



Consultation on Introduction of Rollout  
Obligations in Telecommunication  
Infrastructure Provider License

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# **Consultation on Introduction of Rollout Obligations in Telecommunication Infrastructure Provider License**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1. Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (“the Authority”) under Section 4(1)(a) of Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996 (“the Act”) is mandated to regulate the establishment, operation and maintenance of telecommunication system and the provision of the telecommunication services in Pakistan. Furthermore, The Authority under section 5(2)(a) of the Act is empowered to grant and renew licenses for any telecommunication system and any telecommunication service on payment of such fees as it may, from time to time specify.

1.2. In accordance with section 20 of the Act, no person shall establish, maintain or operate any telecommunication system or provide any telecommunication service unless he has obtained a license under the Act. Moreover, under Section 21(1)(b) of the Act, Authority considers factor of public interest and benefits to the users of telecommunication services before grant of License. Furthermore, section 21(4)(n) elaborates that every license granted under the Act may contain conditions as to the security provided by a licensee to support the fulfillment of the licensee’s obligations in the license, and the realization on such security by the Authority.

## **2. FIXED LINE LICENSING**

2.1. The Authority issues following categories of Fixed-Line Licensees:

- a. Long Distance International (“LDI”) License
- b. Local Loop (“LL”) License
- c. Class License
- d. Telecommunication Infrastructure Provider (“TIP”) License
- e. Telecommunication Infrastructure (Tower) Provider (“TTP”) License
- f. Third Party Service Provider (“TPSP”) License

2.2. The TIP License authorizes the licensee to establish and maintain following Telecom Infrastructure facilities in Pakistan to lease, rent out or sell end to end links to Telecom

Operators licensed by Authority on mutually agreed terms strictly keeping in view their license conditions:

- a. Earth stations & Satellite Hub;
- b. Optic fiber cables;
- c. Radio communications links;
- d. Submarine cable landing station within fifteen miles of coastal area of Pakistan subject to approval by the Authority & clearance of Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior;
- e. Towers, poles, ducts and pits used in conjunction with other infrastructure facilities; and
- f. Such other Telecommunication infrastructure as the Authority may, by Regulation, require

### **3. ROLLOUT OBLIGATIONS**

3.1. The introduction of rollout obligations generally under a license ensures that licensees make tangible progress in deploying telecom infrastructure and delivering services within defined timelines. Such obligations align private investment with national broadband and connectivity goals. They also enable the regulator to monitor measurable outcomes and ensure that licensees contribute effectively to public interest objectives. This consultation paper analyzes the requirement of introducing rollout obligations in TIP License.

3.2. Currently, LDI and LL Licenses are mandated under their respective licenses to complete the rollout under a specified period. However, there is no specified rollout obligations in TIP License.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF TIP LICENSEES**

4.1. So far, the Authority has issued twenty-four (24) x TIP Licenses. Out of these nineteen (19) x Licenses have established Telecom Infrastructure and commenced provisioning of the same to other Telecom Operators.

*Table 1: Summary of Valid TIP Licenses*

License Type	Jurisdiction	Total	Commenced	Non-Commenced
TIP	Pakistan	24	19	5

4.2. It has been observed that out of the twenty-four (24) x TIP Licensees, only fourteen (14) have actually deployed Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) infrastructure across Pakistan. In

addition, among these, merely six (6) have laid networks extending 300 kilometers or more. This indicates that only around twenty-five percent (25%) of the granted licenses have made a meaningful contribution toward the expansion of Pakistan’s fiber-optic networks, while the majority of licensees remain largely dormant and have not fulfilled the intended objectives of the license. Such limited deployment not only undermines the purpose of granting licenses but also falls short of the expectations envisaged under Section 21(1)(b) of the Act. This situation underscores the need to introduce comprehensive rollout obligations for telecom infrastructure providers to ensure that licensees actively contribute to the development of national infrastructure, including Optical Fiber Cable, Earth Stations /Satellite Hub, Towers/ Radio Communication Links, and Submarine Cable Landing Station. Such measures would ensure that infrastructure licensees play a tangible and measurable role in achieving the national objectives of ubiquitous digital connectivity, enhanced fiberization, and resilient networks.

## 5. PROPOSED ROLLOUT

5.1. In order to address the aforesaid situation, the Authority is of the view that some minimum Rollout Obligation may also be made part of the TIP License. In this regard, the proposed Rollout Obligations are as under:

*Table 2: Proposed Rollout for TIP Licensees*

S.#.	Type of Rollout Obligation	Deadline from Effective Date					
		1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	4 <sup>th</sup> Year	5 <sup>th</sup> Year	6 <sup>th</sup> Year
a.	Earth Stations /Satellite Hub	1 x Earth Stations/ Satellite Hub		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>OR</b>							
b.	Optical Fiber Cable	60 Km		60 Km	60 Km	60 Km	60 Km
<b>OR</b>							
c.	Towers/ Radio Communication Links	10	10	10	10	10	N/A
<b>OR</b>							
d.	Submarine Cable Landing Station	Request for Permit in Principle (PiP) for Establishment of CLS	Establishment of CLS and Request for Commencement Certificate			Operation of CLS	

## 6. CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

6.1. Response against following Questions is requested to finalize the Rollout Obligations for TIP Licensees.

S.#.	Question	Response	Justification for Response
1.	Do you agree that rollout obligations should be introduced under the Telecom Infrastructure Provider (TIP) License.	Yes/No	
2.	Do you agree with the rollout obligations proposed for TIP License as outlined in Table-2 of this Consultation Paper.	Yes/No	
3.	In case, if you do not agree with the proposed rollout obligations, provide alternative rollout obligation as per the format specified in Table-2 of this Consultation Paper.	Propose Rollout as per Table-2 of this Consultation Paper	

## 7. METHODS FOR SUBMITTING FEEDBACK

7.1. Written Comments/Feedback on this consultation document may be provided to PTA as follows:

Email: [wireline-licensing@pta.gov.pk](mailto:wireline-licensing@pta.gov.pk)

*OR*

Post to:

Director (Wireline-Licensing)

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, HQs, F-5/1, Islamabad

051-2878151

***The deadline for comments is within two weeks from the date of publication i.e. 12 December 2025 by 1630 Hours.***