

Innovation Licence for Demonstration and Trialling under the TRA's Regulatory Sandbox

The Authority pronounced that it wishes to ensure that Bahrain remains at the centre of new innovations in ICT services and that research and pre-commercial testing of technology of 5G and IoT technologies should be promoted. In support of that the TRA has launched its innovation licence. The TRA believes that innovation is key to ensuring that Bahrain remains a leading global digital market and as such TRA wishes to further encourage companies, universities and others to test and trial new wireless technologies and services in the Kingdom.

Through its Innovation Licence, the TRA has introduced a light-touch regulatory environment to enable the live testing of new technologies and services. At the same time, the TRA seeks to offer clarity and confidence to the stakeholders. This flexible "safe environment" (also known as the "Regulatory Sandbox") will allow participants to acquire an Innovation Licence for the purpose of testing and trialling different emerging technologies that may ultimately benefit both the economy and consumers at large.

The TRA, is confident that this initiative will continue to position Bahrain as both a technology and regulatory innovator and allow the TRA to continue to engage and collaborate with a wide range of public and private sector institutions across the telecommunications industry. Developing an environment where digital technologies can thrive, underpinning the Kingdom's position as one of the world's most advanced telecommunications markets.

The Innovation Licence will provide applicants with:

- The ability to run live trials with consumers to help build insights into new products and services,
- Access to radio spectrum for wireless tests (subject to coordination and availability), and
- The opportunity for being quick to market as it grants quick and inexpensive access to radio spectrum with licences costing just BD30.

The grant of an Innovation Licence does not guarantee the award of a service licence. Innovation Licences are issued on a non-permanent and non-commercial. TRA does not guarantee that once expired, an Innovation licence will automatically be renewed.