

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
20, Ashoka Road, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001
(Satellite Division)

F. No. 60-SATCOM Plan/DoS/2020-SAT

Date:26.10.2022

Sub: Constitution of IMC-SNC, its scope and related procedure

The undersigned is directed to convey the approval of competent authority regarding constitution of Inter-Ministerial Committee for Satellite Network Clearance (IMC-SNC), hitherto known as Apex Committee, its scope and related procedure as mentioned in the following paragraphs.

2. Constitution: The IMC-SNC members shall be as under:

| | |
|---|----------|
| (i) DDG (Satellite), DoT | Chairman |
| (ii) Director (SATCOM-PO), DoS | Member |
| (iii) Representative of Ministry of I & B | Member |
| (iv) DDG (Radio), TEC | Member |
| (v) DDG (NOCC), DoT | Member |
| (vi) Sr. DWA (Satellite), WPC | Member |
| (vii) Director (Satellite-I), DoT | Convenor |

3. Scope:

3.1 The IMC-SNC shall examine proposals for Telecom/Broadcasting network(s) and service(s) on satellite media from regulatory as well as technical angle. The IMC-SNC is responsible for examining following types of proposals received from applicant company having requisite license/authorization for satellite-based service/network:

- (i) For establishing any satellite based communication network for GMPCS service, VSAT CUG service, IFMC service, NLD/AS/ISP service or Captive VSAT CUG network.
- (ii) For starting totally new service/network or change in the service/network.
- (iii) For use of new technology for the first time, change of technology.
- (iv) For setting up of additional hub /gateway station.
- (v) For change of frequency band.
- (vi) Any proposal that is not exactly similar to a previously cleared proposal or not scrutinised and approved by the IMC-SNC for any other licensee.


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3.2 Proposals relating minor changes like expansion in the same frequency band with the same hub or reconfiguration/shifting of the networks due to contingencies would not attract the scrutiny of IMC-SNC. Also, any proposal which is broadly similar and cleared by IMC-SNC for any licensee earlier would not attract the scrutiny of IMC-SNC. In such cases, Satellite Licensing Division may issue in-principle clearance on the applicant's proposal.

4. Process/ Methodology:

- (i) Any entity desirous of establishing and/or operating a satellite-based communication network/service (Commercial¹ or Captive²) shall apply for in-principle clearance to the Satellite Licensing Division of DoT as prescribed in these guidelines.
- (ii) The application shall be scrutinized in the Satellite Licensing Division and additional information may be sought, if required.
- (iii) After initial scrutiny from licensing and regulatory aspects, the proposal may be circulated to members of IMC-SNC, if required.
- (iv) Besides overall scrutiny of the proposal, the committee members shall furnish their comments to the Convener as follows:
 - DoS shall examine the proposal, especially from the space segment allocation point of view (i.e. availability of frequency range, transponder & satellite).
 - TEC shall examine the Interface Requirements (IR) compliance.
 - WPC shall examine the proposed frequency band if it is in line with NFAP & the availability of such spectrum/frequency band to access the space segment.
 - MoI&B shall examine the proposal in respect of broadcasting services and likely interferences by the proposed technology/service to their services.
 - NOCC shall examine the Link Engineering and the proposed Carrier Plan, if any, at this stage.

¹ "Guidelines for establishing satellite-based communication network(s)" DoT letter no. 60-SATCOM Plan/DoS/2020-SAT dated 26th October, 2022

² "Guidelines for obtaining Captive VSAT CUG License" DoT letter no. 60-SATCOM Plan/DoS/2020-SAT dated 26th October, 2022


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- (v) The meeting shall be scheduled by the Convener and the proposal shall be examined by the IMC-SNC which shall meet approximately at an interval of one month.
- (vi) The IMC-SNC shall examine the proposal for compliance to technical as well as regulatory aspects including compliance to relevant TEC Interface Requirement(s) to ensure interference free operations of proposed network/service without causing any harm to existing networks/services. The technical parameters such as radiation pattern of antenna, maximum permissible off-axis EIRP, antenna size and PSD limits shall follow the relevant TEC Interface Requirements/ ITU-R Recommendations. In case of non-availability of relevant TEC IR, IMC-SNC may examine the proposal(s) based on any other technical parameters based on accessible best practices, or experience gained and likely impact of such proposal on existing and forthcoming services.
- (vii) The IMC-SNC would either approve the proposal submitted or accord its recommendation as described below:
 - a) For the proposals found compliant as per extant provisions, the IMC-SNC may approve such cases. Satellite Licensing Division will thereafter issue in-principle clearance as per the approval.
 - b) However, for the cases requiring a decision w.r.t. relaxation of Interface Requirement(s) or special needs in the proposal or strategic requirements, the IMC-SNC may make a suitable recommendation. **In such cases, the recommendation will be submitted to the competent authority.** Member (T) is the designated competent authority for such cases requiring a decision on IMC-SNC recommendations. Satellite Licensing Division will thereafter issue in-principle clearance as per the approval.
- (viii) After obtaining the in-principle clearance, the licensee may approach the respective agencies/departments to seek the requisite allocations /clearances before launching the service as described in Chapter-II of guidelines for establishing satellite-based communication network(s)³.

³ "Guidelines for establishing satellite-based communication network(s)" DoT letter no. 60-SATCOM Plan/DoS/2020-SAT dated 26th October, 2022



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(ix) The following process shall be adopted in case of applications for satellite-related experimental and technology-trial license⁴ categories:

- The applications for these licenses are received by WPC wing of DoT on Saral Sanchar portal. After obtaining the requisite basic information/documents that are required for consideration by the IMC-SNC, the duly completed applications may be routed by WPC Wing to the Satellite Licensing Division for examination of IMC-SNC.
- After consideration of the proposal by the IMC-SNC, the case shall be further processed by WPC for taking approval of competent authority.

5. This letter supersedes the earlier letter on the subject (regarding Apex Committee) dated no. 59-190/2018-SAT dated 24.03.2021.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.


(Suneel Niraniyan) 26.10.2022
DDG (Satellite)

To

(**The members of IMC-SNC**)

1. DDG (NOCC), Eastern Courts, Janpath, New Delhi.
2. DDG (Radio), TEC, New Delhi.
3. Director (SATCOM-PO), DoS, Bengaluru.
4. Sr. DWA (Satellite), WPC, New Delhi.
5. Nominated representative of Ministry of I & B (CMD, BECIL)
6. Director (Satellite-1)- the convener of the committee, DoT HQ

Copy for kind information to:

1. Addl Secretary, MoIB
2. Wireless Advisor, WPC, New Delhi.
3. Sr. DDG, TEC

⁴ The applications pertaining to satellite based connectivity for all license categories [excluding demonstration license] in the WPC OM No. R-14016/01/2019-NT(Pt.) dated 23.07.2019, as modified from time to time.