

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 30/2015)

For Immediate Release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI Releases Recommendations on “Introducing Virtual Network Operators in telecom sector”

New Delhi, 01st May, 2015 – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today issued its recommendations on **“Introducing Virtual Network Operators in telecom sector”**.

2. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through its reference dated 7th July 2014 had sought recommendations of TRAI on the subject.

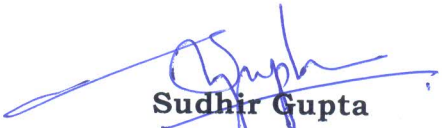
3. Virtual Network Operators (VNOs) are service delivery operators, who do not own the underlying core network(s) but rely on the network and support of the infrastructure providers for providing telecom services to end users/customers. VNOs can provide any or all telecom services which are being provided by the existing telecom service providers.

4. The salient features of the recommendations are:

- VNO be introduced through proper “licensing framework” in the Indian Telecom Sector.
- The VNOs should be permitted for all segments of Voice, Data and Video as well as for all services notified in the UL.
- VNO to be introduced in the network based on the basis of mutually accepted terms and conditions between NSO and the VNO. The terms and conditions of sharing the infrastructure between the NSO and VNO are left to the market to determine.
- VNOs be permitted to set up their own network equipment(s) where there is no requirement of interconnection with other NSO. However, they should not be allowed to own/install equipment(s) where interconnection is required with another NSO.
- Local Cable Operators (LCOs) and Multi Service Operators (MSOs) can become VNO and/or are permitted to share infrastructure with VNOs.



- For introduction of VNO in the sector, there should be a separate category of license namely UL (VNO). Like UL authorization, only pan-India or service area-wise authorizations may be granted under a UL (VNO) license.
 - Duration for VNO licenses should be 10 years, extendable by 10 years at a time.
 - There should not be a restriction on the number of VNO licensees per service area. Also there should be no restriction on the number of VNOs parented by an NSO.
 - Customer verification and number activation shall be the responsibility of a VNO for its own customers.
5. The recommendations on **“Introducing Virtual Network Operators in telecom sector”** have been placed on TRAI’s website www.trai.gov.in
6. For any clarification/ information Shri Sanjeev Banzal, Advisor (Networks, Spectrum and Licensing), TRAI may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23210481 or email at advmn@trai.gov.in


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