



**TRA response to questions received relating to:
An Invitation to Tender for 1800 GSM Guard Band Licence**

Issued by:
The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)

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Question	TRA Response
<p>What it is meant by similar frequencies band Contents of the Bid: The Technical submission 84. In addition to the requirements outlined in Clause 83 above, the Bidder must demonstrate, as a pre-requisite, that it has either at least one commercial operational deployment of the proposed technology in the frequency band to be auctioned (or similar frequencies band), or that the management team can, to the satisfaction of TRA, demonstrate a track record of managing the commercial operations of a wireless telecommunications company as well as knowledge and experience regarding the deployment of the proposed technology. It should be taken into considerations that different frequency bands have totally different behavior and this frequency band is totally unique. Consequently even if other players have experience in utilizing other bands, this band has its own particularity and it requires specific expertise and skills to be able to deploy a network and operate in this band. [X] has been the only company worldwide who has designed networks in this band.</p>	<p>TRA is technology neutral and as such is not prescriptive with respect to the types of technology that can be deployed using the available frequencies. Technologies often operate in many frequency ranges therefore in this statement TRA is requiring Bidders (or the proposed management team) to demonstrate their use of technologies in either the GSM guardband frequencies or other frequencies, where such use involved necessity to ensure that there is no-interference with the adjacent frequency bands..</p>
<p>According to the ITT document, a test was conducted in this band and was proven to be successful, was their any other tests conducted in this band by any others?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If a bidder has qualified to enter the bid would there be a trial to prove his technology credibility?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>How are you going to verify that the highest bidder can implement a compliant and non interfering network?</p>	<p>TRA will undertake a detailed evaluation of the bid submission from technical, commercial and legal perspectives. If during the course of the evaluation TRA has a requirement for clarification to any points raised, TRA may at its discretion request from the submitting Bidder further clarification.</p>
<p>In which way the percentages of qualification calculated?</p>	<p>TRA has not established a pass / fail threshold. It is intended for TRA to follow the existing internal license application review process. Therefore as such there is no marking scheme. Any received Bid which would under the normal licensing process have been granted a licence (subject to meeting the specific requirements of this ITT) will be considered eligible to entry into the final financial bid stage.</p>
<p>How many entities applied or registered?</p>	<p>Two</p>
<p>In trying to understand the ITT we'd like clarification of a specific section. Under section 6 (The License) it is stated that this license can be used under Class VAS as long as an associated NFL is available.</p> <p>Can the successful bidder use this license for the sale and maintenance of equipment that operates on this spectrum? For example, a point to point link between two sites for a client's own purposes. Technically, this is not a regulated telecom service as several suppliers in Bahrain sell and install wireless links without a telecom license. The TRA seems to only insist that a spectrum license (or registration process in the case of ISM) be obtained/ followed. Is this a permissible use for this spectrum license despite the non-telecom aspect of the business?</p>	<p>The sale and maintenance of telecommunications equipment are covered by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC under "other activities" which could be added directly without the need for TRA approval.</p> <p>As per the Telecommunications Law Frequency Licenses are required for all uses of frequencies and should be obtained from TRA irrespective of whether for private or public use.</p> <p>Sections 24, 38 and 43 requires that a person using frequency spectrum to operate a telecommunications network (private or public) must have a Frequency Licence and the Telecommunications Equipment used for it must be Type Approved.</p> <p>Failure to obtain the licence or type approval is punishable by;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For a breach of section 24(a) - imprisonment of up to six months and/or a fine of up to five hundred thousand dinars and confiscation of the equipment, tools connections and everything used in the offence; 2. For breach of section 24(b) – imprisonment of up to three months and/or a fine not exceeding one

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	<p style="text-align: center;">hundred thousand dinars;</p> <p>3. for a breach of section 43 – a fine of up to five hundred thousand dinars and the confiscation of the equipment, tools, connections and everything used in the offence.</p> <p>Therefore the equipment being sold must be Type Approved per section 38.</p> <p>Connection and use of that equipment on a Telecommunications Network using Frequency must have a Frequency Licence.</p> <p>If the Telecommunications Network is used to provide Public Telecommunications Services then the operator must have the relevant Individual or Class Licenses.</p> <p><Maybe we should also clarify that spectrum assigned shall be used for telecommunications purposes/service provision?..></p>
<p>With respect to the power limitations under the draft frequency license and the distance restriction from a mobile base station, this would indicate that the mobile carriers will have to supply information about the locations of all their mobile base stations to the Guard Band license holder. However, the ITT does not indicate what happens in the case of the failure to comply with this distance limitations if due to the mobile carriers not supplying or not supplying the correct information. Also, is this distance restrictions necessary in the case of very low power broadcast such as a pico or micro cell? What if the spectrum is used for internal data communication (within an office or building). Does this same restriction apply? (i.e. If a mobile base station is broadcasting from the roof of a building, a pico cell cannot be located in that building as it is less than 200ft away?)</p>	<p>The intent of the distance restriction is to minimise the possibility of interference between the two systems. However this is not an absolute prohibition, Schedule A of the frequency licence states that an operator is not permitted to operate a fixed station closer than 200m to a pre-existing GSM station unless it is successfully coordinated between the licensee and the operator of the base station.</p> <p>There needs to be careful planning and coordination for all wireless networks and therefore the successful bidder, once awarded the license, should request from the existing GSM mobile operators site information.</p>
<p>What are the minimum expertise requirements that will satisfy the TRA as to the capabilities of the bidder to operate a license in this spectrum? How many engineers? How many years experience in the chief engineer? How many commercial people? And so on... Please note that this IS a question under the ITT as the provision of CVs of such people is a requirement under the checklist in the ITT and clause 84 below:</p> <p>84. In addition to the requirements outlined in Clause 83 above, the Bidder must demonstrate, as a pre-requisite, that it has either at least one commercial operational deployment of the proposed technology in the frequency band to be auctioned (or similar frequencies band), or that the management team can, to the satisfaction of TRA, demonstrate a track record of managing the commercial operations of a wireless telecommunications company as well as knowledge and experience regarding the deployment of the proposed technology.</p>	<p>TRA is not prescriptive with respect to the individual qualifications and number of qualified staff. However TRA requires that a bidder must be able to demonstrate that the Bid is supported through the expertise of the staff associated with the Bid that it is capable of operating such a network. This can be achieved through past experience of the senior staff in building, operating and managing subscriber networks either using the same or similar frequencies.</p>

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<p>Please note an error in clause 112:</p> <p>112. If TRA makes a determination that the Successful Bidder cannot complete all necessary actions within the time specified in Clauses 109 to Error! Reference source not found. or refuses to accept the Frequency Licence, the</p>	<p>TRA is thankful to the bidder for highlighting a referencing error within the ITT. The correct reference should read "Clauses 109 to 114"</p>
<p>Will the TRA of Bahrain kindly provide this for a Bahraini telecommunication company or will this not be necessary when the operator only operates under their own license in Bahrain? Are there any requirements for the operator to operate in several countries? And if so, is it sufficient if the operator operates under a partner's telecom license?</p> <p>FORM E: REGULATORY COMPLIANCE FORM</p> <p>[MUST BE PRINTED ON BIDDER'S BUSINESS LETTERHEAD] [In instances where there are no sanctions or pending legal actions, the Bidder must provide a Declaration of Good Standing in Regulatory Matters issued by the competent regulatory authority confirming that no telecommunications licence held by the Bidder, its Controlling Interest Holders, or its Affiliates has been revoked, sanctioned or is subject to pending legal action by any competent regulatory authority.]</p>	<p>It is not a requirement that the Bidder or members of a Bidder's consortium have overseas experience however TRA requires all Bidders to provide statements of Regulatory compliance relating to their telecommunications activities.</p> <p>TRA will upon request provide the aforementioned Regulatory Compliance form.</p> <p>The successful Bidder and the ultimate Licensee must in all cases comply with section 26 of the Telecommunications Law.</p>