

Government of India
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Department of Telecommunications
Sanchar Bhawan, 20 Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001.

No.808-26/2003-VAS

Dated the 11th Nov., 2003.

SUB: GUIDELINES FOR UNIFIED ACCESS(BASIC & CELLULAR) SERVICES LICENCE.

Given the central aim of NTP-99 to ensure rapid expansion of teledensity; given the unprecedented expansion of telecom services that competition has brought about; given the steep reductions in tariffs that competition has ensured; given the fact that advances in technologies erase distinctions imposed by earlier licensing systems; given the fact that even more rapid advances in technologies are imminent; given the steep reduction in costs of providing telecom services; given the rapid convergence of tariffs for wireless services; given the fact that the provision of such services at the cheapest possible rates and by the most reliable mode is the sine qua non for India to consolidate its position as a leading hub of Communications systems, Information Technology, IT enabled services, and of establishing itself as a leader in new disciplines such as bioinformatics and biotechnology; given the recommendations of TRAI in this regard; Government, in the public interest in general and consumer interest in particular and for the proper conduct of telegraphs and telecommunications services, has decided to move towards a Unified Access Services Licensing regime. As a first step, as recommended by TRAI, Basic and Cellular services shall be unified within the service area. In pursuance of this decision, the following shall be the broad Guidelines for the Unified Access Services License.

- (i) The existing operators shall have an option to continue under the present licensing regime(with present terms & conditions) or migrate to new Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) in the existing service areas, with the existing allocated/ contracted spectrum.
- (ii) The license fee, service area, rollout obligations and performance bank guarantee under the Unified Access Services Licence will be the same as for Fourth Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs).
- (iii) The service providers migrating to Unified Access Services Licence will continue to provide wireless services in already allocated/contracted spectrum and no additional spectrum will be allotted under the migration process for Unified Access Services Licence.
- (iv) In addition to services permissible under current licences, Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) may also offer limited mobility facility existing

within Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) as permitted to Basic Service Providers at appropriate tariffs through concepts such as home-zone operations, etc.

- (v) The Unified Access service providers are free to use any technology without any restriction.
- (vi) No additional entry fee shall be charged from CMSPs for migration to UASL. For Basic Service Operators (BSOs), the entry fee for migration to the Unified Access Services Licence for a Service Area shall be equal to the entry fee paid by the Fourth Cellular Operator for that Service Area, or the entry fee paid by the BSO itself, whichever is higher. While applying for migration to UASL, the BSO will pay the difference between the said entry fee for UASL and the entry fee already paid by it.
- (vii) Notwithstanding anything stated in para (vi) above, no additional entry fee will be paid by the existing Basic Service Providers where no Fourth CMSP had bid despite repeated attempts.
- (viii) Those Basic Service Operators who do not wish to migrate to the full mobility regime, would only be required to pay the additional fee for Wireless in Local Loop (M), with mobility confined strictly within Short Distance Charging Area, as prescribed separately.
- (ix) Some of the Basic Service Licensees have provided following features/facilities to their subscribers:
 - (a) Over the air activation/authentication of the subscriber wireless access terminal outside one SDCA by pressing/punching certain keys/numbers such as *444N;
 - (b) Use of the same subscriber wireless access terminal in more than one SDCA;
 - (c) Multiple registration or temporary subscription facilities in more than one SDCA using the same subscriber terminal in wireless access systems.

In such cases of migration to Unified Access Services Licence, the Basic Service Licensees shall in addition to the Entry Fee based on the principles stated in para (vi) and (vii) above, pay till the date of payment from the date of their having signed the Basic Service Licence agreement, a penal interest @ 5% above Prime Lending Rate (PLR) of State Bank of India prevalent on the day the payment became due, i.e. the date they signed the Licence Agreement. The interest shall be compounded monthly and a part

of the month shall be reckoned as a full month for the purposes of calculation of interest.

- (x) The Service Areas for Unified Access Services Licence will be as per the existing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Licences. BSO wishing to migrate to UASL will be permitted to operate in the service area in which it is already operating. It is, however, clarified that BSOs in Delhi, Haryana and UP(West) service areas, on migration to UASL, will have service area as that of CMSP in Delhi, Haryana and UP(West) service areas respectively. Since the service area for the Unified Access Service Licensees will be as per existing CMSPs, existing BSOs in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal service areas will be required to hold two unified licenses (one for Mumbai Metro city and the other for the rest of Maharashtra and so on).
- (xi) The existing BSOs after migration to Unified Access Licensing Regime may offer full mobility; however, they will be required to offer limited mobility service also for such customers who so desire.
- (xii) A total of additional Entry Fee to be paid by existing Basic Service Operators in respect of each of its service area for migration to USAL is given at Annexure-I.
- (xiii) Request for migration to UASL shall be made in writing by the concerned service provider. The payment of additional Entry Fee and penal interest, if any, is to be made along with and not later than the date of such request in writing for migration to Unified Access Services Licence.
- (xiv) If on verification Department of Telecommunications comes to the conclusion that the entire amount due for migration to UASL has not been paid by the applicant, it shall be intimated to the applicant to pay the difference. The concerned applicant will be bound to pay the said difference in full within 3 working days from the date of receipt of the demand; failing this the application will be rejected and the amounts paid by the applicant, if any, shall be refunded within a period of 15 days from the date of receipt of the demand from DoT. However, no interest shall be payable by DoT for the amounts deposited for migration to UASL. While applying for migration to UASL the existing licensee shall also certify as hereunder:

“I have carefully read the guidelines for providing Unified Access Services Licence. I have complied and/ or agree to fully comply with the terms and conditions therein”.
- (xv) Consequent upon migration, the Licence will be termed as Unified Access Services Licence. The relevant applicable conditions of the existing licence agreements will get modified to the extent of the conditions stated above. The amended Licence shall be set out in detail separately.

- (xvi) The LICENSOR reserves the right to modify these Guidelines or incorporate new Guidelines considered necessary in the interest of national security, public interest, consumer interest and for the proper conduct of telegraph / services.
 - (xvii) *With the issue of these Guidelines, all applications for new Access Services Licence shall be in the category of Unified Access Services Licence.*
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Annexure-I

Additional Entry fee to be paid by the existing Basic Service Operators for migration to Unified Access Service Licence.

S.No.	Name of the Operator	Service Area Of BSO	Date of signing of licence agreements	Entry Fee paid by BSO(in Rs.Crores)	Entry Fee paid by 4 th Cellular Operator(in Rs. Crores)	Additional Entry Fe to be paid for migration to UASL(in Rs.crores)
1.	Reliance Infocom Ltd.	Rajasthan	20.7.2001	20	32.25	12.25
		UP(East)	20.7.2001	15	45.25	30.25
		Maharashtra	20.7.2001		189+203.66*	
				115	392.66	277.66
		Karnataka	20.7.2001	35	206.83	171.83
		Punjab	20.7.2001	20	151.75	131.75
		AP	20.7.2001	35	103.01	68.01
		Haryana	20.7.2001	10	21.46	11.46
		Kerala	20.7.2001	20	40.54	20.54
		UP(West)	20.7.2001	15	30.55	15.55
		West Bengal	20.7.2001		0+78.01*	
				25	78.01	53.01
		MP	20.7.2001	20	17.4501	0
		Bihar	20.7.2001	10		
		Himachal	20.7.2001	2	1.1	0
		Orissa	20.7.2001	5		
		Tamil Nadu	26.9.2001		79+154*	
				50	233	183
		Delhi	20.7.2001	50	170.7	120.7
		A & N**	20.7.2001	1		0
2.	RTL	Gujarat	18.3.1997	179.0859030	109.01	0
3.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Gujarat	31.8.2001	40	109.01	69.01
		Karnataka	31.8.2001	35	206.83	171.83
		AP	4.11.1997	161.47(old)	103.01	0
		Tamil Nadu	31.8.2001		79+154*	-

				50	233	183
		Delhi	31.8.2001	50	170.7	120.7
4.	TTL(Mah.)Ltd.	Maharashtra	31.8.2001		189+203.66*	-
				532.55(old)	392.66	0
5.	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Karnataka	29.10.2001	35	206.83	171.83
		Haryana	8.10.2001	10	21.46	11.46
		MP	28.2.1997	35.33 (old)	17.4501	0
		Tamilnadu	29.10.2001	50	79+154*	
					233	183
		Delhi	29.10.2001	50	170.7	120.7
6.	Shyam Telelink	Rajasthan	4.3.1998	29.29(old)	32.25	2.96
7.	HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	7.11.1997	177.59(old)	151.75	0

*For BSOs in MH, WB and TN the entry fee of fourth cellular MH+Mumbai, WB+Kolkata and TN+Chennai has been taken.

** Now A&N is a part of WB service area for cellular. nse.