TELECOMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY, INDIA (TSDSI)

ANTITRUST POLICY
(Approved on 17th January 2022)
ANTI-TRUST POLICY of TSDSI

The Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI) is setup as a Society in India. TSDSI is involved in technical standards development and shall promote the participation of all stakeholders in the activities of the society and cooperation with other organizations and ensure openness, transparency, fairness and consensus in all its activities.

It is the Policy of TSDSI that all of its activities are carried out in full compliance with all applicable competition and antitrust laws of India, (“Antitrust Laws”) which it will adhere to. In addition, all existing members, and potential members of TSDSI (“Members”) will ensure compliance in all respects with the Antitrust Laws as defined by this Policy in carrying out TSDSI-related activities, through the participation of Member delegates, guests, office bearers and Secretariat staff (“Participants”). TSDSI is fully committed to the administrative implementation of the compliance rules set forth in this policy by the Members adhering to it.

The role of Antitrust Laws is to promote and sustain competition in markets and to encourage vigorous and undistorted competition. This Policy provides general guidance on compliance with Antitrust Laws. Members and Participants should contact their respective legal counsel to address specific questions.

This Policy is intended to promote compliance with the Antitrust Laws.

This Policy shall be promulgated to all Members and Participants in TSDSI. Members and Participants are expected to read the Policy and adhere to its provisions.

To ensure that TSDSI and its Members comply with antitrust laws, the following principles will be observed, and all Participants involved in its activities will abide by the following principles:

1. TSDSI activities, including the meeting of any of its committee, section, chapter, study groups, working groups, conferences, business meetings or attended by TSDSI Participants, held in its offices, off-site, or by electronic means (“TSDSI Meetings”) shall not be used for the purpose of bringing about or attempting to bring about any understanding or agreement, written or oral, formal or informal, expressed or implied, among two (2) or more Members or other competitors with regard to prices or terms and conditions of contracts for services or products. Discussions and exchanges of information about such topics will not be permitted at any TSDSI meetings or activities.
2. In TSDSI Meetings, there will be no discussions discouraging or withholding patronage or services from, or encouraging exclusive dealing with any service provider or supplier or purchaser or group of suppliers or purchasers of products or services, any actual or potential competitor or group of actual potential competitors, or any private or governmental entity, or on the terms of business/service.
3. In TSDSI Meetings, there will be no discussions about allocating or dividing geographic or service markets or customers.
4. In TSDSI Meetings, there will be no discussions about restricting, limiting, prohibiting, sanctioning, advertising or solicitation that is not false, misleading, deceptive, or directly competitive with TSDSI activities or services.
5. In TSDSI Meetings, there will be no discussions about discouraging entry into or competition in any segment of the marketplace or territory.
6. In TSDSI Meetings, there will be no discussions about whether the practices of any Member, actual or potential competitor, or other person are unethical or anti-competitive, unless the discussions
or complaints follow the prescribed due process provisions of TSDSI’s bye-laws or its policies including but not limited to Anti-Trust, Intellectual Property, Trade Mark, Copyright or Software.

7. Speakers at TSDSI Meetings shall be informed that they must comply with its antitrust policy in the preparation and the presentation of their remarks. Meetings will follow a written agenda approved in advance by TSDSI or its designated Secretariat representative.

8. TSDSI Meetings will follow a written agenda; an Antitrust compliance statement will be read out by the Chair of the meeting prior to conduct of any working group or any other meeting(s) of TSDSI and its Member(s). The Minutes will be prepared after the meeting to provide a concise summary of important matters discussed, actions taken, concerns raised and conclusions reached in such meetings.

9. At informal discussions at the site of TSDSI meetings all Participants are expected to observe the same standards of personal conduct as are required of TSDSI in its compliance.

10. All existing and future Members of TSDSI shall be informed and communicated of this Anti-Trust Policy. All Member(s) are expected to strictly follow and ensure compliance with this policy as it is an essential compliance requirement of TSDSI in the implementation of forward transactions with international partners / SDOs in the standardisation regime (for all technologies) across the globe.

The following Anti-Trust Statement will be read out by the Chair of the meeting prior to the conducting of any TSDSI meeting

“TSDSI is a not-for-profit organization/Society. It promotes the participation of all stakeholders in the activities of TSDSI and cooperation with other organizations and ensure openness, transparency, fairness and consensus in all its activities. TSDSI shall not play a role either in the competitive decisions of its Members, or in any way restrict competition among Members. Rather TSDSI serves as a forum for a free, fair, impartial and open discussion of diverse opinions without in any way attempting to influence, encourage or sanction any particular business practice. The Members of TSDSI recognize the possibility that the TSDSI Society and its activities could present an opportunity for anticompetitive conduct. Therefore, this statement underlines the policy of competition served by the antitrust laws and to communicate TSDSI's uncompromising policy to comply strictly in all respects with those laws and therefore strict compliance is required by Members and Participants, which include, but not limited to:

1. Not discuss industry-wide pricing policies, price levels, price changes, differentials, or the like.
2. Not discuss current or future prices.
3. Not discuss any increase or decrease in prices.
4. Not discuss pricing procedures.
5. Not discuss standardizing or stabilizing prices.
6. Not ask competitors why a past bid was so low, or to describe the basis for a past bid.
7. Not discuss what is a fair profit level.
8. Not discuss controlling sales or allocating geographic, product or other markets for any product.
9. Not discuss future design or marketing strategies.
10. Not discuss credit terms.
11. Not discuss banning or otherwise restricting legitimate advertising by competitors.
12. Not discuss plans of individual companies concerning the design, characteristics, production, distribution, marketing, or introduction dates of products, including proposed territories or customers.
13. Not discuss allocating customers.
14. Not discuss trade secrets or confidential information of your company or any other Member.
15. Not discuss individual company current or projected cost of procurement, development, or manufacture of any product.
16. Not discuss individual company market shares for any product or for all products.
17. Not discuss confidential or otherwise sensitive business plans or strategy
18. Not to form or cause to form, groups, sub-groups or syndicates/ cartels, inter-se amongst themselves, that indulge in or promote forming/creating anti-trust activities which lead to unfair competition or trade activities

Both your company and you as an individual can be prosecuted for violations of antitrust laws.

If, during the course of this meeting, you have any questions or concerns regarding antitrust compliance, please raise these immediately.”