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ETHIOPIAN
COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

Ethiopian Communications Authority launches a Stakeholder Consultation in connection with resuming the issuance process for the Second new Full-Service Telecommunications License.

November 16, 2022, ADDIS ABABA.

The Ethiopian Communications Authority (ECA) published today a call for stakeholder consultation in connection with resuming the issuance process for the second new full-service nationwide telecommunications license (License B). This process is part of the Government's reform agenda for the liberalization of Ethiopia's telecom market through the introduction of competition and private sector participation.

Ethiopia's first-ever telecommunications operating license to the private sector (License A) was issued in May, 2021 to the Global Partnership for Ethiopia, a private consortium consisting of Safaricom (Kenya), Vodafone Group (UK), Vodacom Group (South Africa), CDC Group (UK), and Sumitomo Corporation (Japan), now operating under the name of Safaricom Telecommunications Ethiopia, alongside the incumbent Ethio Telecom.

ECA now plans to resume the licensing process for a third license or the second new full-service nationwide telecommunications license (License B), and is inviting potential bidders and any interested parties to participate in the consultation process and provide their comments or questions on the key terms and conditions of the licensing process.

The resumption of the issuance process for a third license reaffirms the Government's commitment to ensure the fulfilment of its economic reform agenda by unlocking the transformational power of the digital economy with the goals to offer reliable and accessible telecommunications services to the Ethiopian people, to drive job creation and to promote economic growth. At the end of the licensing process, there will be three operators with licenses to deliver high-quality telecommunications services in a competitive sector in Ethiopia.

Eng. Balcha Reba, Director General of the ECA said, "This process is a continuation of the first successful transaction that ensured the entry of a private sector operator in the telecommunications sector in Ethiopia, which shows the Government's and ECA's firm commitment to introduce competition and create a level-playing field in the sector. ECA always welcomes stakeholders' participation and engagement in this consultation process which allows potential market players to contribute to the sector they will be participating in and is grateful for the insights shared by such experienced market players."

Interested parties and potential bidders have until December 16, 2022 to provide their comments on the recommencement of the licensing process for License B, via the contacts below. The comments and feedback from this consultation will guide the next steps of the licensing process.

The Ethiopian Communications Authority

ECA was established on August 12, 2019 through the Communications Service Proclamation No. 1148/2019 as an independent Federal Government Authority. The objectives of the Ethiopian Communications Authority are to promote the development of high quality, efficient, reliable and affordable communications services throughout the nation, to promote a competitive market for the achievement of these goals, and to promote accessibility and interests of the consumers. <http://www.eca.et>.

Contacts

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