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Contents

<i>No.</i>		<i>Gazette No.</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
	GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS		
	Independent Communications Authority of South Africa / Onafhanklike Kommunikasie-owerheid van Suid-Afrika		
677	ICASA publishes the notice regarding its decision on the publication of a Consultation Document in respect of the amended Composite Invitation To Apply ("ITA") for Individual Electronic Communications Network Services ("I-ECNS") and Radio Frequency Spectrum ("RFS") licences for the purpose of operating a Wireless Open Access Network ("WOAN").....	45509	3

GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**GENERAL NOTICE 677 OF 2021**

ICASA PUBLISHES THE NOTICE REGARDING ITS DECISION ON THE PUBLICATION OF A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT IN RESPECT OF THE AMENDED COMPOSITE INVITATION TO APPLY (“ITA”) FOR INDIVIDUAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK SERVICES (“I-ECNS”) AND RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM (“RFS”) LICENCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING A WIRELESS OPEN ACCESS NETWORK (“WOAN”)

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (“the Authority”) hereby wishes to inform all stakeholders that it is reviewing timelines relating to the licensing of the Wireless Open Access Network (WOAN) as set out in the notice published in Government Gazette No.45255 dated 1 October 2021.

In the above-mentioned notice the Authority communicated a truncated timetable in relation to the licensing of the WOAN which included the publication of a consultative document on 19 November 2021.

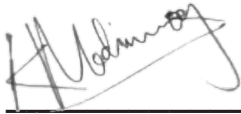
ICASA has resolved to temporarily suspend the timetable relating to the licensing of the WOAN to allow for the conclusion of the consultation process relating to the permanent licensing of the IMT spectrum that is currently underway and give the Authority an opportunity to interrogate the impact of the outcomes of the consultation on the licensing of the WOAN. In this regard, the Authority will not publish the envisaged WOAN consultation document on 19 November 2021 as previously communicated.

In the intervening period, the Authority will engage on the WOAN model in other jurisdictions around the world.

Based on the outcomes of the additional analysis coupled with the findings from the IMT spectrum consultation processes (where applicable), the Authority will publish a notice advising of the process to be followed in respect of the licensing of the WOAN by no later than March 2022.

The Authority remains committed to ensuring transparency in its process to issue Individual Electronic Communications Network Service (I-ECNS) and Radio Frequency Spectrum Licences for the purpose of operating a WOAN.

The licensing of the WOAN will – in the Authority’s view – bring much needed structural reform to the mobile voice and data services markets.



Dr Keabetswe Modimoeng

Chairperson

19/11/2021

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