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During the year 2000 the State Telecommunications Commission started a process for licensing. Throughout the year were issued 727 individual licences and 2799 certificates for registration under a class licence. Tender procedures were carried, as well as an auction for telecommunication operators. Also, in 2000 the STC began the practical implementation of §14 from the Transitional and Final Provisions of the Telecommunications Act concerning licences, as approved by the Committee for Posts and Telecommunications before the Telecommunications Act was enacted. Work continued for the elaboration, further revision and harmonization of the legislation framework.

A data base and public register were established for the issued individual licences and certificates for registration under a class licence, both accessible in Internet. The data is regularly published in the Bulletin of the State Telecommunications Commission.

### **1. INDIVIDUAL LICENCES**

During 2000 the work of the State Telecommunications Commission in the field of individual licences encompassed the following activities:

- Issue of individual licences by activity (table 22);
- Preparation of additional documents to the licences (applications, declarations, technical annexes, etc.).

**Table 22. Individual licences issued by the STC throughout 2000**

<b>No. by order</b>	<b>Activity code</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number of licences</b>
1	101	Television broadcasting with national coverage	2
2	102	Television broadcasting with local coverage	12
3	104	Radio broadcasting with local coverage	54
4	105	Cable telecommunications networks for radio and television signals and other services	593
5	106	Paging networks and services	3
6	107	Mobile radio networks TRUNK - analog	2
7	109	VSAT networks with hub stations on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria	1
8	112	Terrestrial fixed satellite stations	15
9	113	Fixed microwave lines	1
10	117	Data transmission public networks	1
11	120	Private mobile radio telephone networks PMR and PAMR	43
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>727</b>

Bidding documentation was prepared and 2 bids for operators of national private television networks were conducted. An individual licence for television broadcasting with national coverage was issued, and a program licence for the bid winners:

- “Balkan News Corporation ” – at the beginning of 2000;
- “New Television” – at the end of 2000

The term of validity for both licences is 15 years.

The STC brought in compliance with §14 from the Telecommunications Act 12 individual licences for television radio broadcasting with local coverage of operators from Sofia (two operators), Burgas, Pleven, Shumen, Dobrich, Haskovo, Kurdjali, Kazanluk, Sopot, Popovo and Beloslav.

In compliance with §14 from the Telecommunications Act were reissued 54 licences for radio broadcasting with local coverage.

The State Telecommunications Commission prepared the documentation and carried a bid for the first private national radio operator, which was won by Darik Radio. The licence for VHF radio broadcasting with national coverage is granted for a term of 15 years.

Documentation was prepared and a bid carried out for VHF radio broadcasting with local coverage in 8 regions of the country: Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Stara Zagora, Veliko Turnovo, Russe and Blagoevgrad. In total, 72 candidates participated in the bidding procedures and were ranked, accordingly. The licence term of validity is 12 years.

In 2000 started the licensing of cable telecommunications networks for radio and television signals and other services. 593 licences were issued – to all operators which submitted their documents in conformity with the legal provision laid down in §14 and § 16 from the Telecommunications Act, as well as to new applicants fulfilling the said requirements and submitting regular documents and projects.

For the same period have been issued also the respective individual licences to applicants for VSAT networks with hub stations on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and for terrestrial fixed satellite stations.

Licensing of the fixed microwave lines operators was delayed because of the difficulties which applicants experienced upon receipt of a written refusal for provision of leased lines by the Bulgarian Telecommunications Company – a monopolist in this type of activity.

In 2000 started a revision for compliance with §14 from the Telecommunications Act of licences for mobile cellular networks of RTC and Mobiltel operators. The issuing of relevant licences is on the way.

A delay was notable in licensing operators for private mobile radio telephone networks (PMR). After the initial submission of documents was over, it appeared that some of the main (including these of national importance) operators have failed to submit their documentation within the specified term. In relation to that, certain actions were taken. Notification letters were sent out to all operators, which had previously been awarded operation permissions from the Committee for Posts and Telecommunications (CPT), and meetings were called, in which discussions took place for clarifying particular issues from the provision of radio frequencies to mobile networks. The issued licences so far are 43.

At the end of 2000 the State Telecommunications Commission prepared and carried out an auction for a second GSM operator with national coverage. Four major candidates participated in the auction: OTE, Fintour Holdings BV, Vodaphone Bulgaria and TIM International BV. The public auction with secret bidding became a symbol of the new governmental policy in the sphere of privatization. The bidding went on entirely in compliance with the rules laid down in the annex under p. 9 from Decision No. 693 of the Council of Ministers from 2000, the Rules and Guidelines for auction conduct and continued over 19 subsequent iterations for three days. Around 100 accredited journalists from numerous media and representatives from several of the leading international news agencies attended and reflected the ongoing procedure. A high appraisal was also given by the representatives of the "Transparency without frontiers" international association. Winner of the auction became OTE (Greece) with a final bid of USD 135 million. The relevant licence was granted in January 2001 and is valid for a period of 15 years.

Jointly with the National Council for Radio and Television (NCRT), the State Telecommunications Commission issued 74 licences for radio activity and 134 licences for television activity, in accordance with the Radio and Television Act.

## **2. REGISTRATION UNDER A CLASS LICENCE**

During the year 2000 the work of the State Telecommunications Commission in the sphere of class licences (CL) was connected with the following types of activity:

### **2.1. Preparation and publication of CLs**

### **2.2. Registration under a CL (table 23), covering activities such as:**

- issuing certificates for registration under a CL;
- issuing annexes (supporting documentation) to certificates concerning equipment;
- issuing CEPT licences;
- issuing international certificates for radio amateurs - HAREC;
- carrying out examinations of radio amateurs.

**Table 23. Certificates for registration under class licences, issued by the STC in 2000**

No. by order	No. of CL	Activity	Number of certificates
1	203	Microwave links for SNG	1
2	205	Ship and aircraft radio stations	35
3	206	Networks and terminal devices using ISM frequency ranges	9
4	207	Radio amateur activity	2562
5	208	FM radio stations in the citizen band of 27 MHz	190
6	210	Installation and use of payphones for public use	2
TOTAL:			2799

**2.3. Preparation of additional documentation, as required for the issue of authorisations (applications, annexes by activity type, etc.).**

During the year the State Telecommunications Commission accepted and published five CLs under the Telecommunications Act, as follows:

- CL No. 201 "Mobile Satellite Terminals";
- CL No. 202 "Satellite Terminals for Outside Broadcasting";
- CL No. 203 "Microwave links for SNG";
- CL No. 206 "Networks and Terminal Devices using ISM frequency ranges";
- CL No. 210 "Installation and operation of telephones for public use".

Two amendments were elaborated and published to the already issued CL No. 207 for "Radio Amateur Activity".

The State Telecommunications Commission awarded 2799 certificates for registration under CLs (table 23), in each occasion responding without delay to applicants with legally regular documents.

The highest number of applicants were for registration under CL No. 207 "Radio Amateur Activity". In relation to that, the radio clubs were reminded officially many times about the term for submission of applications. Until the end of the year the State Telecommunications Commission granted 2562 certificates in total.

In 2000 the State Telecommunications Commission issued also the following supporting documents to CLs:

- CL No. 205 – permissions to ship and aircraft radio stations - 202 in total;
- CL No. 207 – permissions for radio amateur activity– 949 in total ,
- Harmonized radio amateur certificate HAREC – 51 in total,
- CEPT radio amateur licences - 83 in total,

- Carried out examinations of radio amateurs – 220 in total;
- CL No. 208 – annexes to certificates for registration of FM stations  
ÑÂ 27 MHz – 201 in total.

