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### Press Release

#### **Opening of Spectrum Financial Bids for the Fixed Telecom Licenses in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**Riyadh – 4/4/1428H (21/4/2007G)**

The Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) opened today the spectrum financial bids from qualified applicants for Public Fixed Telecom Services Licenses in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The financial bids were opened in a public ceremony attended by representatives of the qualified applicants at the CITC's headquarters in Riyadh at 10 am today. Last week, the CITC announced the qualification of three consortia for the Fixed Licenses:

1. Optical Communication Company Consortium (MCI International / Verizon - USA)
2. Al-Mutakamilah Consortium (PCCW - Hong Kong)
3. Atheeb Telecom Consortium (Batelco – Bahrain)

Al-Mutakamilah and Atheeb Consortia have applied for spectrum, while Optical Communication Co. Consortium has not. The single sealed spectrum bid forms of each of the two applicants for spectrum were opened today. The public opening ceremony represents the first step of the Spectrum Award Process, as detailed in the "Request for Application for Fixed Licenses (RFA)" document, available on the Commission's website ([www.citc.gov.sa](http://www.citc.gov.sa)), In contrast to the Mobile Services where only one license is to be awarded, more than one Fixed Services License can be awarded, depending on spectrum need and availability.

The Governor of the CITC, His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Al-Suwaiyel, emphasized that the financial spectrum bids, announced today, do not necessarily determine the winners of the Fixed Licenses, or the final value of the spectrum licenses. Determining the successful applicants will require the evaluation of the documents accompanying the bids for conformance to the RFA requirements, as well as completion of the remaining steps of the Spectrum Award Process which could take few weeks. The results of Spectrum Award Process will then be considered by the CITC's Board of Directors. Qualified applicants, including those awarded spectrum and those not requiring frequencies, will then be recommended to the Council of Ministers for final approval of the results and determination of the Fixed Licensees.

The Governor acknowledged the support that the CITC has received from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and from the Government; such unwavering support has enabled the CITC to carry out its responsibility in managing the international competition process for the Licensing process in an objective, fair and transparent way. Furthermore, the Governor cited the follow up and support of the Chairman and Members of the CITC Board, throughout all the activities and proceedings undertaken by the Commission.