هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات
TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Kingdom of Bahrain - مملكة البحرين

Guidance on the TRA Licence Application Process

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) is obliged to protect the interest of consumers by ensuring that licences are granted only to those applicants deemed capable of providing the relevant telecommunications services. It is important therefore that applications for licences are considered in the light of technical competence, financial probity and operational capability.

The TRA will consider each telecommunications licence application on case-by-case basis. As part of this process, the TRA will engage in dialogue with each applicant to ensure a comprehensive and mutual understanding of the proposed services.

All applicants seeking telecommunications licences within the Kingdom of Bahrain are required to comply with a set of general conditions as stipulated by the Telecommunications Law. These conditions are explicitly outlined in the following provisions:

- Article 26, Sub-article (a);
- Article 27, Sub-article (a);
- Article 29, Sub-article (c); and
- Article 57, Sub-article (a) (where applicable)

The prospective licensee:

1. must be a juristic entity incorporated in the Kingdom, or a branch of a foreign company licensed to operate in the Kingdom in accordance with the Commercial Companies Law.
2. must locate substantially all infrastructure and personnel associated with the provisions of Telecommunications services located in the Kingdom.
3. must submit to the TRA the licence application (duly completed and signed with company stamp).
4. must have evidence of sufficient resources, skills, and expertise in the field of the subject matter of the application.
5. must have evidence to meet such criteria for the licence applied for as are determined and issued by the Authority from time to time.

6. must have evidence of serving the interest of subscribers and users and promote competition among other licensed operators.
7. can have access to network infrastructure of other operators (E.g. Leased line, dark fiber, roll outs, own infrastructure, and etc.) (if applicable).

In accordance with Article 27(a) of the Telecommunications Law, the TRA shall formally acknowledge receipt of a licence application by issuing written notification to the applicant within fourteen (14) calendar days of receiving the application. Upon submission of all requisite documentation and payment of the applicable licence fees, and provided that the applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria set forth in the Telecommunications Law, the TRA shall proceed to grant the licence in accordance with the timelines stipulated therein.

Applicants must be fully aware of the requirements and in compliance with the applicable laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in particular the Telecommunications Law, Regulations issued by the TRA, and the licence conditions for which they apply.

Application forms for all licences are available from the TRA web site, at www.tra.org.bh

For enquiries, email licensing@tra.org.bh

Types of individual licence issued by the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority

Licence	Initial fee	Annual Licence Fee
Mobile Telecommunications licence This licence allows the provisions of mobile telecommunications service by its own network.	Three operating licenses have granted to Batelco, stc and Zain. No further licenses of this type are currently available.	
Paging Service licence This licence allows the commercial used of paging services to subscribers.	BD 5,000	2% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity.
VSAT licence / Earth Station Licence This licence grants the use of Very Small Aperture Terminal, a digital satellite data network with small antenna diameter, for private use only.	BD 5,000	2% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity.
Public Access Mobile Radio Service licence This licence allows the use of Public Access Mobile Radio in dispatch applications (e.g. by truck and taxi fleets.)	BD 5,000	2% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity.

International Telecommunications Facilities licence This licence authorizes the termination/ landing/ establishment of international connectivity and obligation and right to connect to other Bahrain licensed networks.	BD 20,000	2% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity.
International Telecommunications Service licence This licence allows the provision of international voice and data services with requirement to deploy physical traffic aggregation structure.	BD 10,000	2% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity.
National Fixed Services licence This licence allows the provision of national fixed voice and data services by its own network.	BD 35,000	2% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity.
Internet Exchange Licence This licence provides the holders of internet service licences with a connection mechanism in which internet communications are aggregated, transmitted and distributed to licensed internet services providers.	Two licences have been granted to Bahrain Internet Exchange (BIX) and Batelco.	

In addition to these individual licences, the TRA also grants class licences for Value Added Services and Interest Services provision, as indicated in the table below.

Types of class licence issued by the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority

Licence	Initial fee	Annual Licence Fee
Internet Service Provider licence This licence allows the provision of internet services but not including voice.	BD 5,000	2% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity.
Value Added Services licence This licence allows the provision of services over an existing network (e.g. card services).	BD 1,000	2% of gross annual turnover attributable to licensed activity.