

More Competition in the Tunisian Telecom Market: A New VSAT License in Tunisia

The Tunisian government has recently awarded a ten-year renewable license to an international consortium to install and operate a VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) telecommunications network in Tunisia.

The license award process is an important step towards the gradual introduction of competition in Tunisia following the award of a second GSM license in 2002. It furthers the liberalization agenda to which Tunisia has committed under the World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) Basic Telecom Agreement.

The introduction of a new VSAT operator promises to help satisfy the pent-up demand for connection and help reach the national goal of 25% teledensity set in the tenth Development Plan. It will also provide additional telecom infrastructure to support a wider deployment of ICT services in the country. The consortium is expected to start marketing its services in the next few months in competition with the incumbent Tunisie-telecom.

Boutheina Guerhazi.
G-REX Advisor,
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