TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

GUIDELINES FOR ACCESSING COMMUNICATION RESOURCES FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH PURPOSES

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GUIDELINES FOR ACCESSING COMMUNICATION RESOURCES FOR INNOVATION AND RESEARCH PURPOSES

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Definitions of terms and List of abbreviations

For the purpose of this document, the following definition of terms and abbreviations applies.

Definition of terms

Domain name	A unique name that identifies internet resources such as websites that is registered as a second level and/ or third level domain under .tz country code top-level domain (ccTLD)
Innovator	A person who introduces new ideas, methods, products, or processes that bring about change and improvement by challenging the status quo and drive progress in various fields, including technology, business, science, and social-economic development.
Post code	The Five (5) digits numeric used to identify the locations from zone to ward level.
Radio Frequency Spectrum	The portion of the electromagnetic spectrum ranging from 3kHz to 3000GHz, which propagates through space without the need for an artificial guide. It is capable of carrying various forms of information such as sound, images, video, data, and Short Message Service (SMS) from one location to another.
Researcher	A person who systematically investigates a topic, problem, or hypothesis to generate new knowledge, confirm facts, or develop solutions that can be applied in various fields, including science, technology, medicine, social sciences, and business.
Start-up	A young company that is in its early stages of business development, typically focusing on innovation, scalability, and rapid growth, aiming to bring new product(s) or service(s) to the market, often with limited resources and a focus on rapid growth and scaling

List of abbreviations

COSTECH	Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology
TCRA	Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
DNS	Domain Name System
USSD	Unstructured Supplementary Service Data
SMS	Short Message Service
ccTLD	country code Top-Level Domain

1. Introduction

1.1 The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is a government entity responsible for overseeing and regulating the electronic and postal communications sectors within the United Republic of Tanzania. It plays a pivotal role in managing communication resources to ensure their availability in supporting services such as telecommunications, broadcasting, postal, and courier services. TCRA's regulatory function is essential in fostering a safe, competitive, and innovative communications environment that meets the needs of both consumers and service providers.

1.2 In implementing its regulatory mandate, TCRA also supports the development of Tanzania's digital infrastructure by promoting the growth of digital technology start-ups and fostering innovative solutions to community challenges.

1.3 As part of this effort, TCRA has entered a partnership with the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) to provide essential communication resources to innovators, researchers, and start-ups. This initiative enables them to test the viability of their solutions before commercial deployment. The partnership aims to nurture Tanzania's growing digital innovation ecosystem, ensuring start-ups have the tools and support needed to grow and contribute positively to society through technological advancement.

1.4 The communication resources made available through this initiative include **electronic numbering resources**, **radio frequency spectrum**, **.tz domain names**, and **postcodes**. These are provided free of charge to researchers, innovators, and start-ups for a specified period of time.

1.5 These guidelines are intended to assist researchers, innovators, and start-ups in the process of applying for and utilizing communication resources for testing and piloting their solutions.

2. Objectives

The objective of these guidelines is to provide clear guidance to researchers, innovators, and start-ups on how to obtain communication resources from TCRA for the purpose of trial and testing of their innovative ideas.

3. Scope

These guidelines cover the procedures for applying and accessing communication resources namely; radio frequency spectrum, electronic numbering resources, .tz domain names, and postcodes to support the trial and testing phases of innovative ideas developed by researchers, innovators, and start-ups.

4. Requirements for accessing Communications Resources

To access communication resources for trial and testing purposes, researchers, innovators, and start-ups must meet specific eligibility and procedural requirements. These requirements ensure that the assigned resources are used appropriately and effectively to support the development and validation of innovative solutions.

4.1 General requirements

Applicants seeking to obtain communication resources for trial purposes must comply with the following general requirements: -

4.1.1 The applicant(s) must be citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania and hold valid national identification;

4.1.2 The solution or idea intended for testing or piloting must be presented to COSTECH and receive written endorsement, justifying the need for the requested communication resources;

4.1.3 The applicant(s) must prepare a detailed concept note outlining the proposed solution. This must be submitted along with the COSTECH endorsement during the application process;

4.1.4 The applicant(s) must provide a contact address and specify the location where the trials will be conducted. In the case of registered companies or organizations, the application should also include the company or organization profile; and

4.1.5 The following documents must be submitted as part of the application:

(i) Application letter;

(ii) Endorsement letter from COSTECH (as noted in point 4.1.2)

(iii) Verified copy of national Identification (for Individual);

(iv) Certified copy of the certificate of incorporation (for registered companies); and

(v) Concept note for the proposed innovation.

4.2 Specific Requirements

4.2.1 Requirements for Radio Frequency Spectrum

The following requirements apply to applications for access to radio frequency spectrum for trial purposes: -

(i) The assignment of radio frequency spectrum for testing purposes shall be considered for transmission-only or transmit-and-receive operations. The applicant(s) must provide the proposed technical parameters, which should include: -

(a) Planned installation location, including geographic coordinates
(b) Requested Radio Frequency Band;
(c) Transmit power levels;
(d) Antenna gain (if applicable);
(e) Antenna height;
(f) Proposed duration of the testing period; and
(g) Any other relevant technical specifications, clearly indicated in the submitted concept note.

(ii) Receive-only equipment does not require the assignment of communication resources and is therefore excluded from this process; and

(iii) The operation of the radio frequency spectrum on a trial basis must not cause harmful interference to any licensed service or network. If interference is detected, the assignee shall immediately cease use of the frequency and notify TCRA for further guidance.

4.2.2 Requirements for electronic numbering resources.

The following requirements apply to applications for access to electronic numbering resources: -

(i) The applicant must submit a request to TCRA for the free allocation of communication numbering resources, accompanied by the documents listed in Section 4.1.5; and

(ii) The applicant must have a suitable platform in place to integrate with Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) and Short Message Service (SMS) gateways provided by licensed Mobile Service Operators.

4.2.3 Requirements for dot TZ domain

The following requirements apply to applications for access to .tz domain names:

(i) The applicant must indicate the type of application, whether it is a new registration or a renewal, and

(ii) The applicant must submit all required documentation as outlined in Section 4.1.5.

4.2.4 Requirements for Postcodes

The following requirements apply to applications for access to postcodes:

(i) The applicant must indicate the requested postcodes; and

(ii) The applicant must submit all required documentation as outlined in Section 4.1.5**.**

5. Applications for Communication Resources

5.1 Applicants seeking communication resources for innovation, research, or start-up purposes must submit an application to TCRA, including all the required documents specified in Section 4 of these guidelines;

5.2 Applications should be submitted via email to the Director General of TCRA at: dg@tcra.go.tz;

5.3 Upon expiration of the authorized usage period, an extension may be granted upon written request by the assignee and subject to TCRA approval;

5.4 Requests for an extension must be submitted to TCRA at least one (1) month prior to the expiry of the authorized period. The request should outline:

(a) Achievements during the initial period;

(b) Challenges encountered;

(c) An activity plan for the proposed extension period;

5.5 In cases where there are concerns regarding the approval of a requested resource, TCRA will engage directly with the applicant for clarification or further discussion.

6. Authorization and Revocation of Communications Resources

6.1 Upon successful evaluation and approval by TCRA, the applicant shall be assigned the requested communication resource for a period of three (3) months;

6.2 Authorization will be issued through an authorization letter or authorization certificate, indicating the validity period and specific conditions governing the use of the assigned resource;

6.3 The authorization shall automatically lapse upon the expiry of the approved period, unless an extension has been formally granted; and

6.4 TCRA reserves the right to revoke the assigned resource at any time if the assignee is found to be in breach of any of the stated conditions.

7. General Conditions for operating the assigned resources

7.1 The assignee shall be fully responsible for the assigned resource during the authorized period; however, under no circumstances shall the assignee claim ownership rights over the resource.;

7.2 The assigned resource shall be used exclusively for trial purposes and only within the specified authorization period;

7.3 The resource must be used solely for the intended purpose stated in the application. It shall not be used for commercial activities or promotional campaigns of any kind;

7.4 For domain name assignments, the domain shall not be used in any form of DNS abuse or malicious activity;

7.5 The assignee must cease use of the assigned resource immediately upon expiry of the authorized period;

7.6 If testing is concluded before the end of the authorized period, the assignee must notify TCRA, clearly stating the achievements realized and intention to discontinue use of the resource;

7.7 In the case of radio frequency spectrum, the assigned frequency shall:

(a) Not cause harmful interference to existing licensed services.

(b) Not claim protection from interference caused by other stations operating within the same band.

7.8 The assignee is required to submit a monthly progress report, highlighting key achievements and activities undertaken since the authorization was granted.

8. Document Administration

8.1 Amendment

TCRA reserves the right to review, update, or modify this document from time to time to ensure its continued relevance and alignment with both national and international performance requirements.

8.2 Publication

This document shall be published on the TCRA website https://www.tcra.go.tz for public information, compliance and reference purposes.

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