



Public Consultation on the Terms and Conditions of the DCNO license

INTENTION TO MERGE LICENSES IN VIEW OF CONVERGENCE IN TECHNOLOGIES AND SERVICES

The on-going liberalization of the communications industry currently being undertaken by the Communications Commission of Kenya is not only bringing with it additional opportunities for investments in the various market segments but also new regulatory challenges particularly those associated with technological convergence and the maintenance of an effective competitive framework.

It is for this reason that the Commission is reconsidering its licensing and regulatory approach particularly with respect to the provisioning of data communications services, broadcast signal distribution services, Internet backbone services and commercial VSAT services within the framework of full liberalization. The intended way forward is to progressively restructure the telecommunications market structure and the associated licensing and regulatory strategy such that it is not only in tune with the changes in the marketplace but also consistent with technological advancements.

One of the steps being considered in the restructuring of the telecommunications market is the progressive merging of licenses whose differences have been eroded by technological convergence. For example Internet Backbone and Gateway Operators (IBGOs), Commercial VSAT Operators (CVOs) and Public Data Network Operators (PDNOs) with international gateways all are capable of carrying any form of multimedia traffic in a very similar way.

Consequently the Commission intends to merge the following 3 Licenses to encompass provisioning of all the services envisaged and authorized i.e. public and private Data communications which include Data/Video and Internet related carriage of traffic for both national and international to be provided by them.

- Commercial VSAT Network Operator License;
- Internet Backbone & Gateway License
- Public Data Network Operator (PDNO) with international gateway License;

The combined license shall be called DATA CARRIER NETWORK OPERATOR (DCNO).

The public and the industry are hereby invited to submit written comments on the terms and conditions for the DCNO license to reach the following address latest 15th May 2006. Online submissions should be made through DCNO_licence@cck.go.ke

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