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Telecommunications Newsletter Switzerland

Competitive Tender for the Universal Service Licence in Telecommunications

The Federal Communications Commission (ComCom) is launching the competitive tender for the new universal service licence. The licence will cover the entire national territory and will run for 10 years from January 1, 2008. ComCom will award this licence by the end of June 2007. The invitation to tender was published in the Federal Journal on October 10, 2006.

The tender documents (which can be obtained from the Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM)) contain information on the content and obligations of the universal service licence and stipulate the terms and conditions for taking part in the tender. Interested candidates must submit their application to the OFCOM by February 1, 2007.

The universal service licence will be granted to the candidate who satisfies all criteria best and who does not request financial compensation. If all the candidates apply for compensation, the licence will be granted to the candidate whose bid provides for the best balance between the proposed services and the amount of compensation requested.

As from 2008 the universal service is amended with the following services: (i) broadband, (ii) additional services for people with disabilities and (iii) public call boxes. On the other hand the services (i) directory enquiries, (ii) call diversion and (iii) advice of charge will be excluded from the list of universal services.

October 12, 2006

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