



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

URCA Publishes Draft Three Year Strategy and Annual Plan for 2011 and Fee Schedule 2011

Today URCA published its Draft Three Year Strategy and Annual Plan for 2011 (fiscal 2011) as a consultation document, ECS 26/2010. The document's plan outlines:

- URCA's broad priorities for 2011- 2014
- URCA's annual plan of activities, organised on a quarterly basis;
- A series of key performance indicators which URCA shall use to measure its performance for fiscal 2011;
- The level of remuneration to be received by Non-Executive and Executive members of URCA's Board for the forthcoming financial year; and
- URCA's budget for fiscal 2011.

During 2009 to 2010, URCA undertook and completed a number of initiatives in broad strategic areas that it identified as priorities for the electronic communications sector (ECS) in The Bahamas. In seeking to ensure a solid foundation for the regulation of the ECS in 2010, significant efforts were targeted at obligations on operators with Significant Market Power (SMP), and reviewing outputs and outcomes of those obligations prior to those operators being able to enter new markets.

URCA intends during 2011 to build upon the foundation of its strategic priorities in the context of its responsibility for regulation and the encouragement of competition in the ECS.

URCA has identified and proposes to focus on a number of specific projects in fiscal 2011. The proposed number of projects planned for fiscal 2011 are based on ongoing regulatory proceedings; follow-up required on similar topics; regulatory measures designed to promote competition and enforce regulatory safeguards; and URCA's views on how best to fulfill its mandate.

URCA's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Usman Saadat noted that "The volume of projects has been conscientiously reduced by URCA in light of the number of large and complex projects carrying over from 2010, as well as industry concerns about the number of consultations and associated workload during 2010. Respondents are welcome to comment on the timing of particular projects, as well as the overall proposed work plan." Therefore, there will be ongoing public participation in the decisions made

by URCA with a number of Public Consultations in various areas of regulation such as a code of practice for consumer complaints; setting up a Consumer Advisory Council; Number Portability; Infrastructure Sharing; and call termination.

Additionally, URCA will continue to discharge its on-going duties under the Communications Act 2009, covering areas such as retail price regulation, licensing, spectrum monitoring, investigating allegations of anti-competitive behavior, and reviewing any notifications of mergers in the sector.

The budget for fiscal 2011 is used to set the URCA Fee for the same period. The Fee Schedule (ECS 27/2010) was also published today, setting the URCA Fee at 1.165 per cent of relevant turnover (for those licensees with annual relevant turnover over \$500,000 per annum).

URCA aims to create the key enablers that support the smooth functioning of a competitive market, promoting innovation in converging platforms and services, and for all stakeholders to make well-informed decisions in a leading regulatory regime that is transparent and predictable.

Therefore, URCA invites comments and submissions from members of the public, licensees and other interested parties on its Draft Three Year Strategy and Annual Plan. Written submissions, or comments on the consultation document should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and received on or before 5 P.M., 21 January, 2011. The complete document is available for download on URCA's website at www.urbahamas.bs.

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