

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**Public Consultation Document**

**Regarding**

**Definition of Active Subscriber to  
Mobile Telecommunications Services**

**Issued by the** Communications and Information Technology Commission ("CITC")

**26/08/1428H – 08/09/2007**

## **1. Introduction:**

The Communications and Information Technology Commission ("CITC") is the authorized body to regulate the communications and information technology (CIT) sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ("KSA") based on the Telecommunications Act ("Act") issued with Royal Decree no. (m/12) dated 12/03/1422H (04/06/2001), its Bylaw ("Bylaw") issued by the Decision of His Excellency the Minister of Communication and Information Technology no. (11) dated 17/05/1423H (27/07/2002), and the Commission Ordinance issued by Council of Ministers resolution no. (74) dated 05/03/1422H (23/05/2001 and amended by Council of Ministers resolution no (133) dated 21/05/1424H (21/07/2003).

In accordance with the CITC mission of providing a fair regulatory environment based on clarity and transparency to encourage competition and protect the public welfare and the rights of all parties, and in order to obtain accurate and realistic information that reflects the actual development of the various markets of the CIT sector, the CITC is considering the best method of determining the number of actual or active mobile telecommunications service subscribers "active mobile subscribers" and the penetration of the service. This definition will facilitate estimation of prospects for growth and investment in the mobile sector, in a manner which is consistent with international standards, and which will reflect the current status clearly and transparently.

The CITC aims, with this public consultation document, to obtain the views of interested parties on a clear and precise definition of an active mobile subscriber.

## **Forms and Procedures of Replies:**

The CITC encourages individuals and interested parties to participate in this public consultation by stating their views on any of the subjects put forth in this document as follows:

1. Provide views and detailed responses to the questions to the extent possible, including any supporting data, analysis and information on other countries experiences, or relevant references that support such opinions and responses. All opinions and responses will be carefully considered.
2. Indicate the number of each question being answered. It should be noted that it is not essential to answer every one of the questions.
3. Provide contact information (name, address, telephone numbers, e-mail address), if the participant desires wishes to communicate with the CITC.
4. The CITC has the right to publish all provided information in whole or in part. Participants may ask to remain anonymous or that their answers be treated as confidential. Thus, the CITC requests all participants to indicate if they wish their identity and/or answers, or part of them, to remain confidential.
5. This document and the responses to it are not binding on the CITC, and will become the property of the CITC.

## **2. Current approach for Identification of an Active Subscriber to Mobile Telecommunications Services**

Licensed mobile telecommunications services providers in KSA currently use nonstandard and unpublished definitions to determine and publish the number of subscribers to their services (post paid and pre-paid). The CITC has also not issued an approved definition.

**Question 1:** What is your assessment of the current status? What is the correct way to quantify the number of active (actual) mobile subscribers?

## **3. Defining Criteria of Active Subscribers to Mobile Telecommunications Services**

There are several and differing standards used by other countries for quantifying the number of active mobile subscribers.

**Question 2:** What in your view is the best standard to adopt for quantifying the number of active mobile subscribers?

**Question 3:** Should different standards be used for quantifying the number of active subscribers to mobile prepaid services and to postpaid services or should the same standard be applied for both? Why?

## **4. Appropriate Time Period for Considering a Subscriber as Active**

In determining the number of active subscribers, regulatory authorities in other countries use various time periods (mostly three months) during which a subscriber's mobile phone must have engaged in a send and/or receive action.

**Question 4:** What do you suggest is the appropriate time period for considering a mobile subscriber to be active? How does that relate to the validity period of subscribers prepaid cards?

#### **5. Mobile Telecommunications Services Included in the Definition**

Many services are provided via mobile telecommunications, these include for example:

- Send/Receive Voice/Video Calls
- Sending of Short Messages Service (SMS)
- Charge/Recharge or Activation of Service or Subscription
- International Roaming Service
- Using Multimedia Message Service (MMS)
- Accessing the Internet

**Question 5:** Do you think a subscriber should be considered active if he has used any of the above mentioned services?

**Question 6:** What other services should be added to (or excluded from) the above list of services?

#### **6. Definition of an Active Subscriber to Mobile Telecommunications Services**

There are two categories of mobile telecommunications service subscribers: postpaid and prepaid.

**Question 7:** What is the suitable definition for each of these categories of mobile subscribers?

**Question 8:** Would you like to add anything in this regard?

#### **7. Other Related Subjects**

In order to afford extra wider scope for the public to participate and express their views regarding the issue of the definition of active subscribers to mobile telecommunications services, the CITC invites the public to express their thoughts on any other points relating to this issue, and add more information that has not been covered in this document and which the interested party considers to be important.

**Question 9:** Would you like to add anything related to any of the points mentioned above or any other points relating to this issue?

The CITC requests all participants to deliver the replies no later than 3pm, Sunday 01/11/1428H (11/11/2007) KSA times, attaching an MS WORD file softcopy through:

- Email Address:

[asd@citc.gov.sa](mailto:asd@citc.gov.sa)

- By hand or mail:

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