



Regulatory Framework On License Classifications and Scope of Fixed and Mobile Services

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Telecommunications Act (the Act) and its Bylaw (the Bylaw) provide the Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) with the authority to define the classifications of telecommunications licenses and establish the conditions for issuance of each type of license.
- 1.2 According to the Bylaw, an Individual License is required for fixed voice telephone services, public mobile cellular telecommunications services, operation of public telecommunications networks, national and international fixed and mobile data communications services and any other type of service that the CITC decides should require an individual license.
- 1.3 Also according to the Bylaw. Class Licenses shall be issued to authorize more than one service provider of the same class to provide telecommunications services or operate telecommunications networks.
- 1.4 This “Regulatory Framework on License Classifications and Scope of Fixed and Mobile Services” defines the types of licenses to be issued by the CITC and the scope of fixed and mobile services.

2. DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

- 2.1 The words and expressions defined in the Commission Statutes shall have the same meaning when used in this regulatory framework. The following words and expressions shall have the meaning assigned to them below, unless the context requires otherwise.
- 2.2 “Calling Line Information” means information sent to a called terminal by the network to permit identification of the calling terminal which shall not include any information regarding the location of the calling terminal.
- 2.3 “Facilities Based Provider” (FBP) means a service provider who builds, owns and operates a public telecommunication network.
- 2.4 “Fixed Services” are defined as electronic communications services between fixed or Nomadic apparatus or stations.
- 2.5 “KSA” means the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 2.6 “Mobile Services” are defined as radio communication services configured so as to permit full mobility of user terminals (radio stations), which permits a Subscriber within the mobile network to receive communications from or communicate with any apparatus or station. Mobile Services in this context shall exclude satellite Mobile Services.

- 2.7 “Nomadic” means the end user termination device may be in different places but it must be stationary while in use.
- 2.8 “Service Based Provider” (SBP) means a service provider who does not build or own a public telecommunications network and utilizes such networks from any FBP in order to offer Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services to users.
- 2.9 “Subscriber” means any person or any entity that is a party to a contract or other similar arrangement that is in force with a service provider for the supply of ICT service(s).

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 As stated in the “Regulatory Framework for Fixed and Mobile Services Licensing”, the CITC has decided to adopt a “Technology-Neutral and Service-Specific” approach and to award fixed and mobile licenses with “National Coverage”.
- 3.2 The ICT sector in the KSA exhibits characteristics of under-investment in the fixed telecommunications infrastructure. The CITC therefore wishes to adopt a licensing regulatory framework which ensures market attractiveness and promotes new investment in the fixed telecommunications infrastructure and particularly in the access network.
- 3.3 The CITC also notes the developments in telecommunications technology and their impact on the regulatory frameworks. In particular, the developments in Internet Protocol (IP) based communications and the convergence of services that are traditionally separated along technological lines, e.g. voice, data and broadcast.
- 3.4 The trend in telecommunications around the world has also been moving towards a more technology neutral approach and allowing more flexibility in the definition of scope of services.
- 3.5 The CITC has also reviewed and assessed the comments received from the concerned parties in response to the Public Notice No. (8/1427) dated 15/04/1427H (13/05/2006G) on the Proposed Policies Related to Fixed and Mobile Service Licensing in the KSA.

4. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

License Classification

- 4.1 The existing licensing regime for the same two categories of licenses, i.e. Individual and Class Licenses, is as follows:
- 4.1.1 Individual Licenses will be required for FBPs.
- 4.1.2 Class Licenses will be required for SBPs.

- 4.1.3 Class Licenses may, however be required by FBPs for certain specific services (for example Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) etc.).

Scope of Services of Individual Fixed License

- 4.2 Individual Fixed License includes, but is not limited to the following Services at the local, national and international level :
- 4.2.1 Fixed voice communications services;
- 4.2.2 Fixed data communications services; and
- 4.2.3 Other related services including but not limited to sound, text, video and pictures or a combination thereof and value added services as may be desired by the Licensee's Subscribers and offered by the Licensee.

Scope of Services of Individual Mobile License

- 4.3 Individual Mobile License includes, but is not limited to the following Services at the local, national and international level:
- 4.3.1 Mobile voice communications services;
- 4.3.2 Mobile data services;
- 4.3.3 Short messaging service;
- 4.3.4 Multimedia messaging service; and
- 4.3.5 Other related services including but not limited to ancillary digital services and features, such as call waiting, call forwarding and calling line identity.

Scope of Services of Class Licenses

- 4.4 The Scope of Services for Class Licenses will be as defined by the CITC from time to time.

General Provisions

- 4.5 All FBPs are required to transmit all emergency calls to the respective public organizations responsible for handling emergency calls regardless of whether the user subscribes to the carrier's service or not.



- 4.6 The CITC may mandate FBPs to offer emergency services including Calling Line Information, caller location and information, based on the developments in the market and technology.
- 4.7 The licensees must ensure the provision of the technical capabilities in regard to equipments and networks through which security monitoring equipments can be interconnected to these networks.