

## TCS to fine tune BSNL 4G's technical parameters by July end: Official.

"We have examined and discussed the pending technical parameters, and decided to allow time till July 31, 2022 to the TCS-led consortium to conclude those," a senior official told ETTelecom.

*Muntazir Abbas - ET Telecom - July 07, 2022, 16:49 IST*



NEW DELHI: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)-backed consortium Thursday got a breather from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to finetune the technical parameters in the fourth-generation or 4G-led proof-of-concept (PoC) network for state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) by July end.

"We have examined and discussed the pending technical parameters, and decided to allow time till July 31, 2022 to the TCS-led consortium to conclude those," a senior official told ETTelecom.

In a meeting headed by additional secretary (Telecom) VL Kantha Rao, both BSNL and TCS agreed to closely coordinate to finalise the 4G network's technical capabilities so as to further deploy the network for telco's ambitious commercial rollout.

Earlier, the consortium was expected to conclude network tests by June 30, 2022. Following the technical examination, BSNL was not be able to previously provide NB-IoT service which was one of the areas that could potentially impact customers, the official said, and added that on the key performance indicator (KPI) front, more finetuning is required to meet parametres laid out by DoT and telecom regulator.

The state-run telco is looking to meet throughput as per the global benchmark by the third generation partnership project or 3GPP.

Of the few pending tests related to operations and performance of core and radio network, most of them have now been concluded with satisfactory outcome, according to a source familiar with the matter.

State-controlled telecom carrier is expected to commercially launch the next generation network on August 15, 2022.

BSNL chairman Pravin Kumar Purwar earlier said that on a shorter scale, the telco's 4G launch is expected in August this year while on a bigger scale, it is likely at the end of this fiscal year, and added that the commercial talks with TCS would be concluded soon.

The public sector telco is expecting its revenue to swell by almost 20% after a fullfledged next generation services foray in FY 2023-24.

Tata group company-backed consortium that included state-run Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) was shortlisted to conduct proof of concept (PoC) in Ambala and Chandigarh following the inability of rival consortiums led by L&T, HFCL and Tech Mahindra.

BSNL together with TCS, is conducting PoC in Ambala and Chandigarh for its ambitious 4G foray to comprehensively test radio and core network equipment in line with subscribers behaviour and expectations.

On March 31, BSNL released a purchase order to procure network equipment for as many as 6,000 sites, and last week, TCS was again asked to supply gear for a similar quantity of sites.

Last year, BSNL had released a detailed notice inviting e-tender, for planning, testing, deployment and annual maintenance of its commercial 4G network across four operational zones in addition to Delhi and Mumbai circles for 57,000 sites on a turnkey basis, and sought Indian companies and consortiums to first deploy proof of concept (PoC) in order to test their technology capabilities.

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