



**31 December 2014**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Draft Annual Plan 2015

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) is pleased to publish the “*URCA Draft Annual Plan 2015- ECS 21/2014*” (“the Draft Annual Plan”) for its upcoming financial year (1 January to 31 December 2015).

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) is the regulatory authority with responsibility for the electronic communications sector in The Bahamas. The sector comprises fixed and mobile telephone services, spectrum and numbering, internet services and broadcasting including pay television.

The regulatory regime for electronic communications in The Bahamas was established in 2009 with the passage of three (3) core pieces of legislation. The Communications Act, 2009, The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) Act, 2009 and the Utilities Appeal Tribunal (UAT) Act, 2009.

As it specifically relates to the Draft Annual Plan, URCA is bound by Section 41 of the URCA Act to prepare and publish the annual plan in draft form on its website no later than the end of the financial year. This provides interested parties with the opportunity to comment on the proposed path forward.

Highlights of the Draft Annual Plan include:

- URCA’s 2014 Achievements;
- URCA’s Plan for 2015;
- Focus Areas and Key Projects for 2015;
- URCA’s Key Projects for 2015; and
- URCA’s Draft Budget for 2015.

URCA is committed to public engagement and partnership and invites all interested parties to submit comments for consideration by **30 January 2015**. Comments can be submitted as follows:

- by hand, to URCA's office at UBS Annex Building, East Bay Street, Nassau; or
- by mail to P.O. Box N-4860, Nassau, The **Bahamas**; or
- by fax, to (242) 393- 0153; or
- by email, to [info@urcabahamas.bs](mailto:info@urcabahamas.bs).

URCA reserves the right to make all responses available to the public by posting responses online on its website at [www.urcabahamas.bs](http://www.urcabahamas.bs). If a response is marked confidential, reasons should be given to facilitate evaluation by URCA of the request for confidentiality. URCA may publish or refrain from publishing any document or submission at its sole discretion.

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