

## BHARTI BIDS FOR ROBI



Bharti International (Singapore) Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel, has acquired Japanese telco, NTT DoCoMo's 6.3% stake in Robi

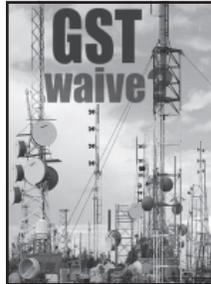
Axiata for an undisclosed sum in an all-cash deal, increasing its stake in Bangladesh's second-largest mobile carrier to 31.3%.

Robi Axiata is a subsidiary of Axiata Investments (Labuan) Ltd, which, in turn, is a unit of Malaysian telecom carrier, Axiata Group Berhad. Axiata has a controlling 68.7% stake in the telco.

Back in 2016, Bharti Airtel and Robi Axiata had announced plans to merge operations in Bangladesh.

The latest deal comes on the heels of Bharti Telecom, the promoter company of Bharti Airtel, raising Rs 8,433 crore (\$1.15 billion) last month by selling a 2.75% stake in the telco to a clutch of global investors such as Blackrock, Seganti Capital, Norges Bank and Key Square Capital, besides local fund houses such as HDFC Mutual Fund and SBI Mutual Fund.

## INDIA TELECOM WANT GST WAIVER



India's telecom operators want the goods and services tax to be levied on actual payments received from customers – and not on invoices

raised – so that they don't have to pay GST on delayed payments or defaults, which are on the rise due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The operators, including Reliance Jio Infocomm, Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, are seeking the change for the 18% GST levied on telecom services for a six-month period.

Experts said the problem of rising defaults is causing financial stress in telecom companies, given the tough economic conditions after the nationwide lockdown was imposed in March.

Many customers have defaulted or postponed bill payments due to job losses, salary cuts, business closures and also a general breakdown in corporate payment cycles.

## SITI SEES HIGH EBITDA

SITI Networks Limited, an Essel Group Company, one of India's largest Multi-System Operators



reported continuous growth through operational efficiencies and strict control on expenses across all metrics. SITI's Operating

EBITDA for FY20 surged by 1.2x to Rs.3,538 Mn by efficiently leveraging existing operating resources.

SITI's Operating EBITDA for Q4FY20 also jumped 2.5% to Rs. 861 Mn year on year. Q4FY20 also saw further consolidation in SITI's Operating EBITDA Margins which grew 1.02X to 21.6% on y-o-y basis.

Subscription Revenue for Q4FY20 grew 25.3% y-o-y to Rs. 2,842 Mn. For FY20 too, Subscription Revenue surged 21.3% to Rs.11,567 Mn. Total Revenue (excluding activation) for Q4FY20 surged ~23% y-o-y to Rs. 4,128 Mn. FY20 Total Revenue (excluding activation) also jumped 15.3% over FY19 to Rs.16,354 Mn. SITI Broadband continued its focus on providing the best technology to its customers by launching a composite FTTX based network architecture which would make enable customer premises with the best of online and linear content. Implementation of this composite model will benefit both SITI Networks and SITI Broadband, while providing IOT based services to customers. ■



## BOOKINGS OPEN

**SCAT2020**  
SAT & CABLE TV INDIA - MUMBAI  
29 - 31 October 2020

Organised By:

NÜRNBERG MESSE

**BOMBAY EXHIBITION CENTRE GOREGAON (E) - MUMBAI - INDIA**

Tel.: +91-22-62165303 Mob.: +91-7021850198 / 9945826427 Email: varun.gaba@nm-india.com / scat.sales@nm-india.com