

Terms of Reference (TOR)
for
NGN Expert Committee(NGN eCO)

1. Background

- 1.1 During the consultation process on the Issues pertaining to Next Generation Networks (NGN), stakeholders in general were of the opinion that there is an urgent need for the creation of a high-level cross-industry coordination committee for NGN consisting of representatives from Licensor, Regulator, DOT, TEC, Service Providers, Vendors & Academia to examine all the relevant issues so that transition/migration from TDM networks to NGNs is smooth and systematic. It was envisaged that such committee through mutual interactions and agreements could chalk out the consensus-based NGN implementation strategy for the country. It is also observed that UK regulator, Ofcom has created an independent industry body called “NGN Co” to manage key aspects of transition to NGN.
- 1.2 In view of the above, TRAI at the end of consultation process decided the following:

“An expert committee named ‘NGN eCO’ i.e. ‘NGN expert Committee’ will be constituted by TRAI co-opting experts from DOT, TEC, C-DOT, service providers, vendors and academia.”

This committee will handle at least the following issues:

- a. NGN awareness building programme.
- b. Timetable for NGN migration in the country.
- c. Background paper to be used for consultation on Interconnection and QOS issues by TRAI.

(Ref TRAI’s recommendations on Next Generation Networks dated 20th March 2006)

2. Constitution of the Committee

To take the advantage of the knowledge and expertise of the diverse stakeholders and to synergize the ideas & inputs to arrive at a consensus-based implementable migration plan, it is proposed to involve the following organisations/ agencies in the above committee:

TRAI, DoT, TEC, CDOT, AUSPI, COAI, ISPAI, BSNL, MTNL, IIT Delhi, IIM Ahmedabad, ASSOCHAM, CII, FICCI, Vendors (Lucent, Alcatel, Ericsson, Siemens, Tekelec, Nokia)

In case of necessity it will also be possible to induct/ co-opt some more members in the committee.

3. Scope of Work

The 'NGN eCO' will handle the following activities:

- a. NGN awareness building programme.
- b. Timetable for NGN migration in the country.
- c. Background documents to be used for consultation on Interconnection and QOS issues by TRAI.
- d. Any other task assigned by Authority.

Separate sub-committees/ working groups will be formed to deal with the above issues.

4. Project Completion Schedule

The Expert Committee shall be required to complete its proceedings within six months of its formation, but will need to produce interim reports/ working documents in phases.

5. Organisation of Expert Committee

Secretary, TRAI will be the chairman of the committee. Pr. Advisor (CN) will be the nodal officer at TRAI for the purpose of coordination and the convener of the committee.

In addition it will have following representation from departments/ organisations:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
TRAI	3
DoT	2
TEC	1
CDOT	1
AUSPI	3
COAI	3
ISPAI	1
BSNL	2
MTNL	2
IIT Delhi	1
IIM, Ahmedabad	1
ASSOCHAM	1
CII	1
FICCI	1
Vendors (Lucent, Alcatel, Siemens, Ericsson, Tekelec, Nokia) (Alternatively TEMA)	3

5. Reimbursements:-

Outstation Members from academic institutions will be paid economy class airfare for attending the meeting. They will also be paid an honorarium of Rs. 1000/- per diem.

6. Detailed Scope of work

- 6.1 During the consultation process it was observed that the awareness about NGN and innovative services is not yet widely spread and there is a great lack of awareness about various issues pertaining to NGN among stakeholders. One of the task of the Expert Group will be to closely interact with international bodies like ITU, ETSI, 3GPP2, Regulators abroad etc. for obtaining latest information and knowledge related to NGN and organize awareness programmes to educate other stakeholders in the country and make them aware of latest trends in NGN and its capabilities.
- 6.2 NGN deployment in India is still at an early stage and this is likely to be implemented in a phased manner starting with core network and then for access network and finally service provision. In these circumstances NGNs and legacy networks will continue to co-exist side by side for quite some time into the future. From national perspective there will be an immediate need:
- for interconnection and interoperability between the two kinds of networks; and
 - to guard against dominant legacy networks using their market power to disadvantage the new entrants.

A consensus based national NGN migration programme has to be drawn out keeping in view of above requirements. The Expert Group will prepare a detailed timetable for NGN migration in the country and then provide an implementable, phased and business-driven roadmap/ action-plan for achieving this.

- 6.3 In addition the Expert Group will also look at:
- (i) The options for how the future networks and services may fit in the present regulatory environment in medium term and what changes (*if any*) may be needed to move beyond the current policies and regulations to support the future networks.
 - (ii) Regulatory Treatment of new services, including analysis of current services and possible future services against the current policy and regulatory requirements and assessment of areas where current requirements may need to be amended (either reduced or extended as appropriate).

- (iii) Background information including best international practices for Interconnection, QoS, Reliability, Billing, performance measurements and monitoring in the NGN domain and various regulatory options for enabling the same.

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