



VODAFONE GETS MORE FUNDING



Vodafone gets new funding to the tune of US\$ 2 billion from US-based GoldenTree Asset Management and Pacific Investment Management Co (PIMCO) who have likely joined a consortium led by investment firm Oak Hill Advisors, The proposed funding model is likely to be a blend of convertible instruments, comprising bonds and warrants with a linked equity option that will allow the consortium members to turn a portion of the debt into shares of the company, bankers and industry executives with knowledge of the matter said.

Vodafone Idea in September announced a ₹ 25,000 crore

fundraising plan via a mix of debt and equity.

5G SPECTRUM TO FETCH ₹ 5.22 LAKH CRORE

5G spectrum sale will be held in March-April 2021 and the government will not reduce the prices of the airwaves, despite the telecom industry facing a massive financial crisis.

Digital Communications Commission, the apex decision-making body of the telecom department, on Friday approved the impending spectrum sale -- entailing a total of 8,300 MHz across 22 circles -- that at reserve prices will fetch the exchequer ₹ 5.22 lakh crore.

TRAI had recommended auction of spectrum in the 700MHz, 800MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300-3400 MHz, 3400-3600MHz bands.

Rajan S Mathews, director general of industry body COAI, however, maintained that he does not see active sale due to the stressed balance sheets of telecom operators such as Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea. "The quantum of 5G spectrum is too less and price is too high. I don't feel that stressed balance sheet of telecom operators will allow them



to bid for this spectrum." The COAI claimed that

spectrum reserve prices in India are 4-6 times higher than that of similar spectrum sold recently across several countries. Telecom companies will find it very difficult to raise funds and

participate in the auctions."

DISH TV FEES DISPUTE



The Indian ministry of information & broadcasting (MIB) and direct to home television provider Dish TV have been at loggerheads over this matter for some time now. And the latter has informed the Bombay stock exchange (BSE) that the former has brought up its demand to pay up long disputed licence fees totalling ₹ 4,164.5 crore once again. ■



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