

05/7.11/11

COMMUNIQUÉ



**Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL)**

For immediate release

**57<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ECTEL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Thursday, November 17, 2011**  
**Basseterre, St. Kitts**

**Public Consultation to Commence on New Licences**

**Castries, December 7, 2011.** The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunication Authority (ECTEL) is currently conducting a Public Consultation on new licence templates and a revised Fee Schedule in the ECTEL Member States. The purpose of the consultation is to seek the views of interested parties on the proposed scope of several new telecommunications licences.

ECTEL has developed several new draft telecommunications licence templates in recognition of the existence of several emerging services in ECTEL States which are currently not regulated or are insufficiently regulated under the existing regulatory arrangements.

Associated with the introduction of these new licence templates, are a number of proposed amendments to the current Regulations related to the fees paid by telecommunications operators in ECTEL states. The consultation on the new licence templates and fee schedule commenced on December 1, 2011.

The conduct of the public consultations was one of the main decisions taken at the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECTEL Board of Directors held in St. Kitts and Nevis on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011. At that meeting the Board also agreed that Interconnection Agreements between telecommunications providers must be made available to members of the public, subject to the exclusion of certain technical information.

The Board of Directors agreed that ECTEL should commence extensive technical and legal work on the development of rules and procedures for the implementation of number portability in the ECTTEL Member States in the coming year.

The Board of Directors reviewed the status of Universal Service pilot projects scheduled to be implemented in all the ECTEL Member States. These projects are designed to deliver telecommunications services to underserved groups and communities in the region.

The ECTEL Board of Directors meets quarterly to consider reports on the work of the ECTEL Directorate, which is based in Saint Lucia, and to approve rules and regulations for the telecommunications and ICT sector.

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