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PRESS RELEASE

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Commission Announces Completion of Registration for Spectrum Award 2016

15 June, 2016– The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (*Commission*) announces that Registration for the Spectrum Award 2016 is complete. Three operators Registered under the Award Rules to have the opportunity to Apply for spectrum in 700 MHz, 1900 MHz and AWS-1 frequency bands.

On 26 May 2016, the Commission gave Notice of Consultation on the Modified Invitation to Apply for a 700, 1900 and AWS-1 MHz Spectrum Award (*MITA*). The final MITA was published on 5 July, 2016, together with the Consultation Report. The deadline for registration for the Award was 12 July 2016. The three mobile operators in the Virgin Islands (CCT, Digicel and Flow) have successfully qualified to Register for the Spectrum Award 2016 and have in fact Registered in accordance with the Spectrum Award Rules.

The Commission anticipates receiving Applications from each of the operators who have registered for the Award by 26 July 2016, the deadline of Application Submission. We expect to notify the successful applicants on 16 August 2016 and grant relevant frequency authorisations on 23 August – subject to compliance with the Rules and any agreed Undertakings.

The aim of the Award is to provide the three mobile operators with frequencies they can use to deliver high speed mobile broadband services using LTE technology. The implementation of this technology in the Virgin Islands will provide enterprises, consumers and citizens with better quality mobile broadband services and is in line with developments that have already occurred in North America and Europe and being implemented elsewhere across the Caribbean.

Guy Lester Malone, Chief Executive Officer of the Commission said “We are very pleased to report that the Spectrum Award 2016 process has been successfully launched. We look forward to completing the process and allocating this valuable spectrum in August 2016. We appreciate the professionalism and diligence that all of the operators have shown in the Spectrum Award process thus far.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The Commission is the independent regulator with responsibility for regulating the telecommunications sector of the Virgin Islands, protecting interests of users of telecommunications services, ensuring fair competition among operators of telecommunications networks and providers of telecommunications services, promoting the development of telecommunications throughout the Virgin Islands and advising the Minister of Communications and Works on telecommunications policies.

