



Independent Communications Authority of South Africa

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MEDIA RELEASE

ICASA publishes a Discussion Document on Infrastructure Sharing for public comments

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Johannesburg – The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("the Authority") has published a Discussion Document on Infrastructure Sharing to solicit input and views on a regulatory framework that will provide certainty on infrastructure sharing holistically to include facilities leasing, and other matters relevant to access to broadband services within the Republic.

The Authority's objective in the development of this Discussion Document is to engage the industry and other stakeholders on measures to facilitate a competitive market whilst ensuring sustainability of the sector in order to ensure universal provision of affordable quality electronic communications services. The Authority's intention in this respect is to create an enabling environment for the reduction of input costs for licensees, minimise duplication of investment in infrastructure and reduce cost of providing services to consumers.

As part of its initiatives to facilitate access to infrastructure, the Authority is to conduct a Regulatory Impact Assessment on possible wholesale open access regulation in South Africa. This process is ongoing and consultations are underway with relevant stakeholders. Whilst the Authority appreciates that there may be an overlap between this process and the consultation process on the Discussion Document, the Authority deemed it appropriate to proceed with these parallel consultative process in line with its Annual Performance Plan for the 2015-2016 financial year.

However, the Authority is acutely aware that the final output of the two consultative processes may have to be consolidated as the outcome of the RIA project on wholesale open access may inform the final regulatory position on how access to infrastructure should be addressed.

Ends...

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