

# THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

## IAFI News

### IAFI submitted two contributions to the upcoming Focus Group on Costing Data (FG-CD). meeting



In March 2023, the ITU-T Study Group 3 established the Focus Group on Costing Data (FG-CD). This group tackles the challenge of affordable data access by examining the telecommunication/ICT supply chain and analyses various costing models and pricing strategies for mobile and internet data services. FG-CD serves as a collaborative platform to explore and develop solutions for providing affordable data services. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the FGCD and its associated workshop on Cost Models for Data Services and International Internet connectivity cost will be held on 8-10 April 2024, in hybrid mode, at the Bingu International Conference Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe, Malawi and will be hosted by the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA).

IAFI has submitted following two contributions for the upcoming meeting.

- Challenges in providing affordable data services in a complex market.
- Infrastructure sharing for rolling out 5G network for affordable data service.

It may please be noted that participation in FG-CD is free of charge and open to any individual experts and organizations from all sectors and relevant disciplines.

### IAFI letter to Secretary DoT regarding extension of timeline for implementation of MTCTE



IAFI in a letter to Secretary, DoT sought further extension for 12 products listed in the TEC letter dated 27.12.2023, allowing continued acceptance of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) test reports for the Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecom Equipment (MTCTE) scheme after April 1 2024 as there are still no labs for many products that can test all the parameters in one place, so each product must be sent to different labs for different tests which causes huge delays in testing or damage to the product during transportation. Moreover, there are a limited number of TEC CAB labs available for testing RF and technical aspects of various types of wireless systems included in the Annex 1 by TEC on 27/12/2023. The ecosystems for testing of these products within the country is still in its early stages, and it will not be possible to test and certify all the equipment covered under MTCTE Phase - 4 in a timely manner.

So, considering above, we have requested DoT to consider a further extension with respect to the list of 12 products appended in Annexure – I, for a further period of one year and till then, allow the results/test reports from ILAC accredited test labs as per the requirement.

### IAFI letter to Secretary, DoT for streamlining Spectrum Allocation for VSAT services



IAFI in a letter dated 28-03-2024, requested Secretary, DoT for streamlining the spectrum allocation process to prevent any potential delays in service launch by new VSAT and other satellite operators and requested the immediate processing of spectrum assignment applications under the current guidelines for VSAT and similar services under Unified Licensing. These requests should proceed independently of the Telecom Act Rules' issuance. Naturally, once the Rules are finalized, they will equally applicable to all operators in this domain. Over the past two decades, the government has been assigning satellite spectrum to VSAT and other telecom players administratively. While the Industry looks forward to the issuance of Rules under the Telecom Act, the guidelines for the administrative allocation of spectrum for satellite services, including VSAT and NLD, are already in place. VSAT and other similar operators have received satellite spectrum allocations in accordance with their requirements under the current guidelines and are actively providing satellite services.

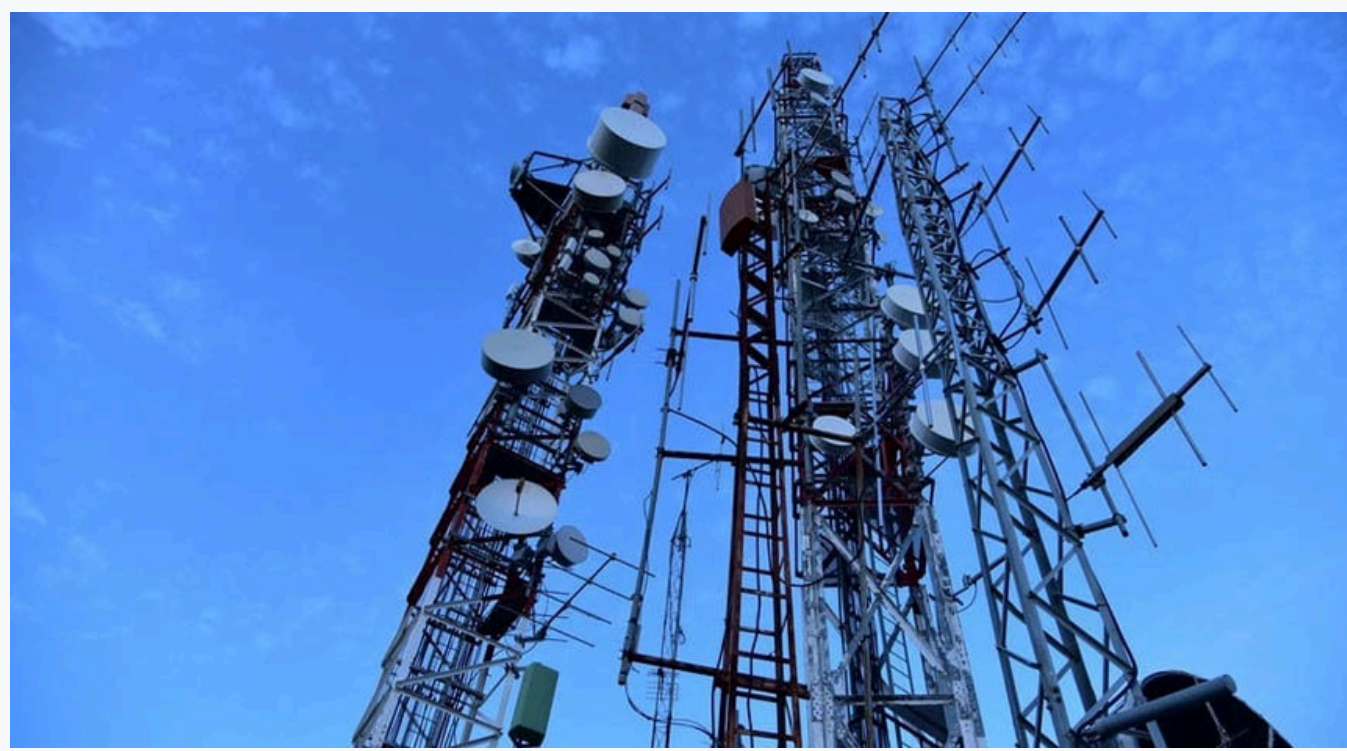
### Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
<a href="#">ITU-T: Focus Group on cost models for affordable data services</a>	09th - 10th April 2024	30th Mar 2024
<a href="#">ITU-T: Focus Group on Testbeds Federations for IMT-2020 and beyond</a>	10th - 12th April 2024	31st Mar 2024
<a href="#">ITU-T: SG3 Regional Group for Africa</a>	10th - 12th April 2024	31st Mar 2024
<a href="#">ITU-T: SG16 Multimedia and related digital technologies</a>	15th - 26th April 2024	05th April 2024
<a href="#">ITU-T: SG12 - Performance, quality of service (QoS) and quality of experience (QoE)</a>	16th - 25th April 2024	06th April 2024
<a href="#">ITU-T: TSAG RG-WTSA e-meeting</a>	18th April 2024	08th April 2024
<a href="#">ITU-D: TDAG Working Group on Streamlining Resolutions (TDAG-WG-StreamRes)</a>	18th April 2024	08th April 2024
<a href="#">ITU-R: (SG 4) Satellite Services</a>	23rd April 2024	13rd April 2024
<a href="#">ITU-T: SG20 Regional Group for Asia and the Pacific (SG20RG-AP)</a>	23rd - 24th April 2024	13rd April 2024
<a href="#">APT: The 3rd Meeting of APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-3)</a>	30th April - 02nd May 2024	20rd April 2024
<a href="#">APT: Meeting of the SATRC Working Group on Spectrum</a>	07th - 09th May 2024	28th April 2024
<a href="#">APT: The 1st Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-1)</a>	03rd - 06th Jun 2024	24th May 2024

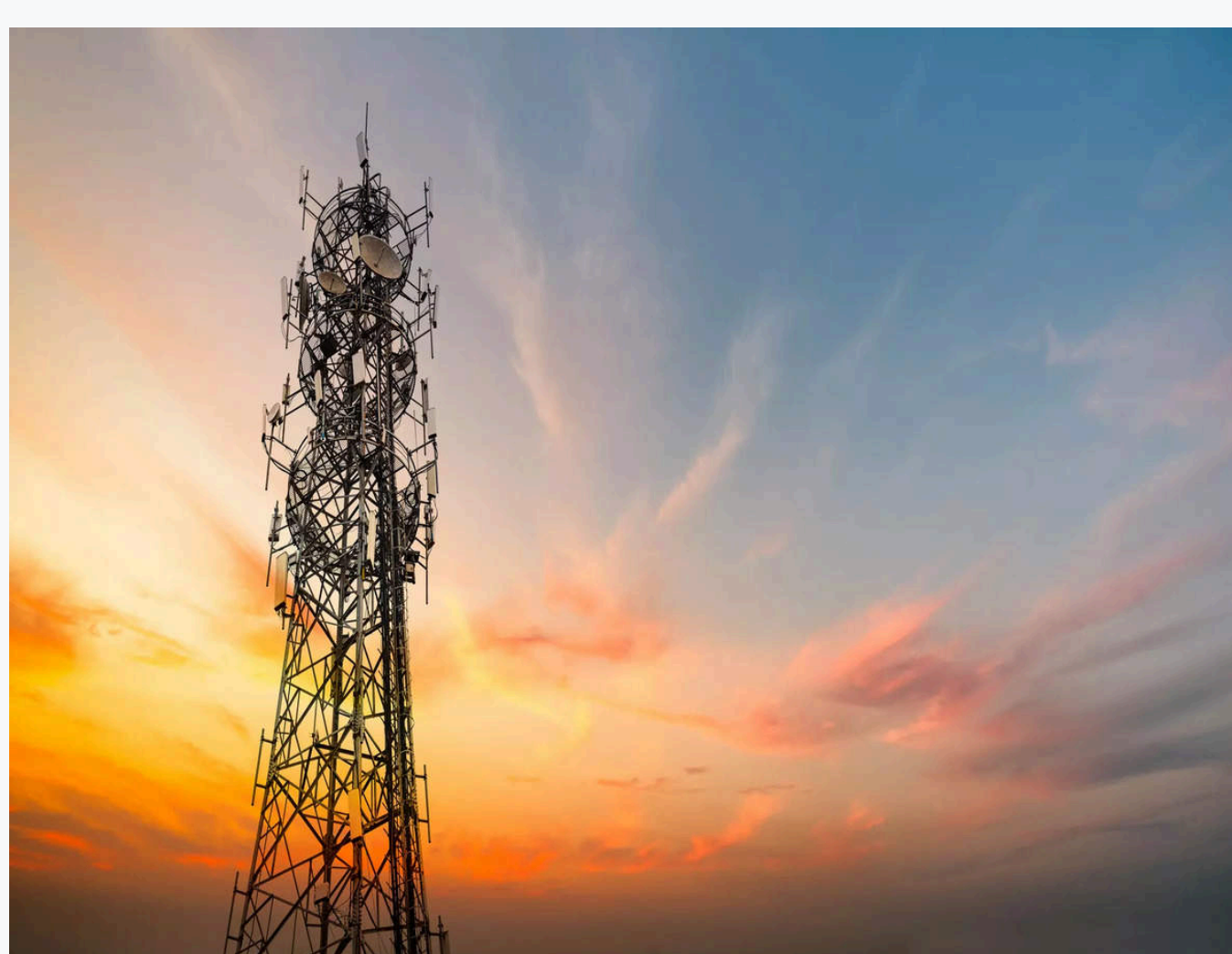
### Telecom Stories:



The \$750 billion global semiconductor industry is set to double in size in the next 6-7 years, and India is uniquely positioned to take advantage of it, Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology said at the Business Standard summit, BS Manthan on Wednesday. What is working in favour of India is an abundant workforce, access to green energy and a growing chemical manufacturing ecosystem, he said. "A \$1 trillion industry will require more than nine lakh talented professionals. Close to a-third of all talent in the semiconductor industry are in India. From conceptualizing a new chip to designing and validating it, and ensuring it is ready-to-fab, that entire value chain is in India," the union minister said.



The Indian government is planning to geotag all the telecom infra in India. It will start with BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) followed by the private telecom players. The decision to geotag or map all the telecom infra in the country is to ensure that resources can be utilised in the best manner when there are scenarios of natural disasters. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) wants to geotag all the key telecom infra, telecom towers, and optical fibre cables, to facilitate coordination, by 2027. To accomplish this, DoT will coordinate with other ministries and state governments. The data needs to be shared among the departments and state governments to make geotagging possible and successful. The data collected will also facilitate other projects, which require telecom infra as the backbone.



The government is planning to geo-tag key telecom infrastructure, including telecom towers and optical fibre cables, to facilitate coordination, particularly in disaster situations. The mapping of telecom infrastructure will also facilitate setting up of other developmental projects across the country, officials aware of the development told ET. "We are working to geo-tag communication infrastructure across the country by 2027," said one of the officials cited earlier.

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