounting principles, and international telecommunication/ICT economic and policy issues, kicked off on July 9, 2024, and runs until July 18. During the plenary session, Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (IIJ) presented a contribution (C-108) titled "5G Policy Considerations for Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs)," co-edited by the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI). This contribution builds upon a previous iteration presented by IIJ at the SG-3RG-AO meeting from June 4-6, 2024. Backed by IAFI and suggesting edits in the various sections, the contribution also garnered support from the Telecom Centre of Excellence (TCOE) of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and South Korea. Following acceptance of the modifications by the regional group, it was agreed to present the revised contribution at the current SG-3 meeting.

Unveiling the power of Wi-Fi in 6 GHz band:



In a recent article 1 titled "Unveiling the Power of Wi-Fi in the 6 GHz Band: A Quantum Leap in Wireless Connectivity," published in Communication Today magazine, IAFI President Shri Bharat Bhatia makes a compelling case for de-licensing the 6 GHz band in India. The article delves into various aspects of Wi-Fi 6E technology, highlighting its potential to revolutionize wireless connectivity in the country. Shri Bhatia meticulously explains how unlocking the 6 GHz band for Wi-Fi 6E deployment could be a game-changer. He emphasizes the benefits of Wi-Fi 6E, including increased spectrum efficiency, support for more devices, and enhanced network performance in congested environments. Notably, several developed nations like the US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Singapore, and the UAE have already de-licensed the 5925-6425 MHz band for this purpose. The urgency for India to follow suit is underscored by the growing congestion in the currently used 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands. De-licensing the 6 GHz band is critical to prevent India from falling behind in technological advancement, hindering economic growth, and widening the digital divide. Shri Bhatia urges swift action, arguing that by de-licensing the 6 GHz band, India can position itself as a leader in wireless innovation and secure its digital future. <https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/unveiling-the-power-of-wi-fi-in-the-6ghz-band-a-quantum-leap-in-wireless-connectivity/>

Draft Right of Way (RoW) Rules:



Following the enactment of the New Telecommunication Act, 2023, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released the "Draft Telecommunications Right of Way Rules, 2024" for public comment on July 12, 2024. The notification specifies a 30-day window for suggestions/feedback, after which the DoT will consider suggestions before finalizing the rules. Objections or comments can be submitted to the Joint Secretary (Telecom) at the DoT HQ, New Delhi.

These draft rules aim to streamline the installation process for telecom infrastructure like towers, cables, and small cells on both public and private land. Key improvements include:

- A. Simplified Permitting - The rules aim to make it easier to obtain permission for infrastructure installation.
- B. Compensation Framework - Service providers can establish a system for obtaining permission and offering compensation, particularly for using private property.
- C. Broadened Eligibility - Unlike previous regulations limited to licensees, any "facility provider," including contractors and subcontractors, can now apply for Right of Way (RoW) permissions.
- D. Cost-Effective Measures - The draft exempts underground network installations on public property from compensation requirements.

There will be no charge for setting up temporary above-ground installations in case of damaged underground infrastructure. Similarly, rates for using street furniture for small cell installations are set at Rs 300 annually in urban areas and Rs 150 in rural areas.

These draft RoW rules, if implemented, are expected to significantly address challenges faced by the telecom industry. Previously, navigating the diverse RoW regulations of various state governments created hurdles for infrastructure deployment. The streamlined and standardized approach proposed by the DoT has the potential to expedite network expansion and improve connectivity across the country.

TRAI Consultation Papers

Consultation Papers	Submission Dates	Status
The Issues Related to Critical Services in the M2M Sector, and Transfer of Ownership of M2M SIMs	22nd July 2024	Under Development
Revision of National Numbering Plan	01st Aug 2024	Under Development
The Framework for Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023	01st Aug 2024	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-T: SG/WP3- Economic and Policy Issues	09th July - 18th July 2024	28th June 2024
ITU-T: SG/WP13- Future Networks	15th July - 26th July 2024	03rd July 2024
APT: The 24th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-24)	16th July - 18th July 2024	06th July 2024
APT: 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (APT WTDC25-1)	19th July 2024	09th July 2024
ITU-T: TSAG- Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group	29th July - 02nd Aug 2024	17th July 2024
APT: The 5th Meeting of APT Preparatory Group for WTSa-24 (APT WTSa24-5)	19th Aug - 23rd Aug 2024	09th Aug 2024
ITU-R: Working Party 7D- Radio astronomy	17th Sep - 26th Sep 2024	05th Sep 2024
ITU-R: Working party 7B - Space radiocommunication applications	18th Sep - 27th Sep 2024	06th Sep 2024

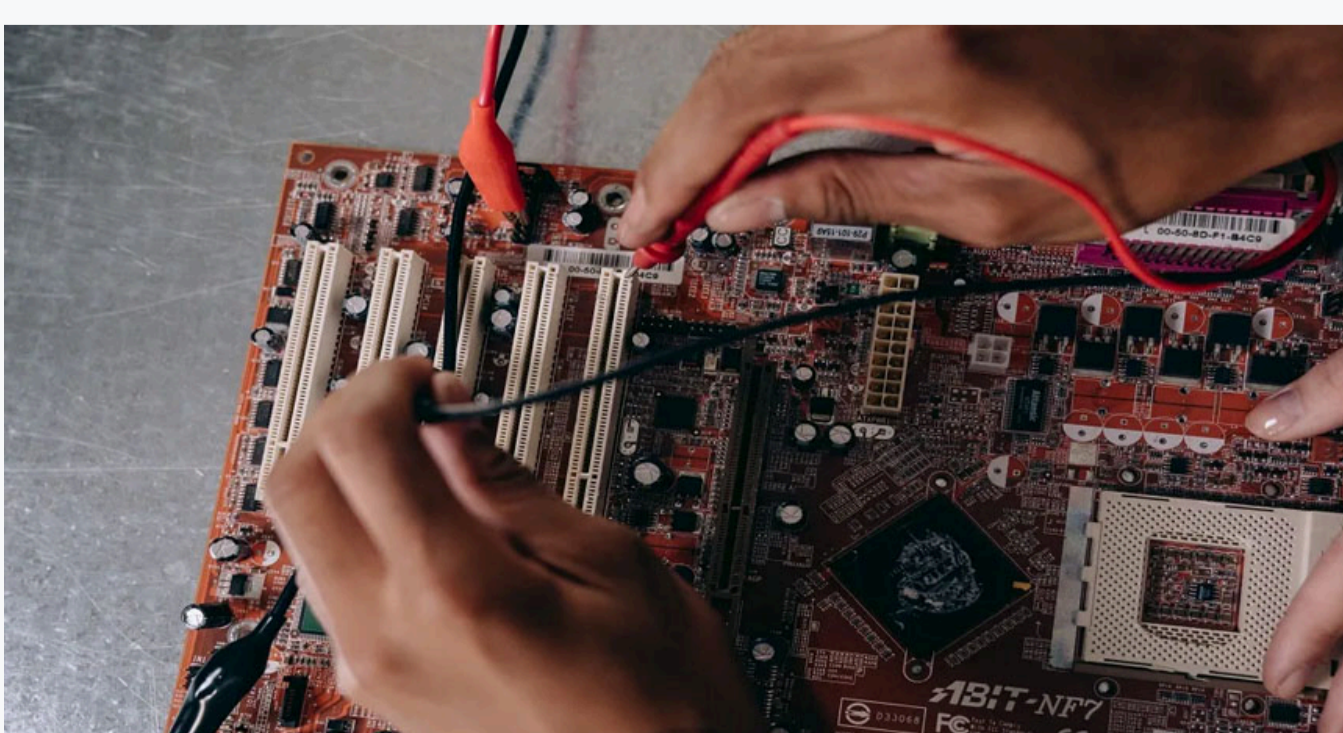
Telecom Stories:



Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia is set to start consultations with the telecom industry to develop a roadmap for its next phase of growth, including a new set of reforms. The meeting follows the recent spectrum auction which fetched government bids of Rs 11,340 crore against Rs 96,238 crore minimum value that the government had estimated for the spectrum on offer.






Attention is invited to IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center) Norms, Guidelines and Procedures for implementation of Indian Space Policy- 2023 released on 03.05.2023. The chapter -IV (Space Based Communication), Si. No. III (Authorization of non-Indian GSO and/or NGSO satellite / constellation to enable provisioning of its capacity in India for communication services), Point (o) of the NGP which is reproduced as below:



Electronics component manufacturing in India offers MSMEs a "huge opportunity to succeed", IT Secretary S Krishnan said on Wednesday asserting that MeitY is looking at ways to spur the electronics components ecosystem in the country.

Speaking at the CII MSME Growth Summit, Krishnan also exhorted MSMEs to seize growth opportunities, adopt technology and digital tools to expand, and "graduate" to become a larger enterprise over time.

"You enter as a startup and try to exit within a reasonable time frame. So we should not have 'intergenerational' MSMEs anymore in this country," he said pointing to a slew of opportunities that technology today enables.

Follow us on:-   

ITU-APT Foundation Of India 504, Fifth Floor World Trade Center (Behind Lalit Hotel) Barakhamba Road New Delhi- 110001, India.

Contact No.: +91-11-45005163, 7017210403, 9999797700 - Website: iafi.in

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