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The Republic
of Vanuatu



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Radiocommunication
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PRESS RELEASE

TRR GRANTS LICENCES TO TVL AND DIGICEL FOR ADDITIONAL SPECTRUM FOR WIMAX SERVICES

One of the primary functions of the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator (TRR) as provided for under the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulation Act No. 30 of 2009 ("the Act"), is to manage the radio frequency spectrum. In line with section 7 (2) (c) of the Act and clause 7 of the Telecommunications Licence issued Licensees, TRR had recently granted licenses for additional radio spectrum to Telecom Vanuatu Limited and Digicel for the expansion of their wireless Internet and voice services through WiMAX technology.

WiMAX is an acronym for **Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access**, and is a wireless communications standard initially designed to provide 30 to 40 Megabits-per-second data rates. With sufficient radio spectrum, data rates up to 1 Gigabit-per-second are achievable for fixed WiMAX terminals. The name "WiMAX" was created by the WiMAX Forum, which was formed in 2001 to promote conformity and interoperability of the standard. The forum describes WiMAX as "a standards-based technology enabling the delivery of last mile wireless broadband access as an alternative to cable and digital subscriber lines (DSL).

TRR Radio Engineer Barnabas Boe commented that "in addition to the radio spectrum initially allocated to TVL and Digicel under their Telecommunications Service Licences in 2008, both Licensees have since applied for additional spectrum for the delivery of telecom services to the public."

Digicel entered the market in 2008 primarily with a mobile service and the spectrum allocated to them was for GSM mobile service and microwave backhaul links supporting its network of base stations. Digicel has since decided to expand its services to cover fixed wireless broadband access to complement its 3G mobile service. This required additional radio spectrum which they applied for earlier in the year. After ensuring that Digicel had complied with its Licence obligations and acting in line with the Act, TRR granted a Licence to Digicel for additional spectrum in May 2012 for its fixed wireless broadband access using fixed WiMAX technology.

TVL recently applied for additional spectrum to enable it to expand its existing WiMAX service coverage while also guaranteeing a high quality of service to its customers. After having checked that Licence obligations ,and terms and conditions had been met, TRR granted TVL a licence for additional WiMAX spectrum in August 2012.

Alan Horne the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator commented “We welcome this new investment made by TVL & Digicel and the new Services which will be offered”

About TRR: The Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator (TRR) is the Telecommunications industry Authority. TRR was established under the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulation Act No. 30 of 2009 with the overall responsibility to facilitate the development of the telecommunications sector and manage radio-frequency spectrum in order to promote national social and economic development.

For more information please visit www.trr.vu, phone +678 27621 or email enquiries@trr.vu.