

03.11.2025

NOA Section Reference	TRCSL Reference	Query / Clarification Request	Clarification
1.1	The radio frequency spectrum in the 3500 MHz and 27 GHz bands are offered for the auction	1. We seek clarification as to whether Operators who do not win lots at the auction may be permitted to purchase spectrum in either band subsequent to the auction to offer 5G commercial services 2.We seek clarification as to whether spectrum bands other than the 3500Mhz and 27GHz will be offered for 5G technology at a later date 3. We seek clarification as to whether a winner of the auction may be permitted to purchase more spectrum at a later date from either band to roll out commercial 5G. 4. We seek clarification as to whether the specified holding caps are limited only to this auction and not to general commercial operations post the auction 5.We seeks information on TRCSL's future plans for 5G spectrum allocation beyond the current auction, including the expected timeline and method.	1.Not relevant to this auction. 2.Not relevant to this auction. 3.Not relevant to this auction. 4.Specified holding caps are limited only to the auction 5.Not relevant to this auction.
	Commission reserves the right to assign balance spectrum unassigned through alternative methods.	6. We seek clarity on how this will occur – will it only be to the qualified bidders? 7. Will an Operator that does not participate for the auction also be eligible?	6. As decided by the TRCSL subsequent to the Auction. 7. As decided by the TRCSL subsequent to the Auction.
	The Commission reserves the right to cancel or postpone the Auction, in whole or in part, to safeguard objectives without providing any reasons.	8. We propose that reasons for cancelling or postponing should be provided considering the national implications of 5G.	8. This is a general condition.
1.4	In the event of a dispute during the auction the Auctioneer is the sole arbiter; and the Auctioneer's decision is final.	1. As has been highlighted previously, the jurisdiction of the courts of Sri Lanka cannot be ousted in the event that an aggrieved party to a dispute wishes to seek judicial remedies This is similar to how the TRCSL may undertake legal action against a Bidder for breaches pertaining to the NOA, as has been provided for in the NOA	1. This is relevant to the event of auction only. All interested parties can seek judicial remedies.
2.4	The Winning Bidder/s will be required to obtain an annual radio frequency license in accordance with Section 22 of the Act on payment of Radio Frequency Spectrum Licence Fee as specified by the rules and/or regulations applicable at the time of payment of the fee, in addition to the payment of the winning bid price	1. We seek clarification on when the updated Gazette pertaining to 5G spectrum payments will be issued – we wish to impress upon the TRCSL that this should be done at the earliest as the required payments will need to be provisioned for by Operators. 2. We seek clarity as to when the Radio Frequency Licence will be issued	1.Not relevant to this auction. But subsequent actions will be taken based on established procedures of TRCSL. 2.Not relevant to this auction. But subsequent actions will be taken based on established procedures of TRCSL.
4.1	The Commission reserves the right to summarily disqualify any Registered Bidder at any stage of the auction or after the auction is completed on grounds of noncompliance with eligibility conditions, misrepresentation, non-compliance with Auction Regulations, non-compliance with any other pre-condition prescribed for participating in the Auction or being awarded the spectrum or any matter contrary to the public interest.	1.Please be kind enough to clarify what amounts to any matter contrary to public interest?	1.This is a general condition.
4.1.2	Regulation No 7 states " Only registered bidders will be allowed to participate in the auction and the registration of the eligible bidders will be made on the payment of entry fees of Rs. 100,000/- for each auction " .	1. There are 4 lots of spectra with 2 lots in each from 3.5GHz and 27GHz bands. Is it considered as 4 auctions or 2 auctions or 1 auction for all 4 lots? 2. An accordingly how much should be paid as entry fee for the application if an operator is bidding in both bands?	1.One auction for two lots in 3.5GHz band and a separate auction for two lots in 27GHz band. 2.A separate application for each band and applicable entry fee for each auction is Rs.100,000.
4.1.2(V)		1. For the Alternative Authorize person, can we obtain a Board resolution for more than 1 alternative authorized person to avoid any unforeseen circumstances where alternative authorized person is unable to attend. However, at any given time only Alternative Authorized person will act.	1.As per the provisions in the NoA
4.1.5	Form of Financial Security – Bank Guarantee vs Cash Deposit	1.Noting that the NoA requires a Bank Guarantee, Request confirmation on whether a direct cash deposit of equivalent value would be acceptable instead.	1.Not acceptable
5.2	Radio Access Network Sharing is permitted from the date of the Frequency Reservation Permit in the radio frequency spectrum acquired through this auction based on the Telecommunications Infrastructure Sharing Regulations No. 1 of 2024 as amended from time to time	1.In the case of a fixed Operator sharing 5G spectrum of a mobile operator: Can CPE importation be carried out by the fixed Operator under a RAN sharing agreement? 2.Request that the 5G spectrum be restricted exclusively to mobile services and not allowed for Fixed Wireless Access (FWA).	1. Not relevant to this auction. 2. Not relevant to this auction.
5.4	The Commission does not refund any fee/ charge paid for the remaining period.	1.It is our view that payments for unutilized spectrum for the remaining period should be refunded by the TRCSL if the surrender has been mandated by TRCSL.	1. Not relevant to this auction.

6.1.1	Winning Bidder/s shall pay the Final Winning Price or first instalment in case of deferred payment option within ten (10) calendar days of the issuance of Demand Notice by the Commission	1. We urge the TRCSL to provide the winning bidder with the demand notice at the earliest, considering that the 5G Licence is provided within 30 days of the winning bid / first installment payment. We respectfully request that Winning Bidders be permitted to commercially operate 5G upon payment of the winning bid / first installment in case of a deferred payment pending the receipt of the frequency payment by the TRCSL 2. We seek confirmation that no taxes will be applied to the deferred payment option	1. TRCSL will issue demand notice forthwith in order to complete payment within 10 days. 2. Taxes will be applicable as per the prevailing laws at the time of the payment.
7.1	The Commission shall issue a Frequency Reservation Permit specifying the frequencies to the Winning Bidder/s within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt of Final Winning Price in full or first installment of the Final Winning Price in case of deferred payment option. A radio frequency Licence shall be issued after the payment of annual Radio Frequency Spectrum Licence Fee as published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1,497/23 with additional 20% as per the budgetary proposal in the year 2023 or any applicable subsequent amendments or new regulations. Winning Bidder/s shall pay all the taxes and levies are applicable at the time of payment.	1. We seek clarity on the following: -What is the validity of the permit? i.e., does it permit the operator to launch commercial operations on 5G? -How does this permit differ from the Licence? To note - annexure D refers to the permit as the effective date of spectrum usage. -Please clarify the applicability of the permit and the Licence. In case of a conflict which document would prevail? -Please clarify all applicable taxes applicable for the winning bid and the radio frequency Licence fee. -Is the 20% budgetary proposal incorporated into the reserve price or will it be included into the frequency charge? We wish to reiterate that this budget proposal has not been duly Gazette to be validly applied on payments -If so it is deduced that the 20% proposal is included in the Annual spectrum fee calculated on reserve price	1. Not relevant to this auction.
8.2	The following roll-out obligations have to be fulfilled by the bidder acquiring radio frequency spectrum through this auction in 3500MHz band	1. Please be kind enough to clarify the following: -When does the "phase" start i.e., when does Year 1 start to achieve the targets? -When should the bank guarantees be submitted? -In what format should the bank guarantees be furnished? -We wish to clarify that in the unlikely event of further import controls within the obligation period, would exceptions be made for operators to bring in foreign equipment necessary to fulfill roll-out obligations? 2. Ambiguity in the roll-out obligations and requests clarification on several key details: - Whether percentage targets (e.g., 20% in Municipal Councils) apply nationwide or within selected councils. - How the percentages are measured (by number of sites, geographical area, or population coverage). - Whether partial roll-outs count towards cumulative targets. - The specific assessment criteria and the exact number of sites required.	1. Roll-out obligations commence from the date of the permit and shall achieve the target from a year period (365 days). However this will be determined by TRCSL. -As per the provision of the NoA. -Format is given in Annex G -Not relevant to this auction. 2. Not relevant to this auction.
8.5	Cellular Mobile Network Operators shall comply with internationally accepted standards and frameworks for 5G network security. In particular, operators shall implement security measures in line with ITU-T Recommendations for IMT-2020 network requirements and security (e.g., Y.3101) and guidance on quantum-safe protections (X.1811); 3GPP security architecture and assurance specifications for the 5G System (TS 33.501) together with security assurance catalogues and test requirements (TS 33.117/SCAS); and GSMA frameworks and guidelines such as the Network Equipment Security Assurance Scheme (NESAS) and the GSMA 5G Security Guide (FS.40). Compliance with these standards shall be applied across the core, transport, radio access network (RAN), inter-PLMN interfaces, and device onboarding, to ensure both network integrity and end-user protection.	1. While the referenced international standards and frameworks—namely ITU-T Recommendations (Y.3101, X.1811), 3GPP security specifications (TS 33.501, TS 33.117), and GSMA assurance frameworks (NESAS, FS.40)—are essential for ensuring security in full 5G Standalone (SA) deployments, their direct applicability to a 5G Non-Standalone (NSA) environment is limited and, in some cases, not technically appropriate. We request the TRCSL to limit the network security requirements specified under section 8.5 to 5G SA deployments. For the initial 5G Non-Standalone (NSA) deployment phase, we propose to continue applying existing security controls including authentication, encryption, integrity protection related to 4G LTE, implementation of industry-accepted Minimum Baseline Security Standards (MBSS), and regular patch management of network equipment.	1. Not relevant to this auction.
9.1.1	This view can be further supported by Regulation No 18.4.7.7 which states that “ The clock stage shall end when the aggregate demand at the clock price in a round equals the available supply or falls below it.”	1. What is definition of activity requirement ? [(i)]	1. NoA was Amended.
9.6	“The maximum lot size of radio frequency spectrum to be auctioned per Bidder in various bands is given in the Table 9.6.1 under Section 9.6.”	1. Does it mean an applicant can bid for less than 100MHz lot?	1. No Final document for this auction is the published NOA

9.9.2	"To assign spectrum lots that shall remain unsold at the end of the Clock Stage, a single- round sealed-bid auction with second price rule shall be used, with a reserve price that shall equal to the last Clock Price at which demand exceeds or equals the available supply".	1. Is this sealed bid auction happens at the same auction day . 2. What is meant by second price rule ? Is this a reference to Regulation No: 18.2.7 Under Vickrey auctions ? We note that single round sealed bid auction is described under Regulation 18.2 and for any unsold lots this method should be adopted	1.Yes 2. Amended version is published
9.9		1.In an instance where 3 bidders participate in a round and only 1 bidder remains in the subsequent round, how will the runner-up spectrum awardee be decided? 2. We seek clarification as to whether a bidder who has withdrawn from a particular round of the auction is permitted to re-enter the auction during a subsequent round 3.Can you please elaborate the 9.9.4 definition as it is not clear. 4.Clarification on Auction Mechanism – Clock Stage and Second Bidding 5.Can TRCSL elaborate the spectrum allocation in following scenario. *Scenario 1 - In the previous clock round only Two operators prevailed and said yes to the clock price in that stage when there are two lots. But in next round only one operator said yes. *Scenario 2 - In the previous clock round Three operators prevailed and said yes to the clock price in that stage when there are two lots. But in next round only one operator said yes. 6. If the Registered Bidder count is less than the Supply, how the auction will be exercised. Under this scenario, How the unsold lot will be offered and what is the price? 7. If the Registered Bidder count is two, can the 2 slots be allocated to the two registered bidders at the reserve price without carrying out all the activities and cost of conducting the auction? Frequency slots can be allocated with the consultation with the registered bidder or drawing of lots. 8. In this context please explain Clause No (i) "If excess demand is zero, the Clock Round Price in the band will be equal to the Clock Round Price in the last completed Clock Round" of under Clause No 9.9 of NoA (on page 29) 9. Further in this context please explain Clauses (i), (ii), (f) (the Final Clock Round) and (i) and (ii) under 9.9.1 on page 29 and page 30 of NoA 10.The clauses 9.9.4 and 9.9.5 paragraph of NoA on page 31 deviate from the Regulation 18.4.7 and create confusion. Please elaborate 11. We note that 18.4.7.7 provision has not been taken into account in the 9.9.2 of NOA.	1.Outcome of possible scenarios are given in Annex 01 2.Bidder who has withdrawn from a particular round of the auction is not permitted to re-enter the auction during a subsequent rounds. 3. Refer Annex 01 4. Refer Annex 01 5. Refer Annex 01 6. Refer Annex 01 7. Refer Annex 01 8. Refer Annex 01 9. As per the provisions in the NOA 10. As per the provisions in the NOA 11. At the end of the clock stage, if the auctioneer invites the bidders to submit sealed bid, the bidder may express the demand at any price between the last and the current clock price.
9.9.3		1. Is the Sealed Bid auction happened between bidders who said YES in the previous clock round prior to the final winning clock stage or with all not winning bidders registered to the auction?	Refer the Annex 01
10		1. We propose the following clarity - In case of sealed-bid auction, bid means the bidder's statement with a price for the lot of respective bands i.e., a monetary bid, not YES/NO	Clause no.10 amended inserting following definition "Sealed-bid: A monetary bid submitted as per the specific format at the sealed-bid auction"
11.1		1. Are the 2 lots in a specific spectrum band auctioned separately? 2. If so do we need to submit two separate bank guarantees for each lot (11.1) under the same spectrum band?	1. No 2. One Bank Guarantee for each band.
11.3		1.What is the definition of "From ZERO up to 2 lots" in both Table C1 and Table C2.	1. Defined in 11.3 and refer the amended NoA
11.6		1.Can the Directors be authorized by the Board Resolution to sign the application and relevant undertakings without a Power of Attorney?	1.No
11.8		1. Format of Undertaking to obtain Radio Frequency License Under items (e), what could be the grounds for revocation of Spectrum License ? What happens to the Bank Guarantee, advance payments etc.?	1.Rules and Regulations of TRCSL will be applicable. Please refer to the amended Annex H
11.8.	c) We would abide by the ownership restrictions as prescribed in the respective licenses. e) That in case the application for grant of Radio Frequency License with authorization of access service of the Nominated License Applicant is rejected, the Commission shall have the right to revoke the radio frequency	1. We seek clarity on requirement of ownership restriction – what does this refer to? 2. We respectfully submit that if an application is rejected the TRSCL to provide reasons for same. 3. That the Nominated Applicant will satisfy all the conditions required to obtain a Radio Frequency License with authorization of access service / authorization of access service as per the conditions in the system license. 4. What is meant by "authorization of access service"?	1.Amended the Annex H
Additional clarifications (Spectrum Refarming)		1.We wish to clarify if existing spectrum can be re-farmed to 5G subsequent to commercial operations of 5G. If yes to the above is this only permitted to Operators awarded spectrum via the auction?	1. Not relevant to this auction.
Additional clarifications (5G Trials)		1.We seek clarification as to if there will there be a grace period to operate existing trial bands of 3.6-3.8Mhz pending the operation of the winning operators commercial networks as if not there would be a negative impact to customers	1.Not relevant to this auction.
Additional clarifications (Bank Guarantees)		1.We respectfully request the TRCSL to provide templates for the Bank Guarantees for deferred payments and those applicable for the roll out obligations	1.Use annex G
Additional Clarifications	Additional observations	1.Requests that TRCSL introduce an expedited enforcement mechanism to address situations where a successful bidder delays or fails to implement RAN-sharing arrangements as per the Telecommunications Infrastructure Sharing Regulations No. 1 of 2024. The goal of this request is to ensure effective compliance and facilitate the timely and equitable rollout of 5G services across Sri Lanka.	1.Not relevant to this auction.

Additional Clarifications		1.Is it mandatory for the applicant to bid for both 3.5GHz and 27GHz spectrum bands or can a applicant bid only one spectrum band?	1.Applicant has the option for applying for one or both bands. However if registered for any auction it is mandatory to participate for the first clock round.
Regulation 18.4.7.3		1.Under Regulation 18.4.7.3, is there any possibility for an Operator to request less than 100MHz in 3500MHz band or less than 200MHz in 27GHz band as it states that "They shall state the same demand as in the first round or less or they shall increase the demand".	1.No
Additional Clarifications		1.Once the auction is completed and 2 lots are allocated, please explain the offering price of the third lot (3.6GHz – 3.7GHz) which TRCSL plan to allocate in future? Will this be same as winning price of the auction?	1.Not relevant to this auction.