

## Information Note to the Press (Press Release No. 67/ 2023)

For Immediate Release

### Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

#### **TRAI releases Supplementary Consultation Paper on 'Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provide by Organizations Other Than Airports Authority of India'.**

**New Delhi, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023** – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a **Supplementary Consultation Paper on 'Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provided by Organizations Other Than Airports Authority of India'**.

2. Department of Telecommunication (DoT) through its letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 stated, *inter-alia*, that VHF data link services consist of the data for the tracking the aircraft for safety of flights; the Ministry of communications has made frequency assignments to M/s Société Internationale de Telecommunications Aeronautiques, (SITA) and M/s Bird Consultancy Services (BCS) to operate VHF Data Communication Link between aircraft and ground stations. Considering that VHF Data Link Services to provide Aircraft Communication Addressing and Reporting (ACAR) service can be beneficial to track aircrafts on a real-time basis and help investigations/ search and rescue operations in the unfortunate event of aviation disaster, DoT requested TRAI under the terms of clause 11(1)(a) of TRAI Act, 1997 to provide recommendations on the following:

- i. An appropriate mechanism to regulate the services provided by these organizations:*
- ii. The manner in which the frequency assignment should be made to these organizations, in light of the supreme Court judgment made in the 2G case in 2012 - to assign radio frequencies only through auction.*

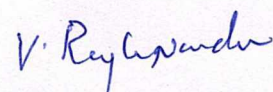
3. With respect to the DoT's reference dated 12.04.2022, the Authority issued a Consultation Paper on 'Data Communication Services between Aircraft and Ground Stations for services provided by organizations other than Airport Authority of India' dated 10.12.2022, for soliciting comments of stakeholders on suitable regulatory regime for data communication services between aircraft and ground stations provided by organizations other than the Airport Authority of India. The comments received from the stakeholders in response to the Consultation Paper dated 10.12.2022 are available on TRAI's website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in). An Open House Discussion (OHD) was conducted on 10.03.2023 through video conferencing.

4. While examining the inputs received from stakeholders on the Consultation Paper dated 10.12.2022, it was observed that specific inputs have not been received on some of the aspects related to service license for provision of data communication services between aircraft and ground stations, methodology for spectrum assignment, and spectrum charging mechanism, which will be necessary for a comprehensive

analysis of the matter and formulating the recommendations. Accordingly, the Authority has decided to issue this supplementary consultation paper to seek inputs from stakeholders on such aspects.

5. In this regard, a Supplementary Consultation Paper on 'Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provide by Organizations Other Than Airports Authority of India', seeking additional inputs from stakeholders has been placed on TRAI's website ([www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in)). Written comments on the issues raised in the Supplementary Consultation Paper are invited from the stakeholders by 17.08.2023 and counter comments by 24.08.2023.

6. The comments/ counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form at [advmn@trai.gov.in](mailto:advmn@trai.gov.in). For any clarification/ information, Shri Akhilesh Kumar Trivedi, Advisor (Networks, Spectrum and Licensing), TRAI may be contacted at Telephone Number +91-11-23210481.



**(V. Raghunandan)**  
**Secretary, TRAI**