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UTILITY REGULATION AND COMPETITION OFFICE

17 April 2025

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Subject: URCO Issues Consultation on Draft Framework for Licensing Satellite-Based Telecommunications Providers**

The Utility Regulation and Competition Office (URCO) has today published a further consultation paper outlining its Draft Determination on a licensing framework for satellite-based telecommunications services in the Cayman Islands.

The document builds on stakeholder feedback received during the initial consultation launched in November 2024 and reflects the Office's ongoing efforts to foster innovation, improve connectivity and strengthen resilience across the sector.

**Key topics discussed in the consultation include:**

- A proposed new licence class, specifically for Satellite Service Providers (SSPs);
- A refined spectrum fee structure and application process;
- Clarification on the regulatory treatment of Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs);
- Revised definitions for service categories to ensure clarity and service neutrality;
- Policy considerations on the application of directives regarding local traffic routing;
- Policy considerations on innovation, consumer protection/demand and disaster resilience.

Interim CEO Sonji Myles stated: *"The proposals in the consultation paper reflects our careful consideration of stakeholder input and the evolving needs and demands of the people and industries of the Cayman Islands. The proposed framework is a critical step towards enabling fair and efficient licensing of satellite services. It strikes a balance between promoting innovation, safeguarding competition and maintaining robust regulatory oversight in the public interest. As we strengthen our communications infrastructure, particularly in light of natural disaster risks, satellite-based connectivity will become a complement to current service offerings and an essential tool in our national resilience toolbox."*

The consultation period is open until 2 May 2025, and the Office encourages all interested parties to provide feedback.

To access the full consultation document and submission guidelines, please visit: [www.ofreg.ky/consultations](http://www.ofreg.ky/consultations)

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ICEO, Mr. Sonji Myles

