

## **Guidelines on Infrastructure Sharing**

In order to reduce input cost of Telecom access Service Providers, thereby facilitating reduction in tariff further, and to enhance the teledensity including rural areas, the Department of Telecom has formulated the following guidelines on infrastructure sharing among the Service Providers and Infrastructure Providers:-

- i. Sharing of active infrastructure amongst Service Providers based on the mutual agreements entered amongst them is permitted. Active infrastructure sharing will be limited to antenna, feeder cable, Node B, Radio Access Network (RAN) and transmission system only. Sharing of the allocated spectrum will not be permitted. The licensing conditions of UASL/CMSP will be suitably amended wherever necessary to permit such sharing.
- ii. Infrastructure Providers (IP) Category-I are allowed to seek SACFA siting clearance for erecting towers with or without agreement with licensed Service Providers.
- iii. SACFA procedure is being further simplified to reduce the time for SACFA clearance to about 45 days. Sites located beyond 7 Kms from Airport Reference Point (ARP) and the antenna height not exceeding 40 meters from airport level need only to be “registered” on WPC Website and clearance to be issued accordingly.
- iv. Service Providers may share passive infrastructure in accordance with the existing provisions in the licences of BSOs, CMSPs and UASLs.
- v. For giving financial incentives on the infrastructure sharing in the urban areas, State Governments shall be requested to charge same amounts for setting up of the shared tower irrespective of the number of Service Providers sharing the same tower at par with unshared tower.
- vi. For giving financial incentives for infrastructure sharing in rural areas, all the eligible Service Providers/ Infrastructure Providers (IP)Category-I shall be permitted to participate in the forthcoming scheme of USOF on infrastructure sharing irrespective of the fact they were beneficiary in the first phase of the scheme of infrastructure sharing within that particular area.
- vii. The IP shall set up Ground Base Tower (GBT) of minimum 40 m height with design duly approved by TEC/ SERC/ IITs. Such tower shall be capable of catering to the requirement of minimum three Service Providers sharing the infrastructure for provision of mobile services. However, the number of Service

Providers sharing this tower may vary depending upon the proposal submitted by Infrastructure Provider at the time of registration with USOFA.

viii. The IP will have to set up the infrastructure site within one year from the date of signing of the Agreement with Administrator USOF. No subsidy shall be payable to the IP if such infrastructure is set up after expiry of the LD period.

ix. The subsidy payable to the IPs for the Second Phase of the USOF scheme on infrastructure sharing shall be based on the Representative Rate emerged as an outcome of the bidding process for Part-A of the First Phase of the Scheme. However, the same shall be moderated taking into account the changes in some of the economic parameters, which have since undergone a change. If the number of Service Providers in the second phase of the scheme, irrespective of the fact that they were beneficiary or not in the first phase of the scheme, is less than the number of Service Providers proposed at the time of registration, then amount of subsidy payable from USO Fund to the IP shall be proportionally reduced from the amount when tower would be shared between the proposed number of Service Providers.

x. To encourage concept of infrastructure sharing in rural and remote areas, no subsidy shall be paid if newly erected tower is not shared.

xi. In the second phase of the scheme of USOF , an IP with two or more Service Providers (irrespective of the fact that they were beneficiary or not in the first phase of the scheme) or a group of two or more Service Providers, could come together and register themselves with USOFA for setting up the tower and providing mobiles services along with the consent of the three USPs to share the towers. All Licensed Access Service Providers (BSOs/ CMSPs/ UASLs) having spectrum allocated from WPC and all Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) registered with DoT shall be eligible to set up the infrastructure sites under the second phase of the Scheme, irrespective of the fact that they were beneficiary in the first phase or not.

xii. For using non-conventional energy sources, the Service Providers may avail several fiscal and financial incentives under the various schemes/programmes of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, details of which are available on the ministry's website: [www.mnes.nic.in](http://www.mnes.nic.in)