

# **Number Portability in Trinidad and Tobago**

**Presented by:**

**Cris Seecheran**

**The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and  
Tobago**

February 9, 2011

# Number Portability

What is Number Portability?

- Number Portability (NP) is a regulated facility which allows subscribers of public telephone services to change their service provider, geographic location or telephone service whilst ***keeping their existing telephone number.***
- Number Portability is used to ***foster consumer choice*** and **promote *effective competition*** by enabling subscribers to switch between providers without the costs and inconvenience of changing telephone numbers.

# Types of Number Portability

- **Service Provider Portability**

- permits a user to change service provider and still retain his/her telephone number.

- **Location or Geographic Portability**

- permits a user to change location and still retain his/her original telephone number.

- **Service Portability**

- allows a subscriber to retain his/her telephone number when switching from one service to another service provided by the same service provider without impairment of quality, reliability or convenience.

# Overview of T&T Telephone Service Market

Trinidad and Tobago opened its market to full competition in 2005.

Current Status of telecommunications providers/operators:

- Fixed: 2 fixed voice operators with 3 other operators who have been already been assigned numbers and who are expected to launch services in the near future.
- Mobile: 2 mobile operators

# Number Portability - Legislative Requirement

- Section 25 (2) (j) of the Telecommunications Act provides that in respect of a concessionaire's obligations, the Authority shall require a concessionaire to *“...provide, to the extent technically feasible, number portability when required to do so and in accordance with the requirements prescribed, by the Authority.”*

# Number Portability - Implementation in T&T

- Proposal for NP Implementation in T&T
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Phase: Mobile Number Portability*
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase: Fixed Number Portability.*
- Draft Implementation Plan for Number Portability published on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and issued for 1<sup>st</sup> Round of Public Consultation.

# Number Portability – Public Consultation

## Key Issues from Consultation to Date:

- Is there Demand for Service?
- Questions on Cost Benefit
- Not All Operators are in Support of NP

# Countries where NP Implemented

Countries that already have Mobile Number Portability (MNP)

2005 and before	2006	2007	2008	2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Singapore 1997</li> <li>▪ UK 1999</li> <li>▪ US 2003</li> <li>▪ France 2003</li> <li>▪ <b>Puerto Rico 2003</b></li> <li>▪ Cyprus 2004</li> <li>▪ Malta 2005</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Japan</li> <li>▪ Saudi Arabia</li> <li>▪ South Africa</li> <li>▪ <b>French Antilles (Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, St Barthelemy, St. Martin)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Canada</li> <li>▪ Israel</li> <li>▪ New Zealand</li> <li>▪ Pakistan</li> <li>▪ Sri Lanka</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brazil</li> <li>▪ Malaysia</li> <li>▪ Mexico</li> <li>▪ Turkey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dominican Republic</b></li> <li>▪ India</li> <li>▪ Kenya</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Source: Ovum, May 2009</i></p>

The following markets are currently moving forward on the discussion of Number Portability:

- Cayman Islands
- The British Virgin Islands
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Trinidad & Tobago and**
- The five members of the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL).

# The Way Forward

- TATT will publish 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Consultation document (together with comments received from 1<sup>st</sup> Round) in 2nd Quarter 2011.
- Final Implementation Plan on Number Portability targeted for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012.