The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية

Telecommunications Regulatory Commission

Statement concerning the establishment of International Telecommunication Submarine Gateways in Jordan

The TRC has recently received a number of enquiries concerning the possibility of the establishment of new international telecommunication submarine gateways in Jordan. Therefore, and in compliance with the terms of the telecommunications law that call upon the TRC to stimulate competition by relying on market forces and so regulating them to ensure the effective provision of telecommunication and information technology services, and in order to provide clarity about this subject, the TRC issues this statement.

- Since January 1st 2005, licensing restrictions within the fixed telecommunications sub-sector have been removed. That is to say that previous exclusive rights enjoyed by Jordan Telecom ceased to be effective.

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- The provision of international telecommunication submarine gateway services in Jordan is not subject to any form of exclusive right despite the fact that Jordan Telecom is currently the sole provider of this service through the gulf of Aqaba. Therefore, there are no restrictions or limitations on the establishment of alternative submarine gateways in Aqaba in accordance with the prevailing licensing conditions.

- To facilitate consistency in regulatory approach and growth within the sector the TRC has established an Integrated Licensing and Regulatory regime. In order to provide an increased level of regulatory confidence and to remove varying degrees of regulatory asymmetry brought about through diverse forms of license agreements this regime is technologically neutral; transparent; and rules based.

- The regulatory model that has been established and is continually being enhanced is designed to encourage competition and to remove artificial barriers to entry such as: limitations in the number of licenses that can be issued; or exclusivity over the provision of services.

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• There are no legal or regulatory reasons that prevent the provision and licensing of other providers to provide International Telecommunication Gateway Services. There are also no limitations on ownership in the telecommunications sector in the kingdom.	•
• Therefore, and In the interest of increasing consumer choice and the potential benefits attributed to higher levels of competition in telecom sector the TRC welcomes license applications from prospective providers of International Telecommunication submarine Gateway through the Gulf of Aqaba.	•