

No.F. 10-1/2024-Coord  
Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of National Food Security & Research  
\*\*\*\*

Islamabad, the 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN SPACE ACTIVITIES RULES-2024

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of PSARB Secretariat letter No.10308-Chmn PSARB dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 on the subject cited above for information and its compliance.

Encl: As Above

-Sd-  
(Dr. Mehfooz Ur Rehman)  
Section Officer (Coord)  
051-9208365

PAKISTAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
(Central Secretariat)  
\*\*\*\*

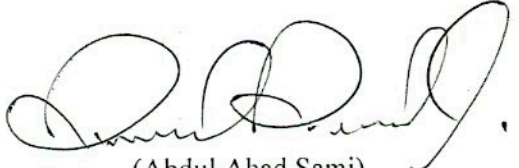
No.F.1-2/2024-CS

Islamabad, the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN SPACE ACTIVITIES RULES-2024

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of PSARB Secretariat letter No.10308-Chmn PSARB dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 on the subject cited above is forwarded for information and its compliance.

2. This issue with the approval of Chairman, PARC.

  
(Abdul Ahad Sami)  
Dy. Director (CS)

Distribution:

1. All Members (Finance), (PSD), (NRD), (ASD), (SSD), (C&M)
2. Director General (NARC-Islamabad), (SARC-Karachi), (BARDC-Quetta), (MARC-Gilgit), (AZRC-D.I.Khan)
3. Director General (AED), (P&DD), PARC
4. Directors at PARC (Establishment), (Works), (Logistic), (Procurement), (Finance), (Accounts), (Technical), (HRD), (MIS&ICT), (PR&P)
5. Directors at Outstations (AZRI, Bahawalpur), (AZRC, Umerkot), (NTHRI, Mansehra), (NSHTRI, Thatta)
- ✓ 6. Webmaster (DSC&P) NARC (for uploading on PARC Website)

CC:

- PS to Chairman, PARC
- APS to Secretary, PARC

For uploading

webmaster (DSC&P)

41

Dy.No. D-33 DSI/Adm. No. 20/5/24  
Date 20/5/24

Dy.No. 993 JS-1  
Dated: 29-5-24

Additional Secretary Office  
Dy. No. 1403  
Date: 29/5/24

2996

PSARB Secretariat  
Islamabad  
Tel: 051 9075151  
Fax: 051 9075059  
No. 10308-Chmn PSARB  
24 May 2024

To: Federal Secretary,  
Ministry of National Food Security and Research,  
Government of Pakistan,  
Islamabad.

Subj: Pakistan Space Activities Rules - 2024

Statutory Notification published in The Gazette of Pakistan on 02 Feb 2024 refers  
(Registration No. M - 302).  
L.-7646

1. The Pakistan Space Activities Rules - 2024 have been promulgated by the Federal Government vide the above referred Notification. Under the Rules, Pakistan Space Activities Regulatory Board (PSARB) has been constituted which shall authorize and regulate all matters or activities related to Outer Space and Upper Atmosphere in Pakistan. It will also ensure maximum use of the National Space assets by the Federal Government Departments for which the National Space Agency i.e. SUPARCO will have the First Right of Refusal (FROR). PSARB will also issue NOC to Federal Government Departments for acquiring services of satellites registered with PSARB in case the National Satellites are unable to provide or arrange the required bandwidth and services.

2. Foregoing in view, the Federal Government Departments are required to approach PSARB to ensure maximum use of the National Space assets or otherwise get an NOC from PSARB and then approach any other satellite operator registered with PSARB which is authorized to carry out satellite operations and provide space-based services in Pakistan.

3. PSARB is currently operating from a makeshift office location and is soon planned to shift to its new premises, address and contacts of which will be advertised on its web site currently under development.

*Amer Sarfraz*  
Chairman PSARB  
(Amer Sarfraz Ahmad)

[Enclosed: 01 copy of the subject Gazette Notification]

AS-1

M  
24/07/2024

W. Sale  
S/S/CA  
20/5/24

30/05

30/05

27/75



REGISTERED No. M - 302  
L.-7646

**The Gazette of Pakistan**



EXTRAORDINARY  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

---

---

ISLAMABAD, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024

---

---

PART II

Statutory Notifications (S. R. O.)

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
NATIONAL COMMAND AUTHORITY

NOTIFICATION

*Rawalpindi, the 1st February, 2024*

S. R. O. 60(I)/2024.—In exercise of powers conferred by Section 15 read with sub-section (6) of Section 3, sub-section (a) of Section 7 and all other enabling provisions of the National Command Authority Act 2010 (Act V of 2010), the Authority is pleased to make the following rules with the approval of the Federal Government, namely:—

1. **Short Title and Commencement.**—(1) These rules shall be called the Pakistan Space Activities Rules-2024.

(2) They shall come into force with immediate effect.

(173)

*Price: Rs. 40.00*

[6943(2024)/Ex.Gaz.]

2. **Scope and Applicability.**—These rules shall apply to,—

- (i) Space Activities carried out within the territory of Pakistan;
- (ii) Space Activities outside the territory of Pakistan if they are carried out on ships, vessels or other airborne vehicles registered in Pakistan;
- (iii) Space Objects providing services within the territory of Pakistan;
- (iv) Every person carrying out Space Activities and providing Space-based Services in Pakistan;
- (v) These rules shall not apply to terrestrial radio communication services and broadcasting services as defined in Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act-1996 and PEMRA Ordinance 2023 respectively.

3. **Definitions.**—In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

- (i) **'Act'** means the National Command Authority Act, 2010 (Act V of 2010) and any amendment(s) made therein from time to time;
- (ii) **'Applicant'** means any person, class of persons, company or corporation which applies for Authorization and or registration, under these rules;
- (iii) **'Authorization'** means approval granted by PSARB to carry out Space Activities and Upper Atmosphere Activities in Pakistan;
- (iv) **'Competent Authority'** means the Director General Strategic Plans Division or his nominated representative;
- (v) **'Direct to Home (DTH)'** means a link that allows the receiving of broadcast TV channels, data, voice etc.;
- (vi) **'Government'** means the Federal Government;
- (vii) **'Ground Station'** means a station located either on the Earth's surface or within the major portion of the Earth's atmosphere and intended for communication with one or more space stations or with one or more stations of the same kind by means of one or more reflecting satellites or other objects in space;



- (viii) 'Imagery' means remotely sensed satellite image and/or data of any resolution depicting any part of the earth and acquired or obtained using optical or, as the case may be, non-optical sensor;
- (ix) 'International Telecommunication Union (ITU)' means the United Nations (UN) based world body for setting and approving technologies and standards for Telecommunications;
- (x) 'National Space Agency' means Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO);
- (xi) 'National Satellites' means all satellites belonging to the Government of Pakistan or its agency;
- (xii) 'National Satellite Operator' means an entity authorized by a federal government to own, manage, and operate satellites for various purposes, including communication, Earth observation, navigation, Weather, and other Space Activities within the national jurisdiction;
- (xiii) 'NOC' means a no objection certificate issued by PSARB for using Space-based Services from any Registered Satellite other than the National Satellite;
- (xiv) 'Ordinance' means Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission Ordinance, 1981 (XX of 1981);
- (xv) 'Outer Space' means a space extending beyond the earth at an altitude of more than one hundred kilometers above the sea level;
- (xvi) 'Provincial Government' means the Government of a Province of Pakistan;
- (xvii) 'PTA' means the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority as constituted under section 3 of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act, 1996 ( of 1996);
- (xviii) 'Pakistan Space Activities Regulatory Board PSARB' means the Pakistan Space Activities Regulatory Board as defined under Part III of these rules;
- (xix) 'PEMRA' means the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority established under PEMRA Ordinance 2002;



- (xx) **'Registered Satellite'** means a satellite that has been registered with PSARB and authorized to carry out satellite operations and provide space-based services in Pakistan;
- (xxi) **'Remote Sensing'** includes the process of detecting and monitoring the physical characteristics of an area by measuring its reflected and emitted radiation at a distance using satellites;
- (xxii) **'Satellite Service Provider'** means an entity that provides Satellite based Telecommunication/ Broadcasting/ Earth Observation/ Navigation Services and weather Services after fulfilling and/or complying with the licensing /authorization requirements from its relevant Regulator (s) for the provision of its Satellite-based Services in Pakistan, by any Registered Foreign and/or Domestic Satellite Operator;
- (xxiii) **'Satellite Operator'** means a legal entity(ies) registered under conditions specified in Rule 15;
- (xxiv) **'Satellite Bandwidth'** means the frequency band within which the emission of a station is authorized; the width of the band equals the necessary bandwidth plus twice the absolute value of the frequency tolerance. Where space stations are concerned, the assigned frequency band includes twice the maximum Doppler shift that may occur in relation to any point of the Earth's surface;
- (xxv) **'Satellite Launch Vehicle'** means a rocket engine-powered vehicle or machine used to transport a spacecraft beyond earth's atmosphere;
- (xxvi) **'Space'** means the Outer Space;
- (xxvii) **'Space Activity'** includes activities pertaining to the space sector including but not limited to satellite launch services, manned and unmanned spaceflights, space-related scientific experiments, space resources exploration, extraction activities, remote sensing and earth observation, satellite communication, space-based and ground-based navigation services and any activity in outer space involving a space object, etc. within the national territory and associated space;



- (xxviii) 'Space-based Services' means services provided by using space objects, space systems, and technologies;
- (xxix) 'Space Object' includes an object and its constituent elements launched or intended to be launched into Earth orbit or beyond Earth orbit;
- (xxx) 'Upper Atmosphere' means above 60 kilometers up to 100 kilometers;
- (xxxi) 'Upper Atmosphere Activities' means activities pertaining to the space sector above 60 kilometers and up to 100 kilometers; and
- (xxxii) The words and expressions used in these rules but not defined herein shall have the same meaning as assigned in the National Command Authority Act-2010 and SUPARCO Ordinance, 1981, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Act, 1997 (Act No. XLII of 1997) and the Companies Act, 2017 (XIX of 2017).

4. **National Space Agency.**—SUPARCO shall act as the "National Space Agency of Pakistan".

5. **Functions of the National Space Agency of Pakistan.**—The National Space Agency of Pakistan shall carry out all Activities under these rules in Pakistan and all such functions necessary to implement the purpose of these rules which include, without being limited to the following:

- (i) Carrying out applied research and development in space science, planetary exploration, and allied fields, enhancing indigenous capabilities in space technology and promoting the application of space sciences and technology for the socio-economic development and national security of the country;
- (ii) Defining and developing policy guidelines, legislations, strategies, and programs covering the entire spectrum of peaceful uses of Outer Space and Upper Atmosphere in the country, to fulfill national and international obligations;
- (iii) Designing and developing all kinds of Satellites with all associated infrastructure including, but not limited to, Earth Observation Satellites, Communication Satellites, Navigation Satellites (Ground-Based and Satellite Based Augmentation), Weather

- Satellites, etc. for planetary exploration and meeting national demands towards Satellite mapping/ monitoring of natural resources. Satellite communications. Satellite television broadcasting. Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services on local, regional and global basis:
- (iv) Designing and developing all Space transportation systems, Space launch facilities, and sounding rockets along with associated telemetry systems, tracking and control stations:
  - (v) Launching and operating Satellite Launch Vehicles including sub-orbital launches:
  - (vi) Designing, developing, building, operating and maintaining the National Space Situational Awareness capability, including but not limited to, astronomical observatories and space weather monitoring facilities to monitor, assess and minimize threats that could disrupt, degrade or damage Space Objects as well as related activities:
  - (vii) Conducting and coordinating operations for manned and unmanned access to Outer Space for scientific research, development and commercial purposes:
  - (viii) Acquiring, archiving, processing, interpreting and disseminating all types of Satellite Imagery from national and foreign Remote Sensing Satellites and developing solutions for space applications in all domains of socio-economic development and national security of the country:
  - (ix) Keeping records of objects launched into space in accordance with international conventions and obligations on behalf of the Government:
  - (x) Representing the Government on space matters at national and international fora:
  - (xi) Promoting education and human resource development and capacity building, at the national level, of public and private sectors and of academic spheres, for effective utilization of space sciences, technology and its applications in the country:
  - (xii) Enabling competitive space industry in the country, fostering private sector growth and attracting business through public-private partnerships and joint ventures by establishing a conducive



and strategic regulatory framework and commercializing the application of Space sciences and technology for revenue generation on behalf of the Government; and

- (xiii) Any other kind of Space-based Activities as required by the Government of Pakistan.

6. **Pakistan Space Activities Regulatory Board.**—There shall be a board constituted under these rules to be called the Pakistan Space Activities Regulatory Board (PSARB).

7. **Secretariat of PSARB.**—The National Space Agency shall be the secretariat of the PSARB.

8. **Composition of PSARB.**—(1) PSARB shall consist of a Chairman and members as under:

- (i) Chairman. To be nominated by National Command Authority (NCA);
- (ii) Member, National Space Agency;
- (iii) Director General Technical, National Space Agency;
- (iv) Direct General Satellite Control and Operations, National Space Agency;
- (v) Director Space Program, NCA;
- (vi) Secretary Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunications (MoIT&T) or his nominee;
- (vii) Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoIB) or his nominee;
- (viii) Co-opted Member from ISI not below the rank of Director; and
- (ix) Any other co-opted member (non-voting) for consultation purposes only as and when required by the Chairman of PSARB;

(2) The Secretary of the PSARB shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Board.

(3) The Secretary of the PSARB will be responsible for coordinating all affairs of the PSARB.

9. **Meetings of the PSARB.**—(1) Meetings of the PSARB shall be convened as and when required by the Chairman PSARB.

(2) Four Members of PSARB shall form the quorum.

(3) Decision shall be taken with the majority of present Members. In case of a tie, Chairman PSARB shall have a casting vote.

10. **Functions and Powers of PSARB.**—PSARB shall perform all such functions which include, without being limited to the following:—

- (i) Authorize and regulate all matters or activities related to Outer Space and Upper Atmosphere in Pakistan;
- (ii) Issue guidelines, regulations, instructions, procedures, orders, etc. as may be necessary for the smooth execution of Space Activities and Upper Atmosphere Activities in the country;
- (iii) Grant, suspend or terminate authorization, registration and ensure compliance of its prescribed terms and conditions in consultation with the concerned regulators;
- (iv) Ensure maximum use of the National Space assets through First Right of Refusal (FROR) for the Government and Provincial Government including all its Departments, Armed Forces or such other Government Agencies, Entities or Institutions, including autonomous/semi-autonomous and statutory bodies etc. as the Federal or Provincial Government may determine for provision of satellites services in Pakistan;
- (v) Issue NOC to Government and Provincial Government including all its Departments, Armed Forces or such other Government Agencies, Entities or Institutions, including autonomous/semi-autonomous and statutory bodies etc. as the Federal or Provincial Government may determine for acquiring services of Registered Satellites, in case the National Satellites are unable to provide or arrange the required bandwidth or services;
- (vi) Authorize and register local, foreign or private organizations, firms or individuals, interested in carrying out Space



Activities in the country, according to the procedures specified from time to time:

- (vii) Facilitate Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and Joint Ventures (JV) for the use and promotion of satellite technologies and services:
- (viii) Establish a registration cell as an interface between PSARB and Satellite Operators and for registration purposes.
- (ix) Formulate and issue detailed procedures for registration of satellites and domestic/foreign Satellite Operators under these Rules:
- (x) Authorize to own and/or operate Space Objects, including Communication Satellites, Remote Sensing Satellites and Navigation Satellites, Weather Satellites along-with associated Ground Stations, other than (Gateway) Earth Station (s) used for Satellite based telecommunication Services:
- (xi) Ensure that Space-based Services shall only be provided through National Satellites or Registered Satellites and carry out continuous monitoring and supervision of it; and
- (xii) Publish the list of Registered Satellites and Satellite Operators on the website of the PSARB.

11. **Monitoring and Supervision.**—(1) No domestic/foreign public or private organizations or firms, or individuals shall own a Space Object, related ground infrastructure and/or undertake Space Activities or establish or use or possess related facilities or utilities within the national territory and national sea boundary unless authorized by and registered with PSARB.

(2) All Government departments, organizations or agencies (Federal, Provincial or semi-autonomous body), private firms or individuals or groups including NGOs (both national or international), intending to commence or conduct Space Activities through any source, in any form, and using any technology or tool, shall inform the PSARB.

(3) Space Activities that are deemed sensitive to national security by PSARB shall only be executed by the National Space Agency.



12. **Registration by PSARB.**—(1) PSARB shall register all Government and Provincial Government departments, public and corporate sector organizations, or individuals intending to carry out Space Activities according to the procedures specified from time to time.

(2) Registration shall not apply to Space Activities carried out by any educational institutes and/or universities for academic and research purposes. Notification be mandatory in case objects may cause interference or pose any threat to the public order, or the safety of persons and property).

(3) The general conditions, controls and procedures related to the registration shall include authorization to carry out Space Activities in the country, its renewal, amendment, cancellation, suspension and/or assignment to others, and inclusion in or attachment to a permit previously granted shall be determined by a decision issued by PSARB.

(4) At the time of issuance of the Rules, all organizations, agencies or entities operating any Space Activities through any source in any form shall within ninety days approach PSARB for registration and seeking authorization to carry out space activities under these Rules.

13. **Conditions for Registration of Domestic/ Foreign Satellite Operators.**—The following conditions shall be fulfilled for registration with PSARB.—

- (i) The Satellite Operator shall possess the necessary reliability, capability and expertise to carry out the Space Activity and related activities under these rules;
- (ii) The Satellite Operator shall be registered with SECP to carry out business and establish the point of presence, registered office, and customer care in Pakistan;
- (iii) The Space Activity shall not pose any immediate threat to the public order, to the safety of persons and property and to public health;
- (iv) The Space Activity shall not run counter to national security, Pakistan's obligations under international law or foreign policy interests;
- (v) The Space Activity must not cause harmful contamination of Outer Space or celestial bodies or cause any adverse changes in the environment. The satellite operators shall follow



Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities and Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:

- (vi) In order to cover liability for damages caused to persons and property, the Satellite Operator shall be under the obligation to get insurance and to pay the affected person as per insurance claim. Run-off liability may not be excluded or limited. If the Space Activity is in the public interest, PSARB may, by an administrative decision after taking into account the risks connected to the activity and the Satellite Operator's financial capacity, determine a lower sum or release the Satellite Operator from the requirement of getting insurance. Space Activities are in the public interest if they serve science, research or education. Getting insurance is not necessary if the Government and Provincial Government itself is the Satellite Operator:
- (vii) The Satellite Operator will ensure orderly termination of its Space Activity according to local laws, international laws and guidelines.

**14. Registration Cell.**—(1) Any person, private firm, Government or Provincial Government organization intending to collaborate with or procure services from any firm or foreign organization, whether governmental or non-governmental, for space-related activities within Pakistan, shall apply to the registration cell, by providing all details relating to scope of work.

(2) The registration cell shall process the approval from PSARB and other requisite channels.

(3) Before registration, the registration cell shall obtain clearance of such firm, organization and individual from concerned security agencies.

**15. Suspension or Cancellation of Registration.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of these rules the PSARB may suspend or cancel registration.

(2) Any suspension or cancellation of registration does not exonerate any Satellite Operator from any liability, administrative penalty, punishment or any other obligation under the applicable local laws.

**16. Records.**—(1) PSARB shall regularly update and publish the list of registered satellites, satellite operators, organizations, firms, and individuals who are authorized to carry out outer space activities in Pakistan.



(2) PSARB shall also publish the list on the website of the PSARB and maintain the physical record in the registration cell.

17. **Clearance of Liabilities etc.**—Any Satellite Service Provider or user of national space assets or any other Registered Satellite has to clear the liabilities/ dues within such time as agreed upon between the user and the National Satellite or Registered Satellite before switching to any other National Satellite or Registered Satellite.

18. **Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery Authorization.**—(1) The National Space Agency shall be the nodal agency for Satellite Imaging Services.

(2) All Satellite Imaging services, including but not limited to acquisition, and dissemination of Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery and/or data, in Pakistan, both from National Remote Sensing Satellites and/or other foreign Satellites shall solely be carried out by the National Space Agency. No public or private organization or firm, or individual shall undertake Satellite Imaging services, including but not limited to the acquisition, or dissemination of Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery and/or data within the national territory and national sea boundary unless registered with PSARB.

(3) The National Space Agency shall be the sole and exclusive owner of all data collected and/or received from the National Remote Sensing Satellites and other foreign Satellites.

(4) The National Space Agency shall maintain a Remote Sensing data archive and a log of all acquisitions and/or sales of data for all Satellites.

(5) The National Space Agency shall be the sole authority for providing Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery and/or data related to land, environment and/or disasters, etc. to other Government and Provincial Government agencies and countries.

(6) The National Space Agency shall be the authority for vetting all sub-meter resolution satellite data from the perspective of national security interests.

(7) Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery and/or data of sensitive areas shall be prohibited from being held by un-authorized users.

(8) The National Space Agency in coordination with security agencies shall be responsible for categorizing data into the following classes:—



- (i) General (non-sensitive/non-classified sharable data):
- (ii) Restricted (data accessible to authorized users only):
- (iii) Sensitive (data declared as sensitive by Government, Security agencies):
- (iv) Classified (non-sharable data):

(9) PSARB reserves the right to select and permit agencies to acquire / distribute satellite remote sensing data in Pakistan. PSARB shall be competent to decide on the procedure for granting Authorization / permission for dissemination of such data, and for levy of necessary fees.

**19. Preferential use of National Remote Sensing Satellite Services, Products and Satellite Applications.—**(1) Government and Provincial Government including all its Departments, Armed Forces or such other Government Agencies, Entities or Institutions, including autonomous/semi-autonomous or statutory bodies etc. and corporate sector organizations shall use Imagery and/or data from the National Remote Sensing Satellites for their mapping, monitoring, or any other requirement(s).

(2) In case the required capacity is not available through National Satellites, it shall be provided from alternate/foreign Satellites by the National Space Agency.

(3) PSARB may issue NOC to acquire services of any registered Satellite Operators.

(4) National Space Agency reserves the right to permit the acquisition/distribution of Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery and/or data in Pakistan.

**20. Authorization, Supervision, Control and Monitoring of Remote Sensing Activities within Juridical Limits of Pakistan.—**(1) Authorization from PSARB shall be mandatory for acquisition or distribution of remote sensing data within and outside Pakistan.

(2) Online sale of Satellite Imagery related to Pakistani territory shall be regulated by PSARB through the relevant agencies.

(3) PSARB shall be competent to decide the procedure for granting Authorization to disseminate Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery and/or data, as well as the levy of necessary fees.

(4) Authorization shall be provided based on availability of required capacity, payment of applicable fees and fulfillment of the applicable Authorization process defined by PSARB.

(5) Authorization to offer Remote Sensing Satellite services in Pakistan shall have an initial term of five years and may be renewed for a subsequent term(s) subject to compliance with the Authorization obligations and payment of applicable fee(s).

(6) The Registration cell shall periodically publish and maintain a list of Authorized Satellite Remote Sensing imaging service providers.

**21. Authorization, Supervision, Control and Monitoring of National Satellite Remote Sensing Imagery/ Data Sale Outside Pakistan.—**

(1) PSARB shall grant Authorization to all foreign bodies or agencies interested in the acquisition and/or distribution of national Remote Sensing Imagery and/or data for use outside Pakistan.

(2) PSARB shall levy such fees for granting Authorization as may be prescribed from time to time.

**22. Authorization, Supervision, Control and Monitoring of Remote Sensing Satellite Operators Working within Pakistan.—(1)**

Authorization from PSARB shall be necessary for operating a Remote Sensing Satellite from Pakistan, which shall include technical and security-wise validation of all relevant equipment, services and data usage.

(2) Any operator seeking to provide Remote Sensing Satellite services in Pakistan shall:

- (i) Be a registered company with SECP to carry out business and shall establish a point of presence, registered office, customer care in Pakistan;
- (ii) Obtain Authorization from PSARB before commencement of services;
- (iii) Submit proof demonstrating that National Satellites have similar access to the market of country as the Satellite Operator or the orbital slot being used by the Satellite Operator;
- (iv) Provide accurate required technical and legal information such as frequency bands, parameters of space stations it is



working with, network systems, transmit power and any other relevant data required by the PSARB;

- (v) Ensure that no operator is provided service or connected to its network without a license from the PSARB; and
- (vi) Maintain a database of all customers to whom services are provided.

(3) Commercial operators or service providers already rendering Remote Sensing Satellite data services in Pakistan shall obtain a license from PSARB within ninety days of commencement of these Rules to continue their services;

**23. Authorization, Supervision, Control and Monitoring of Foreign Satellite Operators Working Outside Pakistan.**—(1) The National Space Agency shall be competent to enter into any agreements with foreign Satellite Operator(s) for the acquisition, distribution and sale of foreign Satellite data in Pakistan.

(2) Online sale of Satellite Imagery and/or data, by foreign agencies or service providers, related to the territory of Pakistan will be regulated by PSARB through the relevant agencies.

(3) Any operators seeking to provide Remote Sensing Satellite services in Pakistan while working outside Pakistan shall:

- (i) Obtain Authorization from PSARB to commence satellite remote sensing activities in the juridical land of Pakistan;
- (ii) Establish the point of presence, registered office, and customer care in Pakistan; and
- (iii) Submit proof demonstrating that National Satellites have similar access to the market of the country as the Satellite Operator or the orbital slot being used by the Satellite Operator.

**24. Satellite Based Communication Services.**—(1) PSARB shall authorize the use of registered Space Objects and satellites for telecommunication/broadcast services to or from Pakistan Territory in coordination with other concerned Departments of the Government of Pakistan.

(2) The private broadcasters and broadcast services shall be governed under the Provisions of PEMRA laws while the national broadcasters shall be governed under the rules, regulations and policies of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting:

(3) Telecommunication services shall be governed by the rules, regulations and policies of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoIT&T) and Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).

25. **First Right of Refusal.**—(1) The Government and Provincial Government including all its Departments, Armed Forces or such other Government Agencies, Entities or Institutions, including autonomous/ semi-autonomous or statutory bodies etc., as the Government or Provincial Government may determine shall henceforth only use National Satellite capacities and services and the National Space Agency will have the First Right of Refusal (FROR).

(2) The Government and Provincial Government including all its Departments, Armed Forces or such other Government Agencies, Entities or Institutions, including autonomous/ semi-autonomous or statutory bodies, etc., as the Government or Provincial Government may determine, shall use national communication satellites for their satellite communication requirements and shall only lease capacity on a national communication satellites.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (1) and (2), in case the required capacity is not available on a National Satellite, services of any Registered Satellite Operators may be utilized.

(4) In case the required capacity is not available through National Satellites, PSARB shall issue NOC within 45 days subject to the following conditions, namely:—

- (i) Satellites Services in Pakistan shall only be provided through Registered Satellites; and
- (ii) The period of such Satellite capacity leased on an alternate Satellite shall be limited to a maximum term of five years or until Satellite capacity becomes available on a National Satellite whichever is earlier.

26. **Satellite Based Communication Services Operator.**—Satellite-Based Communication Services Operators seeking to provide Satellite Based Communication Services in Pakistan shall:



- (i) Be a registered company with SECP to carry out business in Pakistan;
- (ii) Provide services from National Satellites or registered satellites only; and
- (iii) Foreign satellite operators and owners shall establish the point of presence, registered office and customer care. Contracts for satellite capacities and/or bandwidth usage in Pakistan will be signed in Pakistan.

27. **DTH and TV Broadcast Services.**—(1) Licensees of PEMRA shall be governed under the provisions of PEMRA laws and shall use the National Satellites or Registered Satellites only in future. On notification in the official Gazette of these rules, the existing licensees of PEMRA shall continue to use the existing satellites till validity of the current agreement, after which they shall switch to the National Satellites or Registered Satellites.

(2) All Government Broadcasters shall only broadcast their channels within Pakistan using the National Satellites.

(3) In case the required capacity for broadcasting services is not available through National Satellite, the national broadcasters may acquire capacity from any alternate satellite registered by PSARB, provided that the period of Satellite capacity leased from an alternate Satellite shall be limited to a maximum term of five years or until required capacity becomes available on a National Satellite whichever is earlier.

(4) DTH Service Providers shall provide DTH Services in accordance with PEMRA Eligibility Criteria, Bidding procedure for Direct to Home Service (DTH) Distribution Service Licensing Regulations 2016.

28. **Space Science and Technology Research and Development Fund.**—(1) As soon as may be after commencement of these Rules, the Competent Authority shall establish a Fund called the Space Research and Development Fund.

(2) The Space Research and Development Fund shall be under the control of the Strategic Plans Division, being the Secretariat of the National Command Authority.

(3) The Space Research and Development Fund shall consist of:

- (i) Grants made by the Federal Government; and
- (ii) Prescribed contributions including 6% of gross revenue per annum by those registered in compliance with these Rules.

(4) National Satellite Operator and providing services from National Satellites shall be exempted from this contribution.

(5) The Space Research and Development Fund shall be utilized exclusively for space related activities and any other expenditure incurred in managing the Space Research and Development Fund.

(6) The Space Research and Development Fund shall not be considered income of the Strategic Plans Division.

(7) The Strategic Plans Division shall have the power to administer the Space Research and Development Fund in such manner as may be determined.

29. **Receive only Services.**—Satellite Service Providers that use Satellites to receive signals up-linked from outside Pakistan for redistribution within Pakistan shall adhere to the following:

- (i) All service providers, cable operators, etc. that are receiving signals from a Satellite shall be authorized by PEMRA as applicable;
- (ii) Such service providers shall receive signals only from those Satellites that are on the registered Satellites list.
- (iii) All service providers, cable TV or IPTV operators, landing rights or other operators receiving signals from satellite for re-distribution of television channels shall need licenses or permission of PEMRA.
- (iv) The service providers in sub-section (c) above shall use the National Satellites or Registered Satellites in the future. On notification in the official Gazette of these rules, the existing service providers /licensees of PEMRA shall continue to use the existing satellites till the validity of the current agreement after which they shall switch to the National Satellites or other Registered Satellites.

30. **Power to Grant Exemption.**—The PSARB may grant exemption from any provision of these Rules to such entities or organizations as it deems fit.

31. **Administrative Penalties.**—(1) Any Satellite Operator, Satellite Service Provider or any other person who violates or abets the violation of any



provision of these Rules shall be guilty of an offence punishable with suspension or termination of his registration, Authorization or NOC, whichever may be applicable.

(2) Where such Satellite Operator, Satellite Service Provider or person repeats the violation or abetment, he shall be guilty of an offence punishable with suspension or termination of his registration, Authorization or NOC, or a fine which may extend to ten million rupees, or with both.

**32. Power to Issue Inquiry and Investigation etc.**—(1) In case of any act of omission or commission in violation of the provisions of these rules by a Satellite Operator, Satellite Service Provider or any other person, PSARB shall constitute and notify a special committee for conducting fact-finding inquiry or investigation of such violation.

(2) During the said inquiry or investigation, the special committee constituted under Rule 32(1) shall have the power to order any measure or step that may be necessary in the interest of national security or to prevent the consequences of the violation etc.

(3) The constitution and procedure regarding the special committee constituted and notified by PSARB shall be provided in regulations formulated by PSARB.

**33. Appeals.**—Any person aggrieved by any order, action or inaction in respect of these rules, may in accordance with the prescribed procedure, prefer an appeal before the Competent Authority or any person duly authorized by him.

**34. Interpretation of Space Activities Rules.**— If any question arises with regards to the interpretation or application of any provision of these rules, it shall be referred to the Competent Authority.

**35. Transitional Period.**—Satellite Services Providers providing satellite-based-telecommunication and broadcasting services in Pakistan shall maintain service provision in accordance with their existing satellites agreements till validity of their existing agreements following the official notification of these Rules. Subsequently, they shall shift to National Satellite or a Registered Satellite.

WAHEED RASHEED,  
*Deputy Director.*