



PRESS RELEASE

15 July, 2016

Assessment of Significant Market Power in Mobile Call and Short Messaging Termination Services on NewCo2015 Limited Cellular Mobile Network in The Bahamas under Section 39(1) of the Communications Act, 2009

Today, URCA published for consultation its “Assessment of Significant Market Power in Mobile Call and Short Messaging Termination Services on NewCo2015 Limited Cellular Mobile Network in The Bahamas under Section 39(1) of the Communications Act, 2009” (ECS 17/2016). NewCo has been granted licences to become the second cellular mobile operator in The Bahamas.

Termination describes the service whereby one operator (the terminating party) accepts traffic that has originated on another operator’s network and carries this traffic to customers on its own network. Call termination is an essential wholesale service that all holders of Individual Operating Licences (IOLs) in The Bahamas, who are licensed to provide retail fixed and/or mobile voice and messaging services, need to purchase from each other in order to allow their customers to call customers on other public networks.

URCA, having conducted a review of mobile termination services (voice and messaging service) on NewCo’s cellular mobile network in The Bahamas in accordance with the Communications Act, 2009 and its Methodology for SMP assessments, considered that it would be appropriate and proportionate to make certain determinations regarding the definition of markets, the existence of NewCo having SMP in those markets, and the extent to which *ex-ante* regulation is appropriate and necessary in those markets. The Preliminary Determination, published today, contains the detailed determinations which URCA proposes to make and URCA’s rationale for its proposals.

Written comments from the affected licensees and the public are invited on the matters contained in this Preliminary Determination. The document contains a number of questions to assist respondents in preparing their written submissions on this Preliminary Determination

which must be submitted to URCA by 5:00 p.m. on 15 August, 2016. Interested parties will then have the opportunity to further comment on responses made by other respondents by 5:00 p.m. on 19 September 2016.

Directions for the submission of comments are contained in the consultation document. Upon consideration of written responses, URCA will publish a Final Determination on the results of the consultation. URCA encourages respondents to adhere to the deadlines for making written submissions on this Preliminary Determination. Having regard to the strict statutory timeframes imposed upon URCA in section 100(5) of the Comms Act, only in extreme circumstances, will URCA consider accommodating any request for an extension to the deadlines for responding to this consultation.

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