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## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Commission launches project to develop a new Spectrum Management Framework for the Virgin Islands*

**07 June, 2017 – The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (Commission) has today launched a project to develop a new Spectrum Management Framework (Framework) for the Virgin Islands, to reflect both global and local market developments since the Commission published its first Framework in 2011.**

Radio spectrum is an essential input to a range of communications services, including mobile voice and broadband services, broadcast services and private radio services. As the independent regulator for the communications sector, the Telecommunications Act, 2006 grants the Commission the powers to manage spectrum in the Virgin Islands, alongside promoting the development of telecommunications throughout the Virgin Islands. To that end, the Commission published its first Framework in 2011.

Given the continued growth in the demand for mobile data services, the emergence of 5G standards and the development of new and innovative services, the Commission believes it is important to revise its Framework. We plan to ensure that its spectrum management policies remain fit for purpose and reflect anticipated developments in the sector over the next 5-10 years. In developing the new Framework, the Commission will have regard to its and the Government's objectives to further develop the sector for the benefit of consumers and businesses in the Virgin Islands. In particular, this includes promoting fair and sustainable competition in the sector as well as encouraging the development of new and innovative services and a higher quality of service throughout the Virgin Islands.

The Commission has appointed international advisors from Frontier Economics Limited to assist it in the development of the new Framework. As an initial step, the Commission, together with its advisors are currently undertaking a series of meetings with key stakeholders including the Ministry of Communications and Works, other government departments, telecommunications service providers, broadcasters and representatives of strategically important industries for the Virgin Islands. The Commission will subsequently publish a consultation on its draft proposals, with a view to eliciting further feedback from interested parties.

The Chairman and Board Members of the Commission welcome the start of the review, commenting that it is an important input to promoting consumer choice, value for money and best in class services for consumers in the Virgin Islands.

Guy Lester Malone, Chief Executive Officer of the Commission added, "*Spectrum is a critical input to all communications services. It is important that the Commission's Framework reflects the likely future growth in the demand for services and enables the Commission to promote the wide availability of advanced communications services*

*throughout the Virgin Islands, for the benefit of all consumers. This is an important project for the Commission and the future of the sector and I would urge all interested parties, to participate in the forthcoming consultation and to get in touch with the Commission with their views”.*

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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.
2. Frontier Economics Limited is an international consultancy with expertise advising governments, regulatory authorities and service providers on the development of policy and the state of competition within the telecommunications sector.
3. The Commission’s 2011 Spectrum Management Framework can be found [here](#).