



# Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

76 Boundary Road, San Juan, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Telephone: (868) 675-8288; Website: [www.tatt.org.tt](http://www.tatt.org.tt)  
Fax: (868) 674-1055; E-mail: [info@tatt.org.tt](mailto:info@tatt.org.tt)

Ref. No

## PRESS STATEMENT

October 5, 2007

**STATEMENT BY MR CRIS SEECHERAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (Ag) FOLLOWING THE AUCTION FOR RADIO SPECTRUM TO PROVIDE PUBLIC BROADBAND WIRELESS ACCESS (BWA) SERVICES, FRIDAY OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 2007 AT HOTEL NORMANDIE**

Consistent with the Government's strategy and the Authority's mandate to ensure that citizens have access to a wide variety of affordable information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as high speed data services, broadband Internet, wireless subscription broadcasting services (Cable TV), etc, the Authority initiated a process towards making radio frequency spectrum available to individuals/companies for this purpose.

Specifically, in early January 2007, the Authority notified potential service providers that spectrum would be made available in the lower 700 MHz; 12 GHz and 28 GHz frequency bands for the delivery of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) services through an auction process. This competitive auction process was designed to ensure a fair and transparent means for the granting of spectrum in these frequency bands.

As a precursor to the auction process, the Authority prepared and published a spectrum plan which identified the radio frequency blocks allocated for providing BWA services in the above named frequency bands.

*Directors: Mr. Khalid Hassanali (Chairman); Mr. Cagney Casimire (Deputy Chairman); Ms. Beverly Beckles; Ms. Gillian Bishop; Dr. Ronald Ramkissoon; Mr. Wayne Nakhid.*

Later that month, the Authority invited proposals from interested parties to pre-qualify to participate in the auction. From this prequalification exercise, five companies became eligible to take part in the auction process. These companies are as follows:

- Sigma Communications Limited.
- Green Dot Limited.
- Telstar Cable System Limited.
- Open Telecom Limited.
- Columbus Communications Trinidad Limited.

Simultaneous with the pre-qualification exercise, the Authority through an open tender process, selected PricewaterhouseCoopers as the auction manager to conduct the auction on behalf of the Authority.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, the auction was conducted earlier today. The format of the auction consisted of a simultaneous multi-round ascending auction, which is the format frequently employed as best practice in most jurisdictions for licensing spectrum in these frequency bands.

For your information, from the companies which were initially pre-qualified to participate in the auction, the following three companies took part in today's auction;

- Green Dot Limited.
- Telstar Cable System Limited.
- Open Telecom Limited

I wish to now advise the following auction results:

- In the auction of spectrum blocks in the 12 GHz band, there was one (1) Winning Bidder. The Winning Bidder is Telstar Cable System Limited, who won all twelve (12) blocks in this band at TT\$ 650,000.00 per block per annum. The annual licence fee for Telstar Cable System Limited will therefore be TT\$ 7.8 million per annum in total, for spectrum awarded in 12 GHz band.
- In the auction of spectrum blocks in the Lower 700 MHz band, there was one (1) Winning Bidder. The Winning Bidder is Green Dot Limited, who won three (3) blocks in this band at TT\$ 177,000.00 per block per annum. The annual licence fee for Green Dot Limited will therefore be TT\$ 531,000.00 per annum in total, for spectrum awarded in Lower 700 MHz band,

- In the auction of spectrum blocks in the 28 GHz band, there was no Winning Bidder and, as a result, no award of spectrum blocks.

These Winning Bidders will be eligible for a spectrum licence, granted for a period of ten (10) years. The Authority will make recommendations to the Minister of Public Administration and Information for the grant of any relevant Concessions, if required, for the Winning Bidders to commence their build-out of the necessary wireless infrastructure to offer broadband wireless services in the bands in which they were successful.

We expect that all citizens will benefit from enhanced telecommunications and broadcasting services and increased choice of service providers as a result of the exercise completed today.

Thank you