

No.1/7/1-2014 – PMU (DAS)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Shastri Bhavan, Dr. R P Road, New Delhi 110001

Dated the 05<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.

Subject: Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of Task Force held on 26.7.2016

Please find enclosed a copy of the minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 26.7.2016 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Information and Broadcasting on implementation of Phase III & IV of TV Digitization for information and necessary action.



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Encl : As above

To

All Members of the Task Force including those present.

- 1 PPS to Secretary, MIB
- 2 PPs to Jt. Secy (B.I)/pps to JS (B-II)
- 3 Advisor (DAS)
- 4 Dy. Secy (DAS)/Under Secy (DAS)

Copy also to: NBA/IBF/CEAMA

**MINUTES OF 16TH TASK FORCE MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL ADDRESSABLE SYSTEM IN CABLE TV NETWORK IN PHASE III & IV HELD ON 26.7.2016**

The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on implementation of phases III & IV of Digital Addressable System (DAS) in cable TV network was held on 26.7.2016 under the chairpersonship of the Secretary (I&B). List of the participants is annexed.

2. Opening the meeting for discussions, the Joint Secretary stressed the need to launch the publicity awareness campaign for phase IV of cable TV digitisation. She mentioned that Ministry has developed two TV spots on phase IV digitisation through DAVP. Details of the links for downloading of these spots will be soon made available. Further, Ministry has recently conducted one workshop with State level Nodal Officers in Delhi and three regional workshops with State and district level Nodal Officers at Dehradun, Shimla and Imphal. She added that except for some DTH operators, the public awareness campaign by broadcasters and MSOs for phase IV is not much visible so far. In this regard she asked the members representing the broadcasters and MSOs to share their plans for publicity for phase IV with the Task Force. Further, giving an update on seeding in phase IV areas, she informed that seeding has picked up from 138 lakh STBs seeded till last meeting of the Task Force to 178 lakh STBs. She remarked that voluntary digitisation is already going on there which is apparent from the data.

3. Regarding publicity plans for digitisation in phase IV areas, representative of the broadcasters mentioned that they have drawn a plan which will be discussed in the board meeting and would be ready for implementation by 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Representative of IMCL mentioned that, for publicity campaign, a joint effort by all MSOs and HITS operators is needed to inform the LCOs and consumers about mandatory digitisation by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016. Joint Secretary suggested that in addition to the spots developed by the Ministry, all stakeholders can work together to develop a creative spot on digitisation and share the same with the Ministry. She added that Doordarshan is also being asked to start broadcast of the TV spots on phase IV digitisation on their transmitters in the country.

4. Joint Secretary mentioned that Ministry had requested IBF, NBA and ARTBI to tell their member broadcasters to check up with all MSOs, with whom they have interconnect agreements,

to find out if they have taken MSO registration from the Ministry for Phase IV areas. And, if they have not applied for it so far, advise them to do so immediately. She said that Ministry has issued 965 MSO registrations so far and about 200 applications are under process in the Ministry. There being about 6000 MSOs in the country as per TRAI report, it is apparent that a large number of MSOs have not applied for MSO registration so far. She said that broadcasters should be having the details of all MSOs operating in phase IV areas in their data base which can be crosschecked with the list of registered MSOs on MIB website to identify the MSOs who have not applied for registration so far. She asked the representatives of broadcasters to send a list of these MSOs operating in phase IV areas but who have not applied for MSO registration to Ministry by **7<sup>th</sup> August 2016**. She added that as a next step the broadcasters should communicate with these MSOs and ask them to apply for MSO registration if they want to continue to operate as MSOs in DAS notified areas.

5. Representative of TRAI emphasized that broadcasters should start entering into interconnect agreements with MSOs and likewise MSOs should enter into interconnect agreements with LCOs for phase IV areas. He said that broadcasters should collect STB requirements from local cable operators in phase IV areas. Representative of IMCL mentioned that broadcasters have offered separate digital and analogue rates in phase IV market and suggested that TRAI may issue an advisory/directive that there should be only analogue rate till 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016. Representative of TRAI mentioned that no such advisory which is outside the regulations can be issued. He said that out of 900 TV channels, about 600 channels are free to air (FTA) channels and about 2000 LCOs distribute these channels from their head ends. He suggested that in their case State Governments can suggest these LCOs to apply for MSO registration.

6. Joint Secretary mentioned that some MSOs in phase III had sought the extension in the cut-off date for phase III from the courts on the plea that broadcasters had not signed the interconnect agreements with them in time. She said that agreements between broadcasters and MSOs are important for further signing of agreements between MSOs and LCOs. She said that broadcasters, MSOs and LCOs should prioritize this issue everywhere and make concerted efforts to seal the agreements for phase IV areas by **August 2016**. Representative of TRAI mentioned that all MSO who have any issue with broadcasters with regard to signing of interconnect agreements should write to TRAI. He added that TRAI would review the situation in this regard from time to time.

7. Representative of cable operator association from Maharashtra (MOCF) mentioned that about 200 LCOs have signed interconnect agreements with M/S Hathway in Maharashtra. He suggested that other large MSOs like M/S IMCL & M/S Siticable may also enter into agreements with LCOs there on the basis of model inter-connect agreement. He complained that the post offices in Maharashtra were asking for N.O.C from the offices of District Magistrates for renewal of registration to LCOs. He was told that with regard to this issue, which was raised in the last meeting also, proper reference with details should be sent to Ministry. He also wanted to know whether an MSO registered with Ministry and operating as LCO also is required to obtain the LCO registration from the Post Office also.

8. Advisor (DAS) informed that 62 cases had been filed by some MSOs in various courts in the country for extension in the deadline of phase III. Out of these 62 cases, 12 cases had been disposed off by respective courts and 3 cases had been withdrawn by the petitioners. 2 months extension in the phase III deadline was granted by the Hon'ble High Court of Telengana & Andhra Pradesh. In respect of the similar case for extension, Mumbai High Court and the Aurangabad Branch of Mumbai High Court had passed orders to the effect that the order passed by the Telengana bench of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh has all India applicability in view of Supreme Court judgment in Kusum Ingots case. Ministry of Law, on the advice sought by Ministry of I&B, observed that the order passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Telengana & Andhra Pradesh appears to have all India applicability. In view of the multiple cases filed in various courts, Ministry filed a petition in the Supreme Court for transfer of all the cases to the apex court or High Court of Delhi with prayer for urgent hearing and quashing of the extension in deadline granted by some of the courts. Apex Court has passed an order of transfer of all cases for extension in phase III deadline filed in various courts and any new cases on similar prayer to the Delhi High Court for adjudication. In this process, 29 cases have so far been transferred by various courts to the Delhi High Court and 18 cases are still left to be transferred. Two cases are scheduled for hearing by the Delhi High Court on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016. He further informed that Ministry has approached the Ld. SG for defending of cases and for early hearing of the cases in Delhi High Court. He added that an SLP is also being drafted against the order of Aurangabad Branch of Mumbai High Court.

Members were informed that there were no court cases on extension of cut-off date for phase III in 20 States, but in view of the observations of the Ministry of Law, Ministry of I&B is unable to issue directions to switch off analog signals in phase III areas. Representatives of IBF and national MSOs offered to supplement the efforts of the Ministry in the various court cases and in this regard requested that status of the court cases filed for phase III extension may be provided to them.

9. Representative of CEAMA mentioned that orders for STBs had peaked in October 2015. Thereafter, except for supply orders from DTH operators and some small MSOs, no major orders have been received by them. He suggested that the MSOs planning for procurement for phase IV should place the orders now for timely delivery of STBs. He re-confirmed that they have the capacity to meet the complete requirements of phase IV. Joint Secretary advised the MSOs to finalize their procurement plans, if not done so far, and cautioned that they should not let some uninterested MSOs to delay digitisation in phase IV on the grounds of non-availability of STBs as it was done in phase III.

10. Representatives of State Nodal Officers from the States of Himachal Pradesh, Telengana, U.P, Uttarakhand, M.P, Karnataka, Bihar and J & K briefly mentioned the various measures undertaken by them to implement the last phase of digitisation in their States. Most of them confirmed that monitoring committees have been set up in their States and they are holding regular meetings to monitor the progress.

11. Concluding the meeting the chairperson mentioned that digitisation is a process which cannot be stopped. He said that Ministry has been proactive in the matter of dealing with all the court cases filed by some MSOs for extension of cut-off date for phase III. He suggested that the stakeholders should supplement the efforts made by Ministry to dispose off these cases. He remarked that, notwithstanding the court cases on implementation in phase III, as per the MIS system, 176 lakh STBs have been seeded so far in phase IV areas which is a good achievement. He emphasized that broadcasters and MSOs should launch the publicity campaign on their channels on advantages of digitisation and mandatory digitisation in phase IV by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016 so that seeding progress picks up with time. He cautioned that MSOs and LCOs should desist from transmitting or re-transmitting un-authorized TV channels which are not permitted by the Ministry. He informed that Ministry has written to all the District Collectors/Magistrates in this regard to take action under the law against those who are violating the law.

Meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

List of participants of 16<sup>th</sup> Task force meeting on implementation of cable TV Digitization in  
Phases III & IV (26.07, 2016)

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mr. Ajay Mittal                   | Secretary (Chairperson)   |
| 2. Ms. R.Jaya                        | Joint Secretary (B-1)   |
| 3. Mr. Yogendra Pal                  | Advisor (DAS)   |
| 4. Mr. Shanker Lal                   | Deputy Director (DAS)   |
| 5. Mr. S. K Singal                   | Representative of TRAI  |
| 6. Mr. H.N Shukla                    | Representative of Govt. of UP                                     |
| 7. Mr. G. Rajesh Kumar               | Representative of Govt. of Telangana                              |
| 8. Mr. M.V Rangaiah                  | Representative of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh                         |
| 9. Mr. Chandra Singh                 | Representative of Govt. of Uttarakhand                            |
| 10. Dr. Sat Narain                   | Representative of Govt. of Punjab                                 |
| 11. Mr. Zahid Rashid                 | Representative of Govt. of Rajasthan                              |
| 12. Mr. A.M Zargar                   | Representative of Govt. of J & K                                  |
| 13. Ms. Veedushi Kapoor              | Representative of Govt. of J & K                                  |
| 14. Mr. B.K Singh                    | Representative of Govt. of Bihar                                  |
| 15. Mr. Shankaragowda<br>C Daddamani | Representative of Govt. of Karnataka                              |
| 16. Mr. R.S Rana                     | Representative of Govt. of Himachal Pradesh                       |
| 17. Mr. U.C kaundal                  | Representative of Govt. of Himachal Pradesh                       |
| 18. Mr. Vimal Singh Arora            | Representative of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh                         |
| 19. Mr. B.Tiwari                     | Representative of Govt. of Meghalaya                              |
| 20. Mr. S.K Singh                    | Representative of DTH operators Association                       |
| 21. Mr. Amit Tandon                  | Representative of Doordarshan                                     |
| 22. Mr. K.K Sharma                   | Representative of AIR   |
| 23. Mr. Bipin Jambholkar             | Representative of Bureau of India Standards                       |
| 24. Mr. S.K Marwaha                  | Representative of Department of Electronics<br>& IT               |
| 25. Mr. S.K Arya                     | Representative of DoT   |
| 26. Ms. Annie Joseph                 | Representative of NBA   |
| 27. Mr. Mohit Verma                  | Representative of CEAMA   |
| 28. Mr. Ankan Biswas                 | Representative of CEAMA   |
| 29. Mr. Indrajit Sen                 | Representative of Cable operators<br>Association from West Bengal |
| 30. Mr. Pulak Bagchi                 | Representative of ASSOCHAM  |
| 31. Mr. Anil Kumar Malhotra          | Representative of Siti Cable Networks (MSO)                       |
| 32. Mr. Arvind Prabhu                | Representative of Cable Operators<br>Association from Maharashtra |
| 33. Mr. Sandeep Panwar               | Representative of IBF   |

34. Mr. Gururaja Rao	Representative of IBF
35. Mr. Subhashish Mazumdar	Representative of IMCL (MSO)
36. Mr. Sujeet Jain	Representative of IBF
37. Mr. Vishal kaushik	Representative of IBF
38. Mr. Girish Srivastava	Representative of IBF
39. Mr. Shaji Mathews	Representative of GTPL Hathway (MSO)
40. Mr. Bibhu Prasad	Representative of Ortel Communications
41. Mr. Chandrakant Puhan	Representative of Ortel Communications