



## **Q.NBN license – Qualifying Persons**

**The Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology  
“ictQATAR”**

**Consultation Document**

ICTRA 2013/03/19  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2013

# Table of Contents

- 1      **Background..... 3**
- 2      **QNBN’s Request..... 3**
- 3      **Consultation Questions ..... 3**
- 4      **Instructions for Responding to this Consultation: ..... 4**
  - 4.1 Consultation Procedures ..... 4
  - 4.2 Publication of Comments..... 4

# 1 Background

ictQATAR granted a License to Q.NBN on 22 July 2012 for the provision of Passive Fixed Telecommunications Networks and Services (**License**)<sup>1</sup> in Qatar. The License authorizes the provision of passive fixed telecommunications networks and services (**Authorized Networks and Services**) to Qualifying Persons. Qualifying Persons are defined in the License as follows:

**Qualifying Person:** This includes holders of fixed and mobile telecommunications licenses and other entities as may be authorized by the Supreme Council, from time to time.

## 2 QNBN's Request

Q.NBN has requested ictQATAR to authorize various additional entities as Qualifying Persons. This would enable Q.NBN to supply its Authorized Networks and Services as per Annexure B of the License directly to these entities. These entities could in turn use Q.NBN's Authorized Networks and Services, for example, dark fibre, to connect their sites and cater for their individual QoS needs.

ictQATAR currently is of the view that the effect of authorizing additional entities is pro-competitive, as Qualifying Persons have an increased choice of suppliers.

Currently QTel does not offer passive services (i.e. dark fibre) to the market. Thus authorizing additional Qualifying Persons would also increase the type of services available. However, as its License entitles Q.NBN to offer Passive Services (i.e. dark fibre) on the wholesale/infrastructure level only, the impact on Public Licensed Operators is limited.

In moving forward, ictQATAR also is of the view that Q.NBN should be able to supply its Authorized Networks and Services to any customer in Qatar.

Currently ictQATAR does not see any detriment to the telecommunications market by widening the scope of Qualifying Persons.

## 3 Consultation Questions

In-keeping with an open, transparent process ictQATAR invites stakeholders to express their views on the issue and/or to respond to the questions raised below:

1. Should there be any restrictions regarding which entities may be eligible to be authorized as Qualifying Persons? If yes, please specify the restrictions that you believe should be imposed and qualify and quantify your reasoning.
2. Should there be any restrictions regarding the numbers of entities that may be authorized as Qualifying Persons? If yes, please specify the restrictions and explain your reasoning.
3. Should there be any restrictions regarding the use of the services by Qualifying Persons? If yes, please specify the restrictions that you believe should be imposed and qualify and quantify your reasoning.
4. Should the entity wishing to be authorized as a Qualifying Person apply to ictQATAR, or should it be permissible for the Licensee to submit a request for authorization of an entity as a Qualifying Person? Please specify the reasons for your response.
5. Should the concept of Qualifying Person be removed from the License, thus enabling any Person to receive services under the License? Please specify the reasons for your response.

---

<sup>1</sup> The License can be viewed at <http://www.ictqatar.qa/en/documents/document/passive-fixed-telecommunications-networks-and-services-license-qnbn>

## **4 Instructions for Responding to this Consultation:**

### **4.1 Consultation Procedures**

All interested parties are invited to submit responses to the questions specifically identified in this document and to provide their views on any other relevant aspects. Comments should reference the number of the question being addressed or the specific section of this document if not responding to a particular question.

ictQATAR asks that, to the extent possible, submissions be supported by examples or relevant evidence. Any submissions received in response to this consultation will be carefully considered by ictQATAR when progressing to revised RAS Instruction. Nothing included in this consultation document is final or binding. However, ictQATAR is under no obligation to adopt or implement any comments or proposals submitted.

Responses should be submitted by email to [pharris@ict.gov.qa](mailto:pharris@ict.gov.qa) and the deadline for receipt is close of business on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

Any submissions received in response to this consultation will be carefully considered by ictQATAR when preparing the Order. Nothing included in this consultation document is final or binding. However, ictQATAR is under no obligation to adopt or implement any comments or proposals submitted.

### **4.2 Publication of Comments**

In the interests of transparency and public accountability, ictQATAR intends to publish the submissions to this consultation on its website at [www.ictqatar.qa](http://www.ictqatar.qa). All submissions will be processed and treated as non-confidential unless confidential treatment of all or parts of a response has been requested.

In order to claim confidentiality for information in submissions that stakeholders regard as business secrets or otherwise confidential, stakeholders must provide a non-confidential version of such documents in which the information considered confidential is blacked out. This “blacked out” text should be contained in square brackets. From the non-confidential version it has to be clear where information has been deleted. To understand where redactions have been made, stakeholders must add indications such as “business secret”, “confidential” or “confidential information”.

A comprehensive justification must be provided for each and every part of the submission required to be treated as confidential. Furthermore, confidentiality cannot be claimed for the entire document or whole sections of the document as it is normally possible to protect confidential information with limited redactions.

While ictQATAR will endeavor to respect the wishes of respondents, in all instances the decision to publish responses in full, in part or not at all, remains at the sole discretion of ictQATAR. By making submissions to ictQATAR in this consultation, respondents will be deemed to have waived all copyright that may apply to intellectual property contained therein.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Philip Harris ([pharris@ict.gov.qa](mailto:pharris@ict.gov.qa)) directly.