



**National Communications authority
Federal Republic of Somalia**

Guidelines for Broadcasting Radio Spectrum Licenses

19 September 2020

1. INTRODUCTION

Media broadcasting in Somalia is evolving. Nowadays, there is more than just one radio and television. Somalia boasts one national radio and television, as well as local rebroadcasts, cable and satellite distribution of radio and television services from overseas. Wireless and online services are also available. Given these developments, there is a need to develop Somalia's own media and give Somali people a voice in order to support national development. The number of applications to set up new local FM services has also increased in recent years.

The purpose of these guidelines is to help members of the general public who wish to apply for a Broadcasting Radio License. The Guidelines can help make the application process: Clearer, simpler and transparent.

The Guidelines explain clearly the process to be followed in order to apply for a broadcasting Radio license. The Guidelines provide advice regarding the various types of licenses which can be issued by the National Communication Authority (NCA) and what are the requirements to obtain a license.

There are two types of broadcasting stations: terrestrial and satellite. These guidelines apply to the terrestrial broadcasting stations only. For information, historically all terrestrial stations in Somalia have been using analogue technology. However, keeping in line with the global & regional trend towards adoption of more efficient digital technology, the digital switchover in Somalia is planned to be completed by July 15, 2019. The analogue broadcasting stations have legacy to use either MF/HF, VHF or UHF spectrum for transmission. Because of the long distance propagation characteristics of electromagnetic waves in MF/HF, VHF and UHF bands. In order to ensure the interference free the international or regional spectrum planning is done

Plan Name	Frequency Bands
GE-75	LF: 150-285 kHz MF: 525-1605 kHz
GE-84	Band II: 87.5 - 108 MHz
GE-06	Band III: 174-230 MHz Band IV: 470-582 MHz Band V: 582-862 MHz

The below sections describes the licensing requirement and technical parameters relating to each licensing type.

Annex (A) The templates of the licenses together with the specific terms, conditions and technical schedule(s).

Annex (B) The application processing procedure.

Annex (C) Application form to be used for license applications, modifications, renewals or cancellations.

The application form clarifies the applicant information and documents to be provided for the processing of the application.

2. ANALOGUE RADIO BROADCASTING

The Analogue Radio broadcasting service involves the broadcasting of sound which may be accompanied by associated text/data, using a transmitter and other ancillary equipment in the VHF band II (87.5 to 108 MHz) and Amplitude Modulated (AM radio).

It is currently one of the key services regulated by the Authority, with over 65 FM radio stations across Somalia as at the end of the second quarter of 2019. It is therefore important that the Authority sets out guidelines to govern the operation of FM broadcasting stations in Somalia to ensure that quality broadcasting service is delivered to the general public.

In analogue radio broadcasting there are two types of licenses available to operate:

- a) Commercial broadcasting radio station license
- b) Community broadcasting radio station license

These sub categories of analogue broadcasting station licenses are being demonstrated below:

2.1 Summary of Licensee's responsibilities:

Licensees shall be responsible for ensuring that:

- a) Equipment is deployed, operated and maintained to comply with regulations and licensing requirements and to prevent unnecessary interference.

- b) The licensee shall cease to operate immediately if interference occurs in the aeronautical services operating in the adjacent frequency band or in other broadcasting services.
- c) Broadcasting operational personnel are trained and certified by the licensee to be qualified to perform their roles.
- d) Records for the systems included in the license are kept, which must be made available to the NCA for Inspection upon request.
- e) The license is at this time and renewable must be on time.

See Appendix A for the detailed terms and conditions

2.2 Commercial Radio Station License:

Broadcasts generated by commercial entities or companies for the purpose of earning revenue and making profit. Revenue can be earned through commercial advertising, commercial subscription, sale of airtime, private sponsorship, broadcast of events sponsored by private interests.

This section provides information on legal and technical consideration of the issuance of a commercial license for the radio station. With the exception of high power analogue stations, which have already been assigned frequencies in some areas according to the GE-84 Plan, there is no guarantee that license licenses can be granted to low power stations. This depends on whether it is possible to assign the allocation frequencies at particular geographic location, with a transmitter power required, without cause interference with other radio stations or aviation services.

Low power stations are allowed with a coverage radius of up to maximum of 10 km.

2.2.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants who may apply for a Local Commercial Radio Station License are:

- A) The company applying for the Radio license may be owned and controlled by Somalian nationals, as well as by foreign individuals who can have a controlling interest in the applying company. A

broadcasting applicant must have a license from Ministry of Information, Culture & Tourism to provide Commercial Broadcasting content in the Somalia.

2.2.2 Technical Details

Radio equipment for FM radio broadcasting has to meet the applicable Type Approval requirements in accordance with the Type Approval Guidelines of Somalia. The NCA Type Approval Guideline requirements and to identify applicable reference ETSI standards EN 301 489-11 and EN 302 018-2. In addition, the equipment is required to comply with the requirements of ITU-R BS. 450-3¹. (https://www.itu.int/dms_pubrec/itu-r/rec/bs/R-REC-BS.450-3-200111-I!!PDF-E.pdf).

2.3 Community Radio Station

Community groups who broadcast to serve the interests of their community. Their interest is ‘non profit’ by nature. These groups can include: Camp Community, village community, island community, Masjid community, limited interest community (education, development, sport, agriculture, health, language group, music and culture, etc...). Political parties or organizations may not apply for a broadcast license may not apply Community radio station license. Community Broadcasting Licenses do not allow the licensee to earn commercial revenue or benefit from commercial sponsorship. However, the licensee can carry out public fundraising and obtain public or aid agency public funding support.

This section provides information on the technical considerations for the issuing of licenses for Community Radio Stations. These licenses are for small-scale, not-for-profit organizations. The license may cater for the requirements of various user groups in society with different areas of interest such as a particular ethnic group, age group or interest group. These radio stations typically cover a small geographical area within a coverage radius of up to 5km.

2.3.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants who may apply for a Community Radio Station License are companies registered in Somalia and that can meet the requirements specified in the community broadcasting license/approval granted by the Ministry of Information, Culture & Tourism.

Like Commercial Broadcasting Radio Station license, the frequencies from the band 87.5 – 108 MHz are assigned with 300 kHz maximum channel bandwidth.

The effective radiated power is dependent on the co-ordination process, which addresses the effect of potential interference with other broadcast assignments in the band and with adjacent band users.

Radio equipment for FM radio broadcasting has to meet the applicable Type Approval requirements in accordance with the Type Approval Guidelines of NCA. In addition, the equipment is required to comply with the requirements of ITU-R BS. 450-3.

3. DIGITAL RADIO BROADCASTING

NCA intends to facilitate the provision of both Digital radio, and digital television services based on the frequencies allocated at the 2006 Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC-06) and referred to as the Geneva Plan (GE-06).

Licenses for digital radio and digital TV communication are issued to Multiplexer Network Operators and are available on a first come first-served (FCFS) basis with the condition that the content of only such organizations will be distributed that hold valid license/authorization to offer broadcast content from the Ministry of Information, Culture & Tourism.

3.1 Summary of Licensee's responsibilities

Licensees are generally responsible to ensure that:

- a) Licensed entities that have valid broadcasting content license from the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism to offer content over the network.
- b) Equipment is deployed, operated and maintained to comply with regulations and licensing requirements and to prevent unnecessary interference
- c) Broadcasting operational personnel are trained and certified by the licensee to be qualified to perform their roles.

- d) Records for the systems included in the license are held in reserved, which must be made available to the NCA for Inspection upon request.
- e) The license is at this time and renewable must be on time.

See Appendix A for detailed terms and conditions.

3.2 Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network License

A Digital Terrestrial TV multiplex is a bundle of TV services that have been digitized, compressed and combined into a data-stream for transmission to the consumer over a single channel. The receiver separates each service from this compressed data-stream and turns it into a form which can be viewed. The frequency bandwidth of a multiplex in the UHF band is 8 MHz. Depending on the geographical extent of a multiplex, i.e., if it is countrywide, regional or a local multiplex, one or more 8 MHz TV channels are used to compose the multiplex.

This section provides information on the technical considerations for the issuing of a license for a digital terrestrial TV broadcast multiplexer network that will allow the licensee to transmit either national or regional broadcast programmers of authorized broadcasting companies.

3.2.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicant who may apply for the License must be a company Authorized by Minister of information, culture & Tourism for the purpose of distribution of broadcasting content.

3.2.2 Technical details

According to the agreement GE-06 plan NCA mainly assigned spectrum in harmonies with the frequency channels in the digital TV broadcasting plan.

The deployment of latest technologies is encouraged to maximize use of the available frequencies. In this regard DVB-T2 standard has been approved for deployment for which ETSI standard EN 302 775 is to be followed by the licensees.

3.3 Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network License

This section delivers technical details and information for the providing license for a digital terrestrial radio multiplexer network license that gives the licensee the authority to transmit national or regional broadcaster programmers.

3.3.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicant who may apply for a Digital Terrestrial Radio license must be an authorized applicant/company in the Ministry of Information, cultural and Tourism for the distribution of broadcasting content.

3.3.2 Technical details

NCA encourage the deployment of latest technologies. In this regard, T- DAB will be approving to be deployed in Band III on the agreed frequencies as per the GE-06 plan.

In order to deploy and operate T-DAB standard the ETSI standards TS 102 563 and EN 301 489-11 will be followed.

3.4 Digital Video Broadcasting - Handheld (DVB-H) Multiplexer Network License

This section delivers information on the technical considerations for the issuing of a license for digital video broadcasting - handheld Multiplexer network license for providing broadcasting services to handheld devices that will allow the licensee to transmit either State or national broadcast programmers of authorized broadcasting companies.

3.4.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicant who may apply for a Digital Video Broadcasting- Handheld license must be an authorized applicant/company in the Ministry of Information, cultural and Tourism for the distribution of broadcasting content.

3.4.2 Technical details

The applicable ETSI standard to be followed is ETSI EN 302 304.

4. MONITORING BEFORE STATION DEPLOYMENT

Before deployment of any type of broadcasting station, the monitoring is done by NCA monitoring team to ensure that the station at the approved location do not receive/emit any interference from/to any local or foreign station.

NOTE ON APPLICABLE STANDARDS

Any type of broadcasting equipment requires type approval as defined by the NCA Type Approval Guidelines for Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment, which define the applicable standards.

ANNEX A: LICENSE TEMPLATES AND TERMS & CONDITIONS



**National Communications authority
Federal Republic of Somalia**

LICENSE

For the Provision of

Commercial Broadcasting Station license

Issued by:

National Communications Authority (NCA)

Issued to:

[Broadcasting Company Name]

13th September, 2020

License Number: **NCA-XXXX/2019**

LICENSE

For the Provision of

Commercial Broadcasting Station license

WHEREAS [**Broadcasting Company Name**] requested authorization to provide Commercial Radio Broadcasting Services in Somalia under the authority of the National Communications Authority (NCA).

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with mandate and the policy of the Ministry of Post, Telecommunications & Technology, the National Communications Authority, with principal responsibility for Radio Spectrum Licensing, **MAY GRANT** a Commercial Broadcasting Station license.

NOW, THEREFORE, by Article 41 of Communication Act of October 02, 2017 and pursuant to section 2 of its regulations, the National Communications Authority hereby grants a Commercial Broadcasting Station license [**Broadcasting Company Name**]

The [**Broadcasting Company Name**] is hereby authorized to establish, install and work Commercial Broadcasting Station in Somalia for the specified term of this License and subject to the provisions of the Broadcasting Regulations and the License terms and conditions overleaf.

Dated: 13 September 2020

General Manager
National Communications Authority
Federal Republic of Somalia

Specific Terms & Conditions

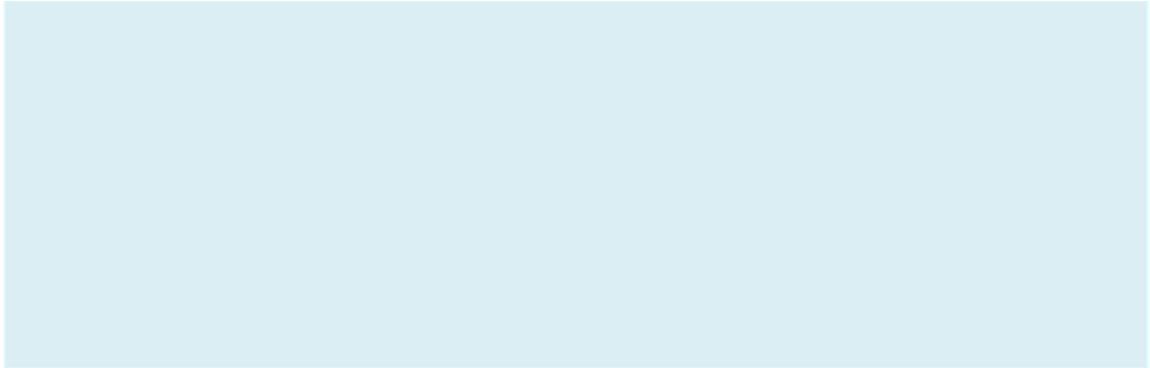
1. Technical Conditions

The licensee must cease operation immediately if there is interference experienced into aeronautical mobile services operating in the adjacent frequency band.

2. Definitions

Aeronautical Mobile Service: means a mobile communication service between aeronautical stations and aircraft stations, or between aircraft stations.

3. Special Conditions



4. Technical Schedule (1)

This schedule forms part of the Commercial Radio Broadcast Station License No. _____ issued to _____, the Licensee on [Date].

Frequency channel	
location (Lat and Long)	
Site name /address	
Channel bandwidth	
Transmitter power (e.r.p.) (W)	
Equipment manufacturer	
Equipment model	
Antenna height	



LICENSE

For the Provision of

Community Radio Broadcast Station license

Issued by:

National Communications Authority (NCA)

Issued to:

[Broadcasting Company Name]

13th September, 2020

License Number: **NCA-XXXX/2019**

LICENSE

For the Provision of

Community Radio Broadcast Station license

WHEREAS [**Broadcasting Company Name**] requested authorization to provide Community Radio Broadcasting Services in Somalia under the authority of the National Communications Authority (NCA).

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with mandate and the policy of the Ministry of Post, Telecommunications & Technology, the National Communications Authority, with principal responsibility for Radio Spectrum Licensing, **MAY GRANT** a Community Broadcasting Station license.

NOW, THEREFORE, by Article 41 of Communication Act of October 02, 2017 and pursuant to section 2 of its regulations, the National Communications Authority hereby grants a Community Broadcasting Station license [**Broadcasting Company Name**]

The [**Broadcasting Company Name**] is hereby authorized to establish, install and work Community Broadcasting Station in Somalia for the specified term of this License and subject to the provisions of the Broadcasting Regulations and the License terms and conditions overleaf.

Dated: 13 September 2020

General Manager
National Communications Authority
Federal Republic of Somalia

Specific Terms & Conditions

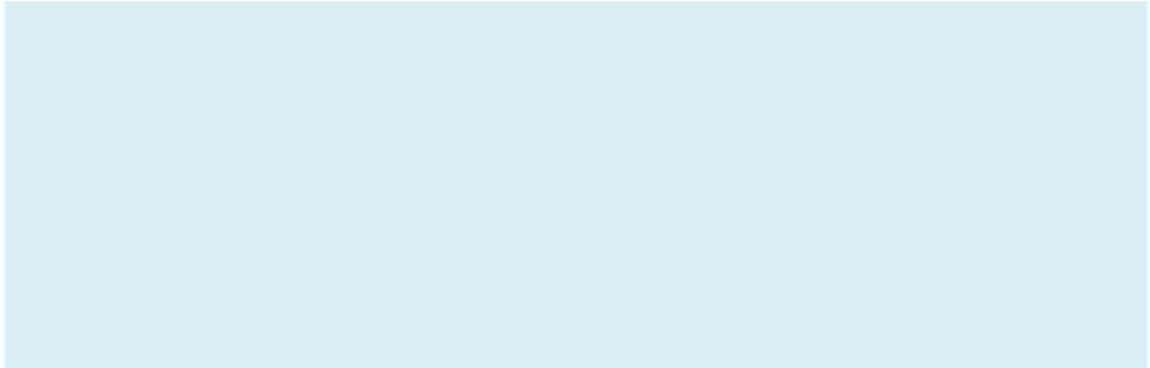
1. Technical Conditions

The licensee must cease operation immediately if there is interference experienced into aeronautical mobile services operating in the adjacent frequency band.

2. Definitions

Aeronautical Mobile Service: means a mobile communication service between aeronautical stations and aircraft stations, or between aircraft stations.

3. Special Conditions



4. Technical Schedule (1)

This schedule forms part of the Community Radio Broadcast Station License No. _____ issued to _____, the Licensee on [Date].

Frequency channel	
location (Lat and Long)	
Site name /address	
Channel bandwidth	
Transmitter power (e.r.p.) (W)	
Equipment manufacturer	
Equipment model	
Antenna height	



**National Communications authority
Federal Republic of Somalia**

LICENSE

For the Provision of

Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network license

Issued by:

National Communications Authority (NCA)

Issued to:

[Broadcasting Company Name]

13th September, 2020

License Number: **NCA-XXXX/2019**

LICENSE

For the Provision of

Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network license

WHEREAS [**Broadcasting Company Name**] requested authorization to provide Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network Services in Somalia under the authority of the National Communications Authority (NCA).

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with mandate and the policy of the Ministry of Post, Telecommunications & Technology, the National Communications Authority, with principal responsibility for Radio Spectrum Licensing, **MAY GRANT** a Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network license.

NOW, THEREFORE, by Article 41 of Communication Act of October 02, 2017 and pursuant to section 2 of its regulations, the National Communications Authority hereby grants Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network license [**Broadcasting Company Name**]

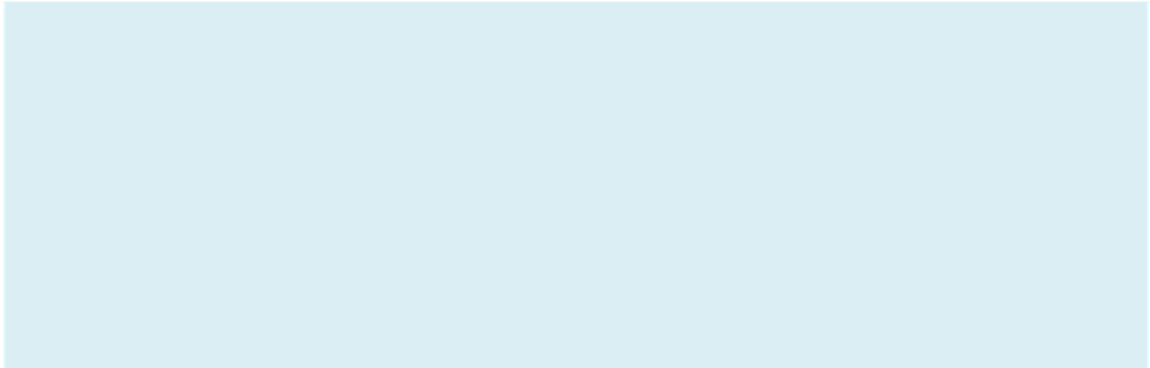
The [**Broadcasting Company Name**] is hereby authorized to establish, install and work Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network Station in Somalia for the specified term of this License and subject to the provisions of the Broadcasting Regulations and the License terms and conditions overleaf.

Dated: 13 September 2020

General Manager
National Communications Authority
Federal Republic of Somalia

Specific Terms & Conditions

1. Special Conditions



2. Technical Schedule (1)

This schedule forms part of the Digital Terrestrial TV Multiplexer Network Station License No. ____ issued to _____, the Licensee on [Date].

Frequency channel										
Maximum power allowed										
Field intensity at the edge of the area										
Standard										
Geographic Area:										
Northern Limit:	Lat:		Long:		Western limit:	Lat:		Long:		
Southern Limit:	Lat:		Long:		Eastern Limit:	Lat:		Long:		
OR										
Centre Point:	Lat:		Long:		Radius (kms)					



**National Communications authority
Federal Republic of Somalia**

LICENSE

For the Provision of

Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network License

Issued by:

National Communications Authority (NCA)

Issued to:

[Broadcasting Company Name]

13th September, 2020

License Number: **NCA-XXXX/2019**

LICENSE

For the Provision of

Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network License

WHEREAS [**Broadcasting Company Name**] requested authorization to provide Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network Services in Somalia under the authority of the National Communications Authority (NCA).

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with mandate and the policy of the Ministry of Post, Telecommunications & Technology, the National Communications Authority, with principal responsibility for Radio Spectrum Licensing, **MAY GRANT** a Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network license.

NOW, THEREFORE, by Article 41 of Communication Act of October 02, 2017 and pursuant to section 2 of its regulations, the National Communications Authority hereby grants Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network license [**Broadcasting Company Name**]

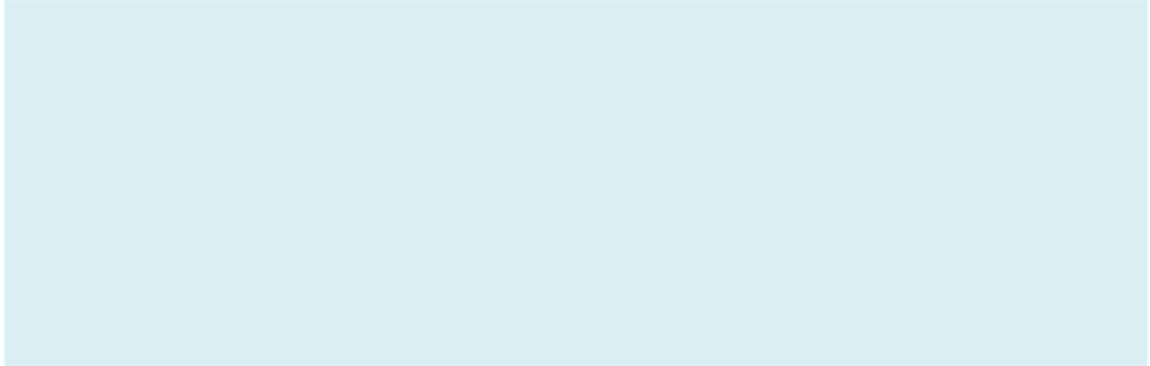
The [**Broadcasting Company Name**] is hereby authorized to establish, install and work Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network Station in Somalia for the specified term of this License and subject to the provisions of the Broadcasting Regulations and the License terms and conditions overleaf.

Dated: 13 September 2020

General Manager
National Communications Authority
Federal Republic of Somalia

Specific Terms & Conditions

1. Special Conditions



2. Technical Schedule (1)

This schedule forms part of the Digital Terrestrial Audio Multiplexer Network Station License No. ____ issued to _____, the Licensee on [Date].

Frequency channel										
Maximum power allowed										
Field intensity at the edge of the area										
Standard										
Geographic Area:										
Northern Limit:	Lat:		Long:		Western limit:	Lat:		Long:		
Southern Limit:	Lat:		Long:		Eastern Limit:	Lat:		Long:		
OR										
Centre Point:	Lat:		Long:		Radius (kms)					



**National Communications authority
Federal Republic of Somalia**

LICENSE

For the Provision of

Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld Multiplexer Network License

Issued by:

National Communications Authority (NCA)

Issued to:

[Broadcasting Company Name]

13th September, 2020

License Number: **NCA-XXXX/2019**

LICENSE

For the Provision of

Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld Multiplexer Network License

WHEREAS [**Broadcasting Company Name**] requested authorization to provide Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld Multiplexer Network Services in Somalia under the authority of the National Communications Authority (NCA).

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with mandate and the policy of the Ministry of Post, Telecommunications & Technology, the National Communications Authority, with principal responsibility for Radio Spectrum Licensing, **MAY GRANT** a Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld Multiplexer Network license.

NOW, THEREFORE, by Article 41 of Communication Act of October 02, 2017 and pursuant to section 2 of its regulations, the National Communications Authority hereby grants Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld Multiplexer Network license [**Broadcasting Company Name**]

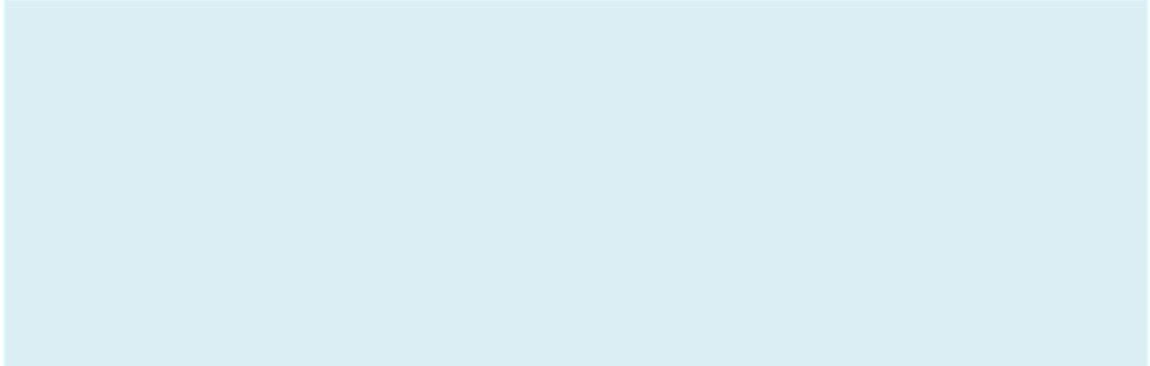
The [**Broadcasting Company Name**] is hereby authorized to establish, install and work Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld Multiplexer Network Station in Somalia for the specified term of this License and subject to the provisions of the Broadcasting Regulations and the License terms and conditions overleaf.

Dated: 13 September 2020

General Manager
National Communications Authority
Federal Republic of Somalia

Specific Terms & Conditions

1. Special Conditions



2. Technical Schedule (1)

This schedule forms part of the Digital Video Broadcast-Handheld Multiplexer Network Station License No. ____ issued to _____, the Licensee on [Date].

Frequency channel										
Maximum power allowed										
Field intensity at the edge of the area										
Standard										
Geographic Area:										
Northern Limit:	Lat:		Long:		Western limit:	Lat:		Long:		
Southern Limit:	Lat:		Long:		Eastern Limit:	Lat:		Long:		
OR										
Centre Point:	Lat:		Long:		Radius (kms)					

ANNEX B: APPLICATION PRECESSING PROCEDURE

The licensing process starts with the submission of a duly completed application form. Application forms should be available at www.nca.gov.so. Generally speaking, all applicants for commercial licenses should meet the following conditions:

- Be registered and have content license in Somalia with the Ministry of Information, Culture & Tourism as broadcast service provider Company.
- Have a duly registered office and permanent premises in Somalia,
- Provide company profile which provides detailed information of company shareholders and directors,

