

**Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 51/2019)**

**For immediate release**

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**

**TRAI releases Recommendations on "Entry Level Net-Worth requirement of Multi System Operators (MSOs) in Cable TV Service."**

New Delhi: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released its recommendations on "Entry level Net-worth requirement of Multi System Operators (MSOs) in Cable TV Services". A Multi System Operator (MSO) is an authorized service provider, providing cable TV services to its subscribers. The Rule 11(3) of Cable Television Network Rules, 1994 prescribes the criteria of the applicant for grant of MSO registration.

2. In this regard, a reference was received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) vide its letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 seeking recommendations of TRAI on the appropriate levels for fixation of entry level net-worth of the Multi System Operators (MSOs) for operationalizing cable TV digitization across the country. Further details of the reference were shared by MIB vide its letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

3. In order to deliberate on various aspects related to the matter and to seek inputs from the industry stakeholders on relevant issue, the Authority issued a detailed Consultation paper on "Entry Level Net Worth for MSOs in Cable TV Services", on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Subsequently, an open house discussion was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019, in Delhi, to seek the further views of the stakeholders on various issues.

4. Based on the comments of the stakeholders received during the above-mentioned consultation process and its own analysis, the Authority has finalized its recommendations on "Entry Level Net Worth requirement for MSO in Cable TV Services". The Authority has noted that the New Regulatory Framework provides an enabling environment for Small and Medium MSOs and upscaling of LCOs to MSO. To highlight the measures that enable small and medium MSOs the Authority has published a white-paper on 'Benefits of the New Framework for Small MSOs' ([https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/WhitePaper\\_23042019.pdf](https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/WhitePaper_23042019.pdf)) in April 2019.

5. After careful consideration the Authority has recommended that, '... there is no necessity for fixation of a minimum entry level net worth for MSO registration. As at present, any individual, company, Corporate firm or LLP that fulfils provisions of the Cable TV Rules may be granted MSO registration.



6. The full text of the recommendations is available on TRAI's website: [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in). For any clarification/information, Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Advisor (B&CS)-II may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23237922.

  
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