

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 115/2019)

For immediate release

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

TRAI issues a Consultation paper on Interoperable Set Top Box.

New Delhi, 11th November 2019: - The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a consultation paper on interoperable Set Top Box (STB) for digital TV broadcasting services.

2. The digital TV broadcasting services are received by subscriber using a Set Top Box (STB), connected with the TV set. The STB receives TV signals from distribution network and decodes them into viewable form for TV set. STB enables the subscriber to view only those TV channels which he has subscribed.

3. Presently the STBs deployed in the network are non-interoperable, i.e. the same STB cannot be used interchangeably across the different service providers. As far as STBs deployed by Direct to Home (DTH) players are concerned, STBs comply with the license conditions to support Common Interface (CI) module based interoperability. The lack of interoperability of STBs between different service providers has not only compromised the competition in the Pay-TV market but also a major hindrance to technological innovation, improvement in service quality, and sector growth.

4. TRAI had issued a pre-consultation paper on set top box interoperability during April 2016. Thereafter, a consultation note on solution architecture developed by C-DoT for technical interoperable set top box was issued during August 2017. The smart card-based solution has been successfully tested in lab conditions using separate instances of



