1-1/2020-DGT/1
Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
(DGT-HQ)
1009, Sanchar Bhawan, Ashoka Road New Delhi.
Dated 28.02.2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Engaging with Digital Communication Technology development ecosystem – Coordination with State Governments, Start Ups / SMEs etc., - Assignment of role to LSA field units. - reg.

Digital Communication Technologies (DCTs) are transforming the frontiers of ICT applications and services making DCTs an essential ingredient of next generation networks including 5G, IoTs, Block Chain, AI etc. There are several companies and Start-ups/SMEs working on these new technologies enabling India go up in the value chain from IT services to ICT products with IPRs. The National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP)-2018 speaks eloquently on facilitating efforts of Indian Industry in R&D and development of Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) with the objective of India becoming part of global supply chains in DCTs.

2. In this regard, S-R-I (Standard-R&D-Innovation) division has also been established in DoT HQ to promote such efforts as envisaged in NDCP. To accomplish these objectives LSA field units have an important role to play in engaging with State Governments, Industries including Start Ups and SMEs, incubators, aggregators and Academia to facilitate technology development in DCTs.

3. Accordingly, approval of DG Telecom is hereby conveyed for enthrustment of following functions to LSA field units (including State Coordination Units) and in DGT HQ:

(a) DDG (Technology)/DDG (State Coordination) in every LSA field unit/State Coordination Unit shall be the focal point for the requisite coordination with the respective State Governments through their ICT departments.

(b) The Technology Vertical/State Coordination Unit in LSAs shall carry out the following activities under the leadership of DDG (T)/ DDG (State Coordination):

i. Engaging with Start-ups/Incubators/Accelerators/Hubs/CoE/Home-grown ecosystem in DCT domain for policy, regulatory aspects and programs;
ii. Collaboration with relevant State Government Departments;
iii. Inclusion of Start-ups/SMEs in 5G trails and use cases.
iv. Coordination with various officers of LSA in the aspects of technical and policy contributions for international platforms and forums;
v. Collecting necessary data and updates; &
vi. Other activities and engagement with other relevant stakeholders as may be necessary.

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(c) DDG (T&S) in DGT HQ shall be the Nodal Officer for overall coordination with these focal points at LSA Units/State Coordination Units and also with the concerned division at DoT HQ i.e S-R-I (Standard-R&D-Innovation) division at HQ level.

(d) While discharging the duties, the focal points at LSA level and nodal officer of DGT HQ shall act as a bridge between DoT HQ and concerned stake holders to take forward the objectives of NDCP.

(e) Elaboration on scope of activities is also enclosed as Annexure

To
i. DDG (T)/ DDG (State Coordination) in all LSAs
ii. DDG (IT&S), DGT HQ

Copy for information to:

i. PSO to Secretary (Telecom), DoT HQ
ii. PPS to Member (T)/Member (S)/Member (F), DoT HQ
iii. PPS to Advisor (O)/Advisor (T), DoT HQ
iv. Heads of All LSAs
v. All DDGs of DGT HQ, DoT
vi. DDG (SR-I)/ DDG (Estt.), DoT HQ
vii. Dir (IT&S), DGT HQ – for uploading this O.M on DoT website.
ANNEXURE

Role for LSAs / Field Units to forward activities in ‘Standardization, R&D and Innovation’

Background

1. The National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018 speaks about a robust, competitive policy landscape, which ensures availability of new communications technologies, services and applications, as central to the growth of GDP, productivity and creation of new jobs in the economy. The “propel India” pillar of NDCP envisages to enable Next Generation Technologies and Services through Investments, Innovation, Indigenous Manufacturing and IPR Generation. In this context, as observed during the various presentations made at DoT and in the meetings with startups / SMEs / academia, there is a significant work in progress in R&D in digital communication technologies.

2. State Governments have several programmes/start-up missions including incubators, accelerators, CoEs(Centre of Excellences) run in private and joint partnerships which form the breeding ground of technologies.

2. The Standards – R&D – Innovation (S-R-I) Division

The S-R-I division has been established in DoT HQ to complement efforts as envisaged in the NDCP with the following functions:

   a. Facilitate & coordinate DCT standardization efforts among / with domestic stakeholders, International standardization bodies / platforms and Other departments / Ministries, and submission of technical and substantive contributions on international platforms.

   b. Establish DCT engagement repository / portal to facilitate engagement with stakeholders on technical and substantive contributions on international platforms.

   c. Facilitate DoT efforts on R&D, SMEs, Start-ups and innovation activities.

   d. Carryout technical-policy-research based on developments and submissions on international platforms.

   e. Coordinate with the IR, IC, WPC divisions, TEC, NTIPRIT, TSDSI etc., to represent unified position on international platforms.

   f. Related areas to enable and forward the above objectives.

3. DoT Field Units

1. To forward the above NDCP objectives, the DoT filed units could complement efforts from HQ in engaging with state governments, industry including startups and SMEs, incubators, accelerators, CoEs and Academia to facilitate technology development in DCTs including coordinating during technology trials and providing inputs for the policy / regulatory aspects.

2. The LSA focal point, as a telecom expert nearer to the industry and local administration, has an important role to facilitate engagement between DoT HQ and State government, industry and DoT field officers on this front.
3 A social media platform is also facilitated by S-R-I wing. DoT for focussed engagement on issues of technology, policy aspects among stakeholders. The LSA focal points would be included as members of the group and would facilitate respective focal points from state government, incubators and industry (homegrown) to be part of the platform and contribute to it. Efforts are also being made to develop a portal in this regard.

4 Facilitate collaboration on innovative DCT projects with stakeholders and also to address their pain points.

5 DoT’s internal monthly e-newsletter, "Technology DoTs ... a glimpse of technology landscape in DCTs (Digital Communication Technologies)" is also being published by S-R-I division, with an aim to keep DoT’s internal stakeholders (including LSA officers), abreast of the global and National developments in terms of - New standards development, opportunities & innovation (which may have an important role in facilitating Indian companies ).

6 The nodal officer at LSA level would provide necessary coordination with focal point at DG HQ and S-R-I division, DoT for the activities presented in the cover letter and are also presented below.

The activities under the leadership of the Nodal officer in the LSA include:

i Coordination between start-ups/Incubators/accelerators/Hubs/Home-grown-ecosystem/CoEs(Centre of Excellences) in DCT domain for policy, regulatory aspects and DoT HQ.

ii Collaboration with relevant state government departments

iii Promotion and coordination with Start-ups/SMEs and other relevant stakeholders in 5G Technology Trails, 5G Hackathon and use case scenarios.

iv Co-ordination with field DoT officers in the aspects of technical and policy contributions for international platforms and forums

v Collecting necessary data and updates

vi Other activities and engagement with other relevant stakeholders as may be necessary

7. While discharging the duties, Nodal (LSA level) shall act as a bridge between DoT HQ and the concerned stakeholders to forward the objectives of NDCP.

8. Necessary briefing and inputs would be provided from the S-R-I division to enable and build competencies in the focal points in partnership with NTIPRIT, NICF, TEC, TSDSI, WPC etc.

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