No.1/7/1/2014-PMU(DAS)
Government of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Shastri Bhavan, Dr. R P Road, New Delhi 110001

Dated 20th June, 2015.

Subject: Minutes of the 9th meeting of Task Force held on 07.07.2015

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Please find enclosed a copy of the minutes of 9th meeting held under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Information and Broadcasting on Implementation of Phase III & IV of TV Digitization held on 07.07.2015 for information and necessary action.

(Surender Kumar)
Section Officer (DAS)
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To

All Members of the Task Force including those present.

Copy to:

1 PPS to Addl. Secretary, MIB
2 PPS to Jt. Secy (B.I)/PPS to JS (B-II)
3 Advisor (DAS)
4 Director (BP&L)
5 Dy. Secy (DAS)/Under Secy (DAS)

Copy also to: NBA/IBF/CEAMA

MINUTES OF 9TH TASK FORCE MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL ADDRESSABLE SYSTEM IN CABLE TV NETWORK IN PHASE III & IV HELD ON 07.07.2015

The 9th meeting of the Task Force on implementation of phases III & IV of digital addressable system in cable TV network was held on 07.07.2015 under the chairpersonship of Additional Secretary. List of the participants is annexed.

2. At the outset Chairperson asked the representatives of broadcasters and MSOs to apprise the Task Force about progress of interconnect agreements for phase III areas. On behalf of national MSOs, the representative of IMCL mentioned that there is a positive forward movement on this front. He however said that broadcasters are asking for seeding plans and other data from MSOs which is not possible for them to provide at this stage. He further mentioned that channel pricing in phase III areas was the main hurdle in signing of interconnect agreements. He remarked that some broadcasters have proposed agreements on analogue rates till Dec 2015 and others on RIO rates.

3. Representative of GTPL mentioned that the issue of interconnect agreements was discussed in the meeting held by TRAI with broadcasters and MSOs on 6.7.2014. He told that broadcasters were asking for too many details from MSOs. He added that there were legal issues regarding tariff orders which have been contested in court. As per TRAI pricing can be different for different markets. Representative of Hathway mentioned that they too are in negotiations with broadcasters but no agreements have so far been closed. Representative of Den Network stated that except for one broadcaster they had not received any response to their requests for interconnect agreements from broadcasters. Representative of Siticable Networks mentioned that as per an analysis of urban areas carried out by them, it may not be feasible for any operator to carry out digitisation in urban areas having only a few hundred TV households. He stated that broadcasters are insisting on analogue agreements at present. Representative of HITS said that they too have not received any response to their requests for interconnect agreements from broadcasters.

4. Representative of IBF mentioned that broadcasters have entered into agreements with 5 Regional MSOs. He informed that broadcasters have filed an appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme

Court on the judgment of the Hon'ble TDSAT on the tariff orders issued by TRAI which was challenged by MSOs. He added that hearing of the case is scheduled to take place on 8.7.2015.

5. Representative of TRAI mentioned that a review meeting on the progress of signing of interconnect agreements for phase III areas was held on 6.7.2015 with broadcasters and MSOs. He told that 3 broadcasters namely Star, MSM and TV-18 informed TRAI that they had received 55 requests from MSOs so far out of which they have signed commercial deals with 2 MSOs and deals with 11 MSOs are in advance state of negotiation. He apprised the Task Force that as per the decision taken in this meeting, all those MSOs who have not so far received any response to their requests from broadcasters should inform TRAI about it by e-mail by 10.7.2015. He added that the progress on signing of interconnect agreements would again be reviewed on 14.7.2015. Regarding HITS services, he stated that HITS operations were also covered under DAS regulations and they too should also apprise TRAI if no response is received by them from broadcasters to their requests for interconnect agreements. He informed that as per the broadcasters, some MSOs were intending to wait till September 2015 before sending requests to broadcasters for agreements in phase III areas.

6. Chairperson asked TRAI representative to get the details of these MSOs from broadcasters. Apprehending that there may be some gap areas/MSO deficient areas, Joint Secretary asked IBF representative to get the details of these areas from broadcasters and intimate the same to Ministry.

7. Chairperson remarked that from the deliberations it is apparent that there is some progress on the front of signing of interconnect agreements. He further asked MSO representatives to inform the Task Force regarding STB procurement, particularly the indigenously manufactured STBs by them. Representative of CEAMA informed that no major orders have been received by the industry so far from MSOs Representatives of Siticable and Hathway informed that they were in talks with indigenous STB manufacturers. Representative of DTH informed that they procured about 3 million STBs from Videocon. Chairperson remarked that there should be endeavor on the part of MSOs also to start using indigenously manufactured STBs in their network.

8. Regarding the seeding reports received from DTH operators, it was informed that there were inconsistencies in their reports which should be rectified by them. Besides this, the DTH operators have been asked to map the data with the urban areas list issued by the Ministry.

Regarding the seeding data from MSOs, it was also informed that the reports have been received from about 50% of MSOs and the data is being compiled.

9. Chairperson asked the representative of FICCI and Assocham to inform the Task Force on the programmes planned by them on public awareness campaign for cable TV digitisation. They informed that the programme has been finalized and they will come back to Ministry with the schedule in a couple of days.

10. Regarding provisional MSO registration, Joint Secretary informed that 25 registrations have been issued so far and about 100 registrations are on the anvil.

11. Representative of LCOs from Assam said that MSOs are stopping the signals to LCOs without any reason and the local authorized officers do not take cognizance of any violation of the provisions of cable TV Act. He added that there is no redressal mechanism for violations of Cable Act at State level and the Cable operators do not have the means to file cases in TDSAT. Joint Secretary mentioned that 12 Regional Units (RUs) are being set up for implementation of DAS in phase III areas. These RUs will hold workshops on digitisation where all issues shall be discussed with the District Nodal officers nominated by the State Governments.

12. Representative of LCO association from Maharashtra (MCOF) mentioned that LCOs were having issues with MSOs with regard to interconnect agreements and there is no standard format of agreement. He added that in phase I and phase II these agreements were signed under coercion. Joint Secretary said that the matter of interconnect agreements be addressed to TRAI for resolution.

13. Concluding the meeting, Chairperson mentioned that time was fast running out. He impressed on all stakeholders to ensure progress and timely completion of digitisation by the cutoff date.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

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Annexure

List of participants of 9th Task Force meeting held on 07.07.2015

1.	Mr. Jitendera Shankar Mathur	Additional Secretary (Chairperson)
2.	Ms. R.Jaya	Joint Secretary (B-1)
3.	Mr. Yogendra Pal	Advisor (DAS)
4.	Mr. Shanker Lal	Deputy Director (DAS)
5.	Dr. Sat Narain	Add. D.I.P.R, Govt. of Punjab
6.	Mr. M.P. Sood	Director, I.P.R, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
7.	Mr. H.N.Shukla	Dy. Commissioner, Entertainment Tax, Govt. of U.P
8.	Mr. V.K.Singh	Entertainment Tax Officer, Govt. of U.P
9.	Mr. Y.Ajay	Entertainment Tax Officer, Govt. of U.P
10.	Mr. K.B.Pandhya	Representative of Govt. of Rajasthan
11.	Mr. Rajesh Meena	Representative of Doordarshan
12.	Mr. S.K.Marwah	Representative of Department of Electronics & IT
13.	Mr. G.S.Kesarwani	Reprentative of TRAI
14.	Mr. Mohit Verma	Representative of CEAMA
15.	Mr. Anil Khera	Representative of DTH Association
16.	Mr. Bibhu Prasad	Representative of Ortel Communication
17.	Mr. Guru Raja Rao	Representative of IBF
18.	Mr. Suresh Amesar	Representative of IBF
19.	Mr. Shaji Mathews	Representative of independent MSOs, GTPL Ahmedabad
20.	Mr. Subhashish Mazumdar	Representative of IMCL
21.	Mr. N.K.Rouse	Representative of IMCL
22.	Mr. Pulak Bagchi	Representative of ASSOCHAM
23.	Mr. Ashish Malik	Representative of ASSOCHAM
24.	Mr. S.K.Singh	Representative of ASSOCHAM
25.	Ms. Annie Joseph	Representative of NBA
26.	Mr. Samir Kumar	Representative of FICCI
27.	Mr. Anil Malhotra	Representative of Siticable Networks
28.	Mr. C.N.Suresh Babu	Representative of independent MSO, Karnataka
29.	Mr. T.S.Panesar	Representative of Hathway Cable & Datacom
30.	Ms. Hema Suri	Representative of Den Networks
31.	Md. Iquebal Ahmed	Representative of LCO Association, Assam
32.	Mr. Ankur Jain	Representative of NSTPL
33.	Mr. Prabhoo	Representative of LCO Association (MCOF), Maharashtra
34.	Mr. Rakesh Gupta	Representative of NSTPL