KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF INDIA SATCOM-2018

1. **CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS** : Although ISRO is doing a remarkable job in terms of augmentation of satellite capacity, there is a need for substantial more capacity which is required to be added to roll out Broadband in Rural, Remote & Far flung Areas and to take care of the humungous data demand arising from new technologies & applications and emerging from the Broadcasting sector arising out of the growing demand for HD Television Channels and HD Video, in the future. This Bandwidth Requirement is expected to be 20-30 times more than what is available today.
   It is therefore recommended that additional capacity from private players be contracted to overcome this deficit. It is also recommended that in the interim period, pending finalization of Long-term Capacity, vacant capacity idling over India, which is of the order of 10 Gbps, may be utilized.

2. **REQUESTS PENDING WITH CAISS:** It is Recommended that due consideration be given and early disposal of pending requests/applications for Indian Satellite System/Networks with CAISS be carried out, as per the norms, guidelines and procedures for implementation of the policy frame-work for satellite communications in India as approved by Government in 2000.

3. **PRICES:** In view of the prevailing prices of satcom in other regimes and also between current public & private sector prices, it is Recommended that the satcom bandwidth prices be reduced substantially, so that it becomes competitive.

4. **USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES:** In view of the availability of New Technologies viz. Ka band, HTS, LEO/MEO Constellations, etc., it is Recommended that the same be permitted for liberal usage so as to make Satellite Bandwidth more affordable and accessible. It is also recommended to consider liberalizing the policies/guidelines regarding antenna technologies for the VSAT industry to help in terms of reducing costs and better utilization of the transponder capacities.

5. **SPECTRUM BANDS:** Both Ka Band (28Ghz: 27.5-31.0 Ghz) and C band (3.6-4.2 Ghz) are extensively used by Satellite Operators world over. While opening up these bands to other alternate uses, it must be ensured that the needs of the Satellite community be given due priority and consideration.

6. **Use of Exclusive Satellite Broadcasting band:** The BSS Ku band (11.7 – 12.2 GHz) should be permitted for use by broadcasters, so that FSS Spectrum be freed for broadband usage.

7. **EASE OF DOING BUSINESS**:

   a) Removal of Artificial Barriers: VSAT terminal are permitted DL speeds upto 2Mbps only, but when used for DSNG applications, are permitted upto 8Mbps; Minimum antenna heights are of the order of 1 Metre, etc
   b) Spectrum Charges for NLD are very high and need to be rationalized
   c) Need to delicense VSAT User terminals so that they are freely available & accessible to all, similar to mobile devices
   d) Periodic opening up of windows for allocation of Satellite Frequencies by WPC needs to be done away with. Need for regular Long Term Administrative Mechanism for allocation of spectrum on a continuous basis for the industry.

8. **MIGRATION FOR BROADCASTING INDUSTRY:** In view of the prevailing contracts between the broadcasters and the satellite operators, it is Recommended that migration from foreign satellites to Indian satellites may be reviewed only after the expiry of the existing contract period.

9. **CONTRACT PERIOD**: It is Recommended that contracts between the buyer and the seller for Satellite Bandwidth be permitted/extended for longer periods than the existing norm of 1-2 years. Since Satellite Life is usually for 12-15 years, short term contracts are not viable for the Satellite operator.

10. **DISASTER MANAGEMENT & RECOVERY**: It is Recommended that Uplinking Teleports for the Broadcasting sector be permitted to plan for contingencies by entering into arrangements with similar facilities located in other jurisdictions & transponders on alternate satellites to take care of emergencies/disaster recovery.