

INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES

OF

INTERCONNECTION

- SUBMISSION TO THE TRAI

Cellular Operators of India
11/08/97, New Delhi

Section VII : SUMMARY OF KEY INTERNATIONALLY – ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES IN INTERCONNECTION

Given below is a list of the key principles commonly found in the International Interconnection policies :-

1. Incumbent Operator or monopoly access provider should provide new entrants with interconnection at every technically feasible point requested.
2. No restriction as regards the type of Cellular Network Equipment used behind the POI i.e. there is no stipulation that interconnection only with MSC.
3. Interconnection facilities to be offered on an unbundled basis.
4. Collocation of entrant's equipment at incumbent operator's premises supported and encouraged
5. Interconnection to be provided on non-discriminatory and cost – oriented terms.
6. Forward looking, long – run economic costs for interconnection supported.

7. Sharing of Interconnection set-up costs between incumbent and entrant.
8. Interconnection rates to be non-discriminatory i.e. Interconnection should be made available at the same rates to all interconnectors including the incumbent's affiliates and subsidiaries.
9. Non –discriminatory technical standards and specifications through open interfaces, non-discriminatory quality and non-discriminatory end-user access widely supported and recommended.
10. Timely provision of Interconnect. It is generally recommended that a strict time table be established for the provision of Interconnection. The GATS norm.
11. It is recommended the incumbent or " major supplier " should make publicly available either its interconnection agreements or a reference interconnection offer.
12. The most effective independent body to resolve interconnection disputes is an independent regulator.