



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Final Determination and Order on Provision of National Roaming Services on Cellular Mobile Networks of the Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd. (BTC) in The Bahamas to NewCo2015 Limited for an Interim Period**

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) has today published its Final Determination and Order on the introduction of national roaming in support of competition in the cellular mobile communications sector. The formal consultation was launched on 30 March 2016 with the publication of the Preliminary Determination and Draft Order and officially closed 24 June 2016. The goal of the consultation was to consider whether Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd. (BTC) should be under an obligation to provide national roaming to NewCo2015 Limited (“NewCo”) during its roll-out period and, if so, the regulatory obligations to impose on BTC to ensure that all reasonable requests for the service are met. Responses to the consultation were received from the BTC and Cable Bahamas Ltd. (on behalf of NewCo2015 Limited).

The Final Determination and Order impose an obligation on BTC to provide national roaming services to NewCo. In principle, the intention of the national roaming obligation is to allow NewCo to offer the same range of pre-paid and post-paid retail mobile services it provides via its own cellular mobile network, in areas outside of its network coverage. As such, URCA expects the minimum range of services to include:

- All incoming calls to NewCo’s mobile customers, irrespective of the origin of the call (i.e., fixed-to-mobile calls, on-net and off-net mobile-to-mobile calls, and incoming international calls).
- All outbound calls from a NewCo’s mobile customers, irrespective of the destination of the call (i.e., mobile-to-fixed calls, on-net and off-net mobile-to-mobile calls, international

outgoing calls, calls to voicemail and other special services in The Bahamas, such as emergency services, directory enquires, etc.).

- All inbound and outbound mobile messaging services (SMS and MMS) from or to NewCo's mobile customers, irrespective of their origination or destination.
- Access to calling features for NewCo's mobile customers.
- Access to Internet services for NewCo's mobile customers.

However, the obligation does not require BTC to support international roaming agreements between NewCo and its foreign counterparts.

The obligation is for a period of up to 24 months from the issuance date (30 June 2016) of NewCo's Individual Operating Licence and Individual Spectrum Licence (ISL).

The Final Determination and Order on national roaming is available for download from URCA's website at <http://www.urcabahamas.bs/download/060161000.pdf>.

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