

**Shri Anshu Prakash, IAS**  
**Secretary**  
**Department of Telecommunications**  
**Ministry of Communication**  
**Sanchar Bhawan**  
**20, Ashoka Road**  
**New Delhi-110001**

**20th May 2021**

**Ref: Acceptance of TRAI recommendations on 'Provision of Cellular Backhaul Connectivity via Satellite through VSAT under Commercial VSAT CUG Authorization'**

**Dear Sir,**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had come out with their recommendations on the provision of cellular backhaul connectivity via satellite through VSATs under commercial VSAT CUG authorization. The timing of the recommendations could not have been more apt when the Telecom Service Providers are rolling out USO funded 4G connectivity in the unserved and underserved areas of the country. The recommendations when accepted by DoT would give the right impetus to the satellite industry in providing backhauls for the TSPs to reach the far flung areas in an affordable manner. Needless to say that the satellite service providers are trying to harness the great potential of the High Throughput GSAT Satellites launched by ISRO for the purpose of providing much needed cellular backhauls.

**However, the recommendations that were issued by TRAI on the 28th of July 2020 are yet to be accepted by DoT. We have also learnt that a standing committee under the leadership of the Additional Secretary Telecom has examined the said recommendations and has submitted that the TRAI recommendations be accepted. We as a satcom industry association are keenly awaiting the amendments to the VSAT authorization in order to enable the satellite service providers to provide backhaul services to the TSPs to accelerate Connect India 2022 Goals under National Digital Communications Policy, 2018.**

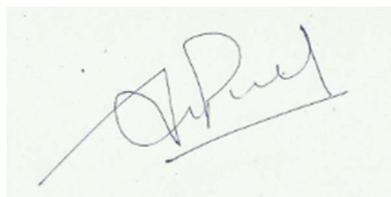
Sir, it is our humble request that the recommendations be accepted at the earliest as this would not only enable the services to be rolled out at the earliest in the much needed hilly and rural areas, but also enable the capacities in the HTS be effectively utilized. A PPT is attached here to further retreat our position. We look forward to further interaction on this matter.

**About SIA-India:**

SIA-India is a non-profit association created to represent the interests of the communication satellite ecosystem in India. As a vibrant body, SIA-India represents satellite operators, satellite systems, launch vehicles and ground and terminal equipment manufacturers as well as application solutions providers to the Government, Regulators, Policymakers, and domestic and international standards bodies.

**Our vision is to be a unified voice for the Communication Satellite industry in India.**

Thanking you,  
With sincere regards,



**Anil Prakash**  
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CC:  
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