

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

March 10, 2006

PRESS RELEASE No.25 / 2006

Subject: Amendment to The Register of Interconnect Agreements (Broadcasting & Cable Services) Regulation, 2004” (15 of 2004)

TRAI issued regulations on 31.12.2004 for filing and registration of interconnect agreements entered into by broadcasters with service providers under different platforms. In line with the detailed recommendations of TRAI on Issues relating to broadcasting and distribution of TV channels it was stated in para 5 of the explanatory memorandum to the above regulation that the agreements entered into by between MSO and LCO shall be registered with the Authorized Officers under the Cable Act. Subsequently on 2nd December 2005 these regulations were amended to facilitate to provide flexibility in adopting procedures as regard to the manner of filing, formats of filing etc of the interconnect agreements.

2. It has been considered necessary to make the DTH operators also file the interconnect agreements from the point of view of better monitoring. Since the number of agreements that would be entered into by a DTH operator with the broadcaster will not be voluminous as in the case of cable it should be possible to provide for filing of copies of individual agreements.

3. It has therefore been decided by the Authority to amend the Register of Interconnect Agreement Regulation (15 of 2004) by requiring the DTH service provider also to file with TRAI, interconnect agreements entered into with the broadcaster. This would be besides the existing obligation placed on the broadcasters, in terms of the 31st December regulation referred to above, to file their interconnect agreements entered with a DTH operator. The amendment to provide for filing by the Direct to Home operator has been done to facilitate better monitoring and to provide for specific informational requirements relevant to DTH platform. The Authority would separately be specifying the procedure to be adopted by the Direct to Home Operator for the filing(s) due after amended regulations are notified.

4. A full text of the Amendment Regulation is being placed on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in