



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

URCA Issues 700 MHz Spectrum License

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) has issued a 700 MHz¹ spectrum license to the Bahamas Telecommunications Company Limited (BTC). Issue of a license for the new spectrum bandwidth to Cable Bahamas Limited (CBL) is also expected. This follows a competitive evaluation process initiated this past March 23rd, when URCA issued a Request for Applications (RFA) for the newly opened 700 MHz spectrum band. A total of five applications were received.

The 700 MHz band, with frequency ranging from 698 MHz to 806 Mhz, is considered an especially valuable fixed and mobile broadband network resource, given its suitability for 4G (Fourth Generation) LTE (Long Term Evolution) technologies. URCA made 72 MHz of the 108 MHz band available for this process. Operators were permitted to submit applications for specified blocks within the bandwidth, up to a maximum of 24 MHz, and not including blocks reserved for public health and safety use (12 MHz) and additional mobile services (24 MHz) when BTC's exclusivity in the mobile market expires in April 2014.

Applications were evaluated on the basis of four core components: applicants' overall business plan, financial strength, technical capability and the general public interests served by the spectrum's intended use. Two applications were denied because they did not meet the minimum criteria and one application is pending approvals from other business investment and licensing bodies.

BTC's license includes spectrum blocks comprising 24 MHz. The 700 MHz spectrum license is national in scope, including specified roll-out requirements to ensure that services are made available throughout the majority of The Bahamas.

Specifically, BTC must make 700 MHz spectrum services available to at least 75% of populations in New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco and Eleuthera within 18 months of the issue date of the license; with improvement to 99% coverage on those islands within 30 months plus the addition of at least two family islands. Subsequent additions of not less than two additional

¹ Megahertz

islands by both 42- and 54-month milestones are required. In each instance 75% population coverage is the minimum standard.

The spectrum license which was issued on August 13, 2012 is valid for a period of fifteen years.

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30 August 2012

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