

PRESS RELEASE

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TRC Consults on Proposals to Strengthen Regulation of Exchanging of Calls and SMS among Operators

1st June, 2011 – The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (“TRC”) has today launched a consultation concerning the Market Analysis of Wholesale Call and SMS Termination on Individual Fixed and Mobile Networks. In it the TRC proposes to designate the following suppliers as dominant with respect to the termination of fixed and mobile voice calls and SMS on fixed and mobile networks:

- Cable and Wireless (BVI) Ltd (“LIME”)
- Caribbean Cellular Telephone Ltd (“CCT”)
- Digicel (BVI) Ltd (“Digicel”)

Through the consultation the TRC also proposes the implementation of a set of interconnection requirements as such requirements would ensure that operators exchange traffic on a fair and non-discriminatory basis.

Sarah Hayes, Chief Economist of the TRC, said “Interconnection between operators is a crucial element enabling calls to be made and SMS’s to be sent between networks which consumers do not see. It is essential for a regulator to ensure that operators interconnect (send calls or SMS from one network to another) on the basis of a clear set of rules and at a rate that will deliver the best prices for consumers. Interconnection rates are regulated in most countries and we want to ensure that this area is appropriately addressed in the BVI.”

Tomas Lamanauskas, Chief Executive Officer of the TRC said, “this consultation is the first of the series of the market analysis programme which we set out in our Market Review document published on our website. The TRC is reviewing all the key markets in the Territory to ensure that competition is functioning effectively between operators, and where it is not regulation is applied to solve the problem. The end goal is to ensure a level playing field for operators and the best deal for consumers.”

The relevant consultation documents are published on the TRC website www.trc.vg and the TRC invites interested parties to respond to consultations@trc.vg by 1 July 2011.

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Note to Editors:

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.