

The DoT's Reference Dated 07.07.2023

F No. 20-405/2013 AS-I (Vol.-V)(Pt.10)
 Ministry of Communications
 Department of Telecommunications
 (Access Service Wing)
 20, Ashoka Road, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated the 7th July 2023

Subject: Seeking recommendations of TRAI on issue of connectivity to Access Service VNOs from more than one NSO -reg.

Department of Telecommunications has examined the issues related to Licensing Reforms on various aspects like Procedural Reforms, Reform for Licensing Terms & Conditions, Compliance Reforms for reducing compliance burden on Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) etc. Following issues/matters amongst them are indicated here to seek recommendations of TRAI:

2. Based on the TRAI's recommendations dated 01.05.2015 on "Introduction of Virtual Network Operators", Department issued guidelines/agreement for Unified License (virtual Network Operator) {UL(VNO)} on 31.05.2016.

3. As per these guidelines, there would not be any restriction on the number of VNO licensees per service area. VNOs are allowed to have agreement with more than one NSO for all services other than Access Service and such services, which need numbering and unique identity of the customer.

4. Department has received representation that Access Service VNOs may also be permitted to take connectivity from more than one NSO in specific conditions. For example:

- i. When an Access Service VNO wants to take connectivity from a NSO for wireline services and another NSO for wireless services (Eg. A case when Access Service VNO takes connectivity from a NSO who is providing only wireline services in that area then such VNO has no option for providing wireless services in that area due to existing restrictions.)
- ii. Access Service VNOs who intends to provide wireline services only, may require to take connectivity from more than one NSOs. For example, a case, when an Access Service VNO takes connectivity from a NSO for wireline services, but that NSO may not have services in some other areas within the LSA where the VNO wants to provide its services. In such case, the VNO may be permitted to take connectivity from more than one NSOs for wireline line service.

5. Accordingly, recommendations of TRAI are sought on following issues:

- i. Appropriate number of NSOs with whom VNOs having Access Service

authorization and providing wire line services can be permitted to take connectivity in a LSA.

- ii. VNOs having Access Service authorization and providing both wireless and wire line services can be permitted to take connectivity from one NSO for wireless services and other NSO for wire line services in a LSA.
6. In this regard, TRAI is requested to kindly examine above issues and submit its recommendations under Section 11 (1) (a) of TRAI Act, 1997 (as amended).
 7. This has the approval of competent authority.



(S. K. Singhal) 8/7/23

Deputy Director General (AS)

Phone: 23036918

To

The Secretary
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India,
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan,
Jawaharlal Nehru Marg (Old Mint Road)
New Delhi - 110002.