



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and Explanation of Key Terms

What is access?

Access means the making available by one licensed operator or service provider of its facilities and/or services to other licensed telecommunications operators and service providers, for the purpose of providing electronic communications services.

What is interconnection?

Interconnection is the connection/linking of public voice telecommunications networks (fixed and mobile) to allow the users of one network to make calls and send messages to, and receive calls and messages from, users of another network.

What is a Point of Interconnection (POI)?

A Point of Interconnection (POI) is the boundary between two interconnected telecommunications networks, at which the two licensees/operators agree to link (interconnect) their networks.

What is direct interconnection?

Direct interconnection or direct connectivity is where a public voice network is directly linked to another public voice network. For example, BTC's fixed network is directly linked to BTC's mobile network.

What is IP/SIP interconnection?

Internet protocol or session internet protocol interconnection is a modern form of interconnection, which allows for interconnection where interconnection occurs at the internet protocol level instead of at the "Time Division Multiplexing (TDM)" interconnection that has been in place in the past based on older technologies.

What is an incumbent operator?

An incumbent operator is a phone services provider who existed in the fixed and/or mobile phone market prior to liberalisation or the advent of competition in that specific market. In most cases, the incumbent is the access or interconnection provider as new entrants to the market would need to interconnect with the incumbent's networks to effectively compete. In the case of The Bahamas, BTC is the incumbent telephone operator.

What is an Other Licensed Operator?

An Other Licensed Operator or OLO is an operator that entered the market after liberalisation. The OLO is usually the access or interconnection seeker.

What is a calling party?

A calling party is the user making a call on a telephone network. As such, the calling party is the originator of the call.

What is a called party?

A called party is the user receiving a call on a telephone network.

What is call origination service?

Call origination refers to the transmission of calls from an end user located on a public voice network to a Point of Interconnection with another public voice network.

What is call termination service?

Call termination refers to the completion of calls that originate on a public voice network to end users located on another public voice network.

What is a termination rate?

A termination rate is the wholesale price which Operator A charges Operator B for terminating calls on Operator A's network.

What is call transit service?

Call transit is the transmission of calls between Operator A's network and Operator B's network where these two networks are not directly interconnected. As SRG's fixed network is not directly linked to BTC's mobile network, SRG must buy a call transit service from BTC to terminate calls on BTC's mobile network.

What is a transit fee?

A transit fee is the wholesale price which an operator (usually the incumbent) charges another operator (usually the OLO) to transmit calls from the OLO's network to the incumbent's network and vice versa where the two networks are not directly interconnected.

What is the RAIO?

The Reference Access and Interconnection Offer, also known as the RAIO, is a standard offer document in the form of a draft contract setting out the access and interconnection services and matters relating to the price and terms and conditions under which the licensee, with significant market power or SMP (usually the incumbent), will provide such services upon request to OLOs. The RAIO ensures transparency, efficiency and non-discrimination in interconnection between the SMP operators and OLOs.

Do other operators have a RAIO?

At the present time, BTC is the only operator obligated to publish a RAIO. This is because of BTC's position in the broader electronic communications sector due to BTC having SMP in wholesale call termination on BTC's network and in the provision of retail fixed voice, retail mobile voice and data services. CBL/SRG and IPSI have SMP in wholesale call termination on their respective networks but do not have SMP in any retail markets therefore they are not required to publish a RAIO. Despite this, CBL/SRG and IPSI are required to publish terms and conditions regarding call termination services.

What is an access and interconnection agreement?

An access and interconnection agreement is an agreement between two licensees relating to access and/or interconnection services provided by either or both operators to the other.