

No. 30-166/2011-BB-USOF
Ministry of Communications & IT
Department of Telecommunications
Sanchar Bhavan, 20 Ashoka Road, N. Delhi-110001

Dated 28th June, 2013

Subject: Constitution of Joint Working Group for NOFN and broadband related issues under NTP-2012.

Background

The potential of Broadband to transform the lives of citizen as well as socio-economic growth and competitiveness of nation has been well recognized. Proliferation of Broadband in the country is key to development.

2. With above points in mind, Government has taken several initiatives in DOT and other department for leveraging ICT. In Ministry of Comm. & IT triad of policy have been approved. Broadband is central to the National Telecom Policy (NTP) 2012 and on infrastructure front NOFN initiative has also been launched for taking fibre and Broadband to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats. The strategies for Broadband, Rural Telephony and Universal service Obligation fund has been enumerated in the NTP-2012 at Section –IV, Para-1, Sl 1.1 to 1.15 (Copy enclosed).

3. However, the vision of Govt of India can be realized through participation of all stakeholders only. At the Broadband Summit 2012, co-organised by the Deptt. Of Telecommunications and Confederation of Indian Industry on 28-9-2012, Hon'ble MCIT had agreed to the suggestion of setting up of Industry-Govt Joint Working Group (JWG). In the meeting of the Advisory Body on NOFN held on 03/04/2013 Chaired by Hon'ble MCIT, also three Sub-committees for Interconnection, Upstream/Down Stream integration and Content have been proposed under the Advisory body scope. Entwining the two decisions referred above, it is proposed to form a Committee in the form of Joint Working Group (JWG) of Govt and Industry:

4. In view of above, a Joint Working Group of Govt. & Industry is constituted with following members:

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|------|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| (i) | Shri Kiran Karnik | – | Chairperson |
| (ii) | Smt. Rita Teatia | – | AS (T), DoT, Co-Chairperson |

Members from Industry:

One representative each from the following:

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| (i) | NASSCOM | – | President or his representative |
| (ii) | Assocham | – | President or his representative |
| (iii) | FICCI | – | President or his representative |
| (iv) | TEMA | – | President or his representative |
| (v) | OSPFI | – | President or his representative |
| (vi) | IAMAI | – | President or his representative |
| (vii) | ICA | – | President or his representative |
| (viii) | COAI | – | Chairman or his representative |
| (ix) | AUSPI | – | President or his representative |
| (x) | ISPAI | – | President or his representative |
| (xi) | CMAI | – | President or his representative |
| (xii) | TAIPA | – | Chairman or his representative |
| (xiii) | Cable Operators Federation of India | – | President or his representative |
| (xiv) | NIXI | – | CEO |

Member from Government:

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|---|-----|
| (i) | Administrator, USOF | – | DoT |
|-----|---------------------|---|-----|

(ii)	Sr. DDG (TEC)	–	DoT
(iii)	DDG (AS)	–	DoT
(iv)	DDG (CS)	–	DoT
(v)	DDG (IP)	–	DoT
(vi)	Director (O)	–	BBNL
(vii)	Representative from M/o Health & Family Welfare		
(viii)	Representative from D/o School Education & Literacy		
(ix)	Representative from D/o Higher Education		
(x)	Representative from D/o Food & Public Distribution		
(xi)	Representative from D/o Panchayati Raj		
(xii)	Representative from D/o Rural Development		
(xiii)	Representative from D/o Posts		
(xiv)	Representative from DoNER		
(xv)	Representative from M/o Tribal Affairs		
(xvi)	Representative from M/o Home Affairs		
(xvii)	Representative from D/o Women & Child Development		
(xviii)	Representative from D/o Fertilizer		
(xix)	Representative from D/o Financial Services		
(xx)	Representative from M/o I & B		
(xxi)	Representative from DeitY		
(xxii)	Representative from CDoT		
(xxiii)	Representative from CDAC		
(xxiv)	DDG (BB)	–	Convener

5. The terms of reference for the Joint Working Group (JWG) is as follows:

(A) NOFN

- i. Implementation Issues
- ii. Upstream and downstream integration
- iii. Issues relating to non-discriminatory access
- iv. Providing strategic vision to entire Broadband Eco-system including content, localisation, services, applications, customer end devices/ CPE etc. for accelerating broadband penetration
- v. Any other matter considered vital for acceleration of broadband penetration viz.
 - o Capacity assessment of core network & related issues.
 - o Non-discriminatory interconnection at GPs & PoPs of NOFN
 - o Proliferation of access networks
 - o Gross potential capacity assessment of existing/network planned viz fibre to the tower of access providers etc.
 - o Assessment of killer apps. In various sectors like commerce, health, education etc.
 - o Localization of these killer apps state-wise
 - o Leveraging the work already done by various stakeholders to avoid duplication
 - o Approach to facilitation of tie-up of content providers & Telcos/ISPs & their business model

(B) Broadband Eco-system

- i. To address the implementation issues of strategies enshrined in NTP-12 under Section-IV, Para-1, Sl 1.1 to 1.15.
- ii. To provide a roadmap for stimulation of investment for development of various components of Broadband eco-system.
- iii. To provide a coordinated and consistent approach to broadband infrastructure management and facilitation issues across the major urban and regional areas
- iv. To stimulate investment and competition in the development of optical fibre infrastructure.
- v. To facilitate and encourage development of relevant content in regional languages.

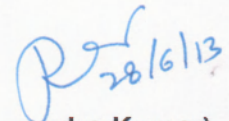
- vi. To address issues concerning the physical rollout of the optical fibre network, broadband content, applications and services.
- vii. To work with carriers to promote and improve service, access availability and cost competitiveness of broadband services.
- viii. To address issues such as barriers, drivers, supply side/demand side issues related to Broadband ecosystem so that targets stipulated in NTP-2012 for achieving 175 million broadband connections by year 2017 and 600 million by the year 2020.
- ix. Providing strategic vision to Broadband Eco-system

6. The JWG will develop a holistic roadmap for various components Broadband Ecosystem as access network, core network, content, and elimination of barriers coming in the way of broadband proliferation identifying clearly critical factors for policy achievement. The role of Joint working group will be (i) to provide inputs to the Advisory Body on NOFN, (ii) to work out modalities for accelerating achievement of targets of broadband related issues under NTP-12 and evolve a roadmap for achievement of Broadband and rural telephony objectives & targets enshrined in NTP-12 and (iii) providing strategic vision to broadband.

7. To facilitate its task, JWG may constitute small groups focusing on various aspects and synergise the works of these smaller groups/ evolve its working procedure.

8. The Joint Working Group (JWG) is constituted for a period of two years to attain objectives under NTP-12. The JWG will submit its first report to serve as input to Advisory Body for NOFN and DoT for NTP-12 by 30/09/2013.

Encl: As above

 28/6/13

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To,
All members of Joint working Group