

THE WEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

IAFI News

Highlights of the concluding week of 45th WP-5D meeting



During the second week of the WP-5D meeting from 05-02-2024 to 07-02-2024, IAFI presented two contributions regarding "unwanted emission" on 05-02-2024. Outcomes of the discussions held on two IAFI contributions are as follows.

1. IAFI contribution on "Un-wanted emission characteristics of base stations using the terrestrial radio interface of IMT-2020", was presented at the first meeting of the SWG Unwanted Emission proposing updates to working document towards a preliminary draft new recommendation, ITU-R M.[IMT-2020.UNWANT.BS]. IAFI contribution proposed updates to the working document of preliminary draft new Recommendation ITU-R M.[IMT-2020.UNWANT.BS] to harmonize with text in the draft revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.2070-2 (12/2023), which was recently approved by WRC-23, as "unwanted emission characteristics of base stations using the terrestrial radio interfaces of IMTAdvanced".
2. IAFI contribution on "Un-wanted emission characteristics of mobile stations using the terrestrial radio interface of IMT-2020", was presented at the first meeting of the SWG Unwanted Emission proposing updates to working document towards a preliminary draft new recommendation, ITU-R M.[IMT-2020.UNWANT.MS]. This contribution proposes updates to the working document of preliminary draft new Recommendation ITU-R M.[IMT-2020.UNWANT.MS] to harmonize with text in the draft revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.2071-2 (12/2023), which was recently approved by WRC-23, as "unwanted emission characteristics of mobile stations using the terrestrial radio interfaces of IMTAdvanced".

After in-depth discussions and significant improvement, all members finally agreed with the IAFI proposal to elevate draft PDNR to DNR and to submit in the WP-5D plenary meeting to be held on 07-02-2024.

The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA 24-2)



The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organized a Virtual Meeting, as the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-2) from 05 to 06 February 2024.

The APT Preparatory Group for WTSA consists of three Working Groups (WGs) that are responsible for the regional preparation on the issues related to WTSA-24. Details are as follows.

1. Working Group 1 (WG1): ITU-T Working Methods.
2. Working Group 2 (WG2): ITU-T Work Organization.
3. Working Group 3 (WG3): Regulatory/Policy and Standardization Related Issues.

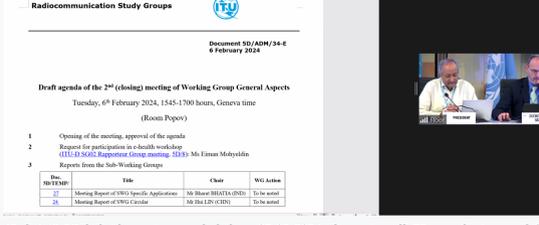
The objective of APT WTSA24-2 virtual meeting was to facilitate open discussion among APT members to identify key issues relevant to APT regions for consideration in the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 (WTSA-24), which will take place in New Delhi, India from 15 to 24 October 2024.

Out of total 57 Input Documents discussed during the meeting, 30 documents were submitted by India and IAFI together, as contributions from India, 27 contributions on existing WTSA-20 Resolutions and proposed 3 new Resolutions. Out of 30 contributions, 22 were presented by India and 8 by IAFI in the meeting. Four contributions

The meeting reviewed all the input documents and received comments from the delegates. Meeting's main purpose was brainstorming and identifying possible PACP topics, to be finalized for submission to WTSA-24 on behalf of APT. **The meeting didn't make any decision on candidate PACP.**

The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-24 (APT WTSA24-3) is likely to be held during April / May 2024 (for 3 days) at Cambodia.

Concluding report on 45th WP-5D meeting



45 th WP-5D hybrid meeting concluded on 07-02-2024, discussing all 77 contributions and 37 administrative documents. Three contributions by India and seven contributions by IAFI were submitted. All contribution were discussed and accepted, except the proposal of restructuring of WP-5D, submitted by India and IAFI.

IAFI's contribution to WRC-27 agenda item 1.13, regarding proposed frequency arrangements sparked extensive debate, highlighting deeply divided opinions amongst member countries and other members. Throughout the discussions, contradictory views were openly expressed during the SWG closing sessions, WG closing plenary and finally in the WP-5D closing plenary, underscoring the complexity and contentious nature of the issue.

A total of 45 members from the Indian contingent participated, comprising both physical and virtual attendees. This strong representation demonstrates India's active engagement in the discussions. Next WP-5D meeting will be held from 26 th June to 03 July, 2024 at Geneva, Switzerland.

Letter to Secretary, DoT for assignment of spectrum to new VSAT and Satellite operators



Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a letter dated 08-02-2024, to Chairman DCC & Secretary, DoT requested for that all application for assignment of satellite spectrum under VSAT and other similar service authorizations under Unified Licence should be processed immediately under the existing guidelines, in order to avoid any potential delays in the launch of services by new VSAT and other satellite operators.

In the letter, IAFI expressed its gratitude to DoT for the comprehensive Satellite Communications Reforms in 2022, the Indian Space Policy of 2023, complementing the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, opening of new avenues for India's digital economy through space communications, allowing private SatCom players to offer commercial services and the latest Indian Telecommunications Act, 2023.

IAFI emphasized that over the past two decades, the government has been assigning satellite spectrum to VSAT and other satellite players administratively. IAFI urged that to prevent any potential delays in the launch of services by new VSAT and other satellite operators, any application for assignment of satellite spectrum under VSAT and other similar service authorizations under Unified Licence, should be processed immediately under the existing guidelines and in case any new rules are issued, will be equally applicable to operators in the domain.

Letter to Secretary, DoT regarding rationalization of Spectrum Usage Charges pertaining to Satellite Communications



Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a letter dated 08-02-2024, to Chairman DCC & Secretary DoT emphasized the critical importance, to streamline the regulatory levies and minimized levy, to catalyse the robust growth of this industry. Recognizing the pressing need of the hour, Shri Bhatia urged for concerted efforts to minimize these levies, thereby fostering an environment conducive to sustained progress and innovation in the Satcom industry.

In the letter to Secretary, DoT, significant issue concerning the disparity in Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) for Satcom players has been pointed out. While BSNL's services incur a modest 1% SUC of AGR as per the WPC order of 2021, the Commercial VSAT CUG are subjected to 4% of AGR according to WPC order of 2003. In addition, for VSAT/satellite-based services under the NLD authorization, Royalty Charges are determined using a formula-based charging mechanism under the 2012 WPC order, showing complexities in the regulatory landscape that necessitate prompt attention and resolution.

It was also pointed out that TRAI in many recommendations since 2005, 2017, 2020, and 2021 consistently advocated for a 1% SUC of AGR for satellite communications in both Commercial VSAT CUG and NLD services and based on TRAI recommendations of 2018, the WPC has already specified a 1% AGR rate for SUC on BSNL's GSPS services. Other Satcom operators are using the same satellite spectrum, so there is no reason to as why the same 1% SUC cannot be implemented in VSAT, NLD and GMPCS.

Thus to mitigate the existing disparities, IAFI formally requested the DoT and WPC for uniform application of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC) at a rate of 1% across all service authorizations by aligning with TRAI's recommendations, to establish a fair and equitable framework.

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates	IAFI preparatory Meetings
ITU-R: Radio Regulations Board (RRB)	04th - 08th Mar 2024	26th Feb 2024	-
APT: The 32nd Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-32)	04th - 08th Mar 2024	26th Feb 2024	14th Feb 2024
ITU-R: Working Party 6A (WP 6A) - Terrestrial broadcasting delivery	05th - 13th Mar 2024	27th Feb 2024	-
ITU-T: SG13 - Future networks and emerging network technologies	04th - 15th Mar 2024	26th Feb 2024	-
ITU-R: Working Party 6B (WP 6B) - Broadcast service assembly and access	11th - 14th Mar 2024	04th Mar 2024	-

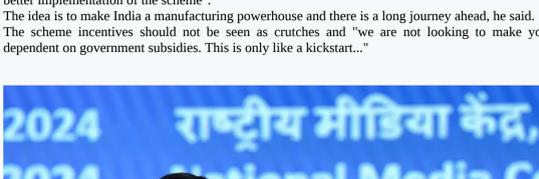
Telecom Stories:



The industry should look at the measures under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme as an initial support because going forward, the industry has to face competition to grow further, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

asked the PLI incentive beneficiary firms to share their "constructive criticism and feedback for better implementation of the scheme".

The idea is to make India a manufacturing powerhouse and there is a long journey ahead, he said. The scheme incentives should not be seen as crutches and "we are not looking to make you dependent on government subsidies. This is only like a kickstart..."



New Delhi: The union cabinet on Thursday cleared the next round of spectrum sales in which airwaves worth Rs 96,317.65 crore will be auctioned.

Unsold airwaves from the last auction as well as spectrum held by certain companies undergoing insolvency and expiring in 2024 on completion of the term will be put on sale, information and broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur told reporters.



New Delhi: India's telecom sector is expected to see a revival in foreign direct investment over the next couple of years. This optimism stems from two recent developments: the opening of satellite communications to the private sector, and introduction of the Telecommunications Act, which are expected to make the sector attractive and stimulate investment, analysts and industry experts said. The telecom sector has been a laggard in attracting FDI since 2020-21 with the highest amount being \$713 million in 2022-23. Previously, the sector used to get a generous amount of FDI, scaling a peak of \$6.2 billion in 2017-18.

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