

UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA
REGULATOR CONSULTATIONS
ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR AUGUST 99 - AUGUST 2000

1. Introduction

The United States of America Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA), recognizing the significant efforts that are required of SATRA during its formative stages, have discussed mutual co-operative activities aimed at helping SATRA to fulfill its mandate. To this end, the two organizations have developed the following Work Programme to be accomplished during the 1999-2000 period.

2. Work Programme

2.1 Rulemaking Procedures and the Public Process

The 1999-2000 fiscal year will see SATRA becoming fully engaged in a public process in the making of various regulations. This is an extremely important process, and the FCC has much experience in this area. SATRA wishes to benefit from this experience as the public process unfolds.

The FCC will assist SATRA on numerous aspects of the administrative process throughout this period, including internal agency structure, the rulemaking process, the proper role of SATRA staff, issues relating to the processing of applications, delegation of authority issues and conflict of interest management. As an initial matter in August, the Chairman of the FCC and representatives of the FCC's International Bureau will present a one-day seminar at SATRA Headquarters in South Africa that will include training on rulemaking, procedural transparency and the public, consultation and comment process. The Work Plan envisions continuous contact throughout the year between FCC and SATRA staff. These contacts will include continuous consultations on these and other related issues.

The contact person for the seminar and on-going consultations is Roderick K. Porter of the FCC's International Bureau (202-418-0423). The SATRA contact on this subject is Chairman Nape Maepa. Tel No. +27-11 321-8202.

2.2 Universal Access

Throughout the year, the FCC will be available to provide SATRA with policy and technical advice, as requested, regarding the expansion of universal access to telecommunications throughout South Africa, focusing on strategies to attract investment, foster competition and choice for the public, ensure open access to the network, and provide for appropriate and

flexible regulation. The two agencies will discuss applications to education, health, the environment, and the interconnection of libraries through telecommunications.

Roxanne McElvane of the FCC's International Bureau (202-418-1489) is the primary FCC contact on these issues. SATRA's primary contact is Thabo Makhakhe of the Telecommunications Licensing Division, Tel No. +27-11 321-8342.

2.3 Competition and Interconnection

Throughout the year the FCC will be available to provide advice to SATRA, as requested, on methods of promoting competition and choice for the public through interconnection regulatory policy, numbering plans and other regulatory structures and processes. These discussions will include consultations on specific SATRA proposals related to these topics.

Roxanne McElvane of the International Bureau (202-418-1489) is the primary FCC contact on these issues. SATRA's primary contact on these issues will be Thabo Makhakhe.

2.4 Telecommunications Licensing

In pursuit of government policy to introduce in the telecommunications sector greater choice to the South African public, SATRA has embarked on a program to provide for additional telecommunications licensing. The FCC and SATRA will engage in ongoing consultation in this area. Gerald P. Vaughn of the FCC's Wireless Bureau will be the primary FCC contact for this part of the work programme (202-418-0799). Thabo Makhakhe will be the primary contact for SATRA.

2.5 Spectrum Management and Monitoring

The use of spectrum is increasing exponentially as South Africa begins the process of delivering on her promise of fostering telephony for the vast majority of her population who have no access to telecommunications. The users of the spectrum will need unencumbered, interference-free use of the spectrum. SATRA has initiated a project to determine the status of its preparedness to serve the public interest in this regard, and to supplement its resources, both human and infrastructure. The long record of experience that the FCC has in these matters will be used to assist SATRA in this effort in the form of ongoing advice and consultations during the course of the Work Programme period.

The primary FCC contact person for ongoing spectrum management and monitoring and management advice and consultations during the programme year will be Arlan K. Van Doorn of the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau (202-418-1105). The primary SATRA contact person for such advice and consultation will be Mothibi Ramusi of Frequency Planning, Tel No. +27-11 321-8245.

2.6 Information Technology Infrastructure Development

When SATRA was formed in 1997, staff from the Department of Communications working in regulatory capacities were transferred to SATRA. Because none of the staff from the information technology (IT) area transferred, SATRA outsourced its entire IT requirements to the private sector. The sensitivity and confidentiality of certain of the various databases, information and other data necessary for the proper functioning of an independent regulatory agency cannot be over emphasized. Accordingly, SATRA wishes to take advantage of the advanced expertise available within the FCC with respect to its handling of sensitive data and information.

Thomas Sullivan, Assistant Bureau Chief for Management in the FCC's International Bureau, will be the primary contact person for consultations on Information Technology Infrastructure Development. SATRA's primary contact in this area will be Nicky Maredi, Support Services Division, Tel No. +27-11 321-8236.

2.7 Telecommunications Training

The transfer of staff associated with the formation of SATRA resulted in the loss of certain key staff, primarily in the technical areas. The FCC has certain staff training capabilities from which SATRA can benefit. Therefore, during the period for the Work Programme SATRA and the FCC will co-operate on training in telecommunications topics, particularly, and as a first stage, concerning measurements, standardization and certification, signal analysis and propagation measurement techniques.


The primary FCC contact will be Dale Hatfield of the Office of Engineering and Technology, (202-418-2470). Papi Mekwa, Human Resources Division, Tel No. +27-11 321 8260 will be the primary SATRA contact in this area.

2.8 Other Exchanges

Throughout the year, the FCC and SATRA Plan to exchange information on other regulatory issues relating to telecommunications, trends in technology, satellite licensing issues, and operational aspects of communications services, including experimental authorizations and new services.

This work programme is subject to the resources constraints of both organisations and may be modified as necessary by mutual agreement.

Roderick K. Porter, FCC International Bureau Deputy Chief is the FCC representative responsible for overall implementation of this work programme. Chairman Nape Maepa is the SATRA representative responsible for such implementation.


William E. Kennard
Chairman, FCC
August 17, 1999


Nape Maepa
Chairman, SATRA
August 17, 1999