

PRESS RELEASE

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TRC Launches Consultation on its Plans with regard to Mobile and Wireless Communications

Development of the Latest Generation Mobile Broadband Internet among the Priorities

30th May, 2011 – The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (“TRC”) has today launched a public consultation on a proposed comprehensive Spectrum Management Framework. The documents set out the TRC’s position, approach and planned actions aimed to ensure that the radio spectrum resource is managed and utilized in a manner that delivers the maximum benefit to residents and businesses of the Territory, as well as adequately satisfies needs of public services. The public consultation will be open until **26th June, 2011**.

Among other things, the documents outline a strategy for the release of radio spectrum for state-of-the-art mobile broadband internet applications. Through the spectrum management framework, the TRC will seek to ensure that such services are deployed throughout the Territory as soon as possible thereby bringing cutting-edge services to the Virgin Islands and enhancing choice in internet services.

The Spectrum Management Framework is also accompanied by an action plan, outlining timelines for actions related to radio spectrum that the TRC is planning to take, as well as the TRC’s proposals on the National Spectrum Policy.

On 1st June, 2011 from 10:00AM to 01:00PM the TRC will be hosting a workshop at Maria’s by the Sea Conference Room to present the consultation. The workshop is intended to be a consultative session where spectrum users, including network operators, key government agencies and other interested persons, will be able to offer their feedback on the proposed framework.

Anyone wishing to attend the workshop shall register with the TRC via phone 468-4165 or e-mail jrhymer@trc.vg.

Responses to the public consultation could be sent to consultations@trc.vg.

Mr. Gregory Nelson, Director for Spectrum Management and Standards at the TRC, noted that “this is a landmark consultation. In it we outline our strategy for managing a resource, essential for telecommunications, in the years to come. Actions stemming from it will enable new telecommunications services for public as well as new or improved ways for the government services to communicate. We therefore would like to encourage all the stakeholders to actively participate in the process and provide their views both at the workshop and by providing written submissions.”

Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas, CEO of the TRC, commented that “the documents published today have not only strategic, but also an immediate importance. Actions that follow will enable bringing new state-of-the-art technologies, including so-called 4th generation mobile services, to the Virgin Islands. In simple terms, this will mean enabling everyone in the Virgin Islands to use high-speed internet services wherever one goes. Such services will also enable a host of new applications, including the ones allowing remote monitoring or managing of various devices, including home appliances.” He continued: “today we are taking a firm step in this direction and, with the support and help of stakeholders, we are determined to take further swift steps to ensure that the Virgin Islands are put to the forefront of the mobile broadband revolution sweeping telecommunications markets around the World”.

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Note to Editors:

- 1) Radio spectrum is a part of electromagnetic spectrum that is used for telecommunications. Although invisible, it is an essential resource enabling wireless communications, including mobile phones, wireless internet, FM/AM radio stations, walkie-talkies, boat radios etc. Appropriate management of the radio spectrum is essential in ensuring that various wireless devices do not interfere with each other and in maximizing potential of wireless communications.

- 2) The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) is a statutory body responsible for regulating the telecommunications sector of the Virgin Islands, protecting interests of users of telecommunications services, ensuring fair competition among operators of telecommunications networks and providers of telecommunications services, promoting the development of telecommunications throughout the Virgin Islands and advising the Minister of Communications and Works on telecommunications policies.