



INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS FEDERATION OF INDIA

Press Release

“ILFI welcomes Draft National Telecom Policy 2011”

New Delhi, 10th October 2011: “The most welcome feature of the Draft National Telecom Policy 2011 is the infrastructure status proposed for the telecom sector”, said the President of Infrastructure and Logistics Federation of India (ILFI), Mr Sushil Jiwarajka. “As a body championing the cause of infrastructure becoming the harbinger of double digit economic growth, ILFI welcomes the special thrust on bringing down the operational cost for the service providers, enabling them to offer better quality of services and ultimately reducing the consumers' communication costs” he added. The primary goal all infrastructure initiatives should be to bring down the transactions in the economy and not raising short term resources for the Government. ILFI is happy that this draft policy includes definite steps in that direction.

The draft policy proposed to abolish the concept of circles and issue National licenses should integrate the Indian Telecom market into “one” instead of “sub divided areas” currently. These will also ensure that service providers will not be charging roaming charges and number portability should be across the country. Such feature will be very much welcome for the consumer. Secondly, the draft policy has proposed release of 500 MHz of additional 3G spectrum by 2020 which will take Indian Telecom Industry to the next higher trajectory.

Besides, the policy proposed for sharing of active infrastructure backbone among the service provider should not only help in bringing down cost, it will also make possible optimum use of available infrastructure. In this context, Chairman Urban Infrastructure Committee of ILFI, Mr P K Tripathi, has particularly welcomed the announcement of telecom as a peer infrastructure sector and giving it access to concessional infrastructural funding from India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL). He further added, “This will go a long way in meeting the rising fund requirements of the Indian telecom industry and is particularly helpful as FDI into the sector has fallen drastically.” ILFI hopes that the exit options offered to current operators should be instrumental in consolidation of telecom companies through mergers and acquisitions.

Cont.....Page-2



INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS FEDERATION OF INDIA

ILFI appreciates the emphasis the new policy has placed on development of a National Telecom hardware/ equipment industry as well as R&D. In this respect the Telecom Standard Development Organisation will have to play critical role by providing the standards for the equipment manufacturers sufficiently in advance. ILFI would however, like to caution the indigenous content stipulations do not stand in the way of latest telecom technologies of the world flowing in to the country without barriers.

For more details, please contact:

Media Division:

Sneha Chowrasia
Deputy Director
Infrastructure and Logistics Federation of India (ILFI)
Mob: +91 95608 87333

B-408, Som Datt Chambers-I
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066
Ph: +91-11-4100 7091/92
Fax: +91-11-41007093
Email: sneha@ilfi.in
Website: www.ilfi.in