

# Applying for SACFA clearance and allotment of frequency for a Community Radio Station (CRS)

A step by step guide

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Version 1.0: July 2008

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#### **Foreword**

This document has been prepared with key inputs and information from a number of individuals and organizations working in the field of community and campus radio. I thank them all for their patience, and for sharing their insights and understanding of the process of application and acquisition of the necessary licenses and clearances that permit the establishment and operation of a CR station in India.

Without, in any way, reducing the value of all the others whose inputs have been valuable in the creation of this guide, I would like to offer a special word of thanks to a few of these people:

**Shri D.Singaravelu**, Deputy Advisor Wireless, Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, Govt. of India (at the time of development of this guide). Shri Singaravelu was instrumental in explaining many of the technical requirements while I was developing **CR: A User's Guide to the Technology** with UNESCO – New Delhi. His helpful comments on the application process – which left me with several pages of notes that were used here instead – are responsible for many of the explanations here;

**Dr.R.Sreedher**, Director, Commonwealth Educational Media Center for Asia (CEMCA), and **Ms.Rukmini Vemraju**, Programme Officer, CEMCA, who were kind enough to allow me access to CEMCA's assistance process for CRS applicants, in order to understand some of the details that need to be completed in the application forms;

**Ms.Monica Sharma**, Administrative Assistant, CEMCA, for finding time within her other responsibilities to discuss the application process and explain some of the niceties of the application forms;

**UNESCO New Delhi,** for working with me on **CR: A User's Guide to the Technology**, the research for which led to many of the insights that ended up in this document.

I sincerely hope the explanations and illustrations given here simplify the process of making these applications. Needless to say, please do bring any errors, corrections or additions to my notice: I would be happy to update this document with your inputs and assistance!

#### N.Ramakrishnan

Ideosync Media Combine

June 2008

**DISCLAIMER:** The details provided in the application form images and tables given in this document are for ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY and do not refer to an actual application of any kind whatsoever. All information provided here is provided on a 'best of knowledge' basis, and the author will not be held responsible for any damages arising from usage of these details.



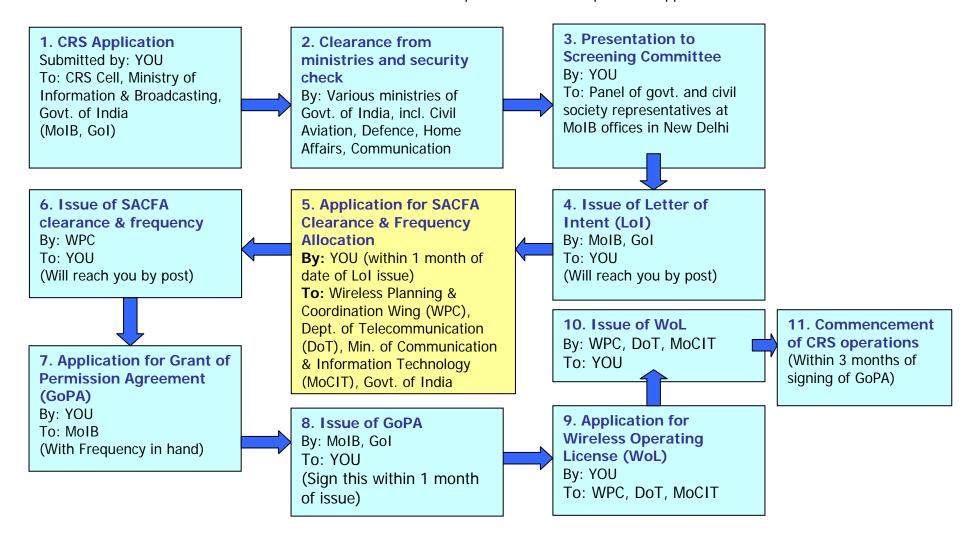
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## Introduction – and some background

Congratulations! If you are reading this document, it probably means that you are considering applying for permission to set up a CR station – or have already done so. In either case, it would be useful to understand the process of application and clearances, in order to do this well and with a minimum of effort. Here's a schematic that explains the whole sequence of application related events:





In the next few pages, we will examine what you must do to successfully negotiate Step 5 in the schematic above: That is, application to the Wireless Planning and Coordination Committee (WPC) and the Standing Advisory Committee on (Radio) Frequency Allocation (SACFA) – both are wings of the Dept. of Telecommunications, DoT – for SACFA clearance and the allocation of an operating FM frequency for your CR station.

**Step 5** is actually composed of **four** distinct parts:

- A. Registration as a user with the WPC/SACFA website (See Page 6)
- B. Online application for SACFA clearance (See Page 10)
- C. Application for frequency allocation (See Page 21)
- D. Submission of hard copies of the application with supporting documents (See Page 23)

Parts A & B <u>MUST</u> be completed **online** – that is, with a computer, a printer and a working internet connection, preferably a broadband line. A good dial up connection will also work if the line is reasonably disturbance free; but try to access a broadband connection at any office or cybercafé if you can.

Part C can be completed on any computer with an attached printer. You will submit only a printed copy of the frequency application.

Part D depends on your successful completion of the above three parts, and the collection of some additional supporting documents.

Before you make these applications, please note that you will require the following documents and details ready to hand:

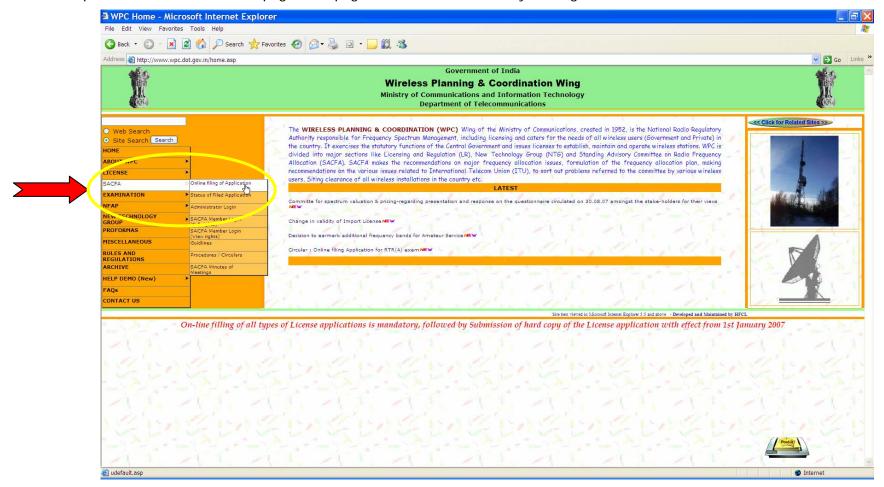
- 1. A copy of your **application** to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoIB) for setting up the CRS;
- 2. A copy of the **Letter of Intent** (LoI) issued to you by the ministry (Reference No., date etc.);
- 3. A **Demand Draft** for **Rs.1000** in favour of **The Pay & Accounts Officer**, **Headquarters**, **Dept. of Telecommunication**, payable at **New Delhi** and preferably on the **State Bank of India**. This may be shortened to '**PAO**, **HQ**, **DoT**' if necessary. (*Note: SBI is to be strongly recommended, but there are some indications that other banks' drafts may also do. But stick with SBI if you can.)* You will need the DD number, issuing bank, and date.
- 4. Details regarding the **proposed CRS address, location, contact details**: This will include geographical details for the station location [Latitude and longitude, and Measurement from Sea Level (MSL) both preferably obtained from a Global Positioning System or GPS device. You may also be able to obtain these from a Survey of India map of your area. GPS is now commonly available on many mobile phones, like the Nokia N78, N93 and N95; and the Apple iPhone3G.]
- 5. Details of the height of the building on which the mast and/or antenna will be installed (in case they will be installed on the building);
- 6. Email address and contact details of the authorized signatory for the CRS application.



## **SECTION A: Registering as user on the WPC Website**

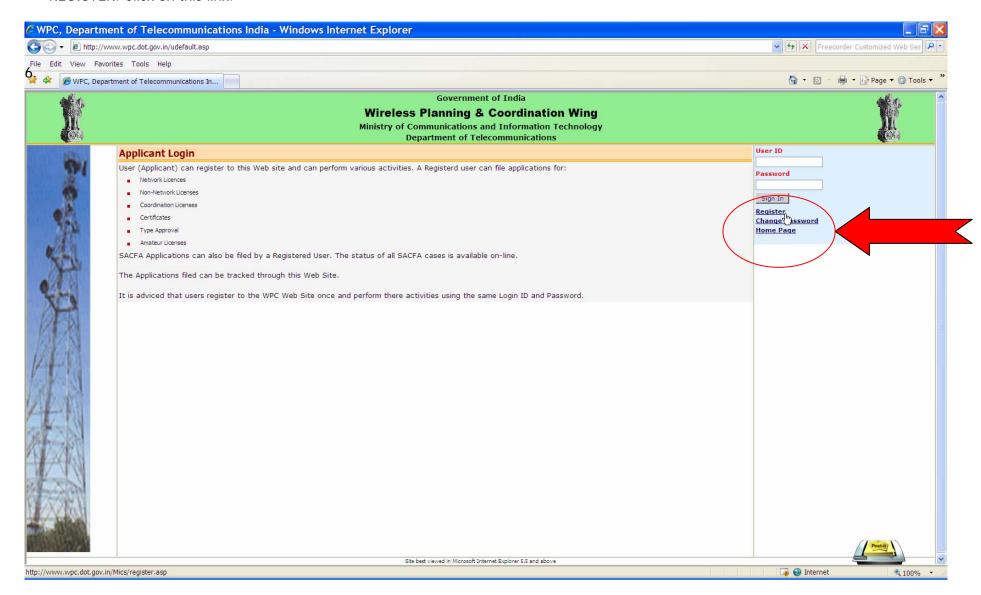
The first step towards completing your SACFA application is to register as a user on the WPC website. To do this follow the steps outlined below:

- 1. Connect to the internet from the computer that you are using. Launch the **Internet Explorer** browser. (Note: Only Internet Explorer, version 5 and above, please: The WPC website does not work properly from alternative browsers like Firefox, Opera or Safari!)
- 2. Type www.wpc.dot.gov.in in the URL bar of the browser. This is the WPC website.
- 3. Once the page loads, you will see a list of links to the left of the webpage, under the Three Lion national symbol of India.
- 4. Bring the cursor over SACFA APPLICATION, and a new menu bar will open. Select the top option, ONLINE FILING OF APPLICATIONS. This will open the APPLICANT LOGIN page. This page can also be accessed by clicking on LICENSE > ONLINE FILING OF APPLICATIONS.





5. The new page will look like the image below. To the right, you will see two boxes for USER ID and PASSWORD. Below them is a link called REGISTER. Click on this link.





6. This will bring up the REGISTRATION FORM for new users. The form will ask for various details regarding your organization and contact details. In the USER TYPE box, select COMPANY even if you're applying for an NGO or educational institution. (You may create an individual account as well, if you like.) Please note that you can fill in the organization's name against the **First Name/Middle Name/Last Name** boxes. It would be better to use the name of a key person in the organization, though – preferably the authorized signatory looking after the application process.

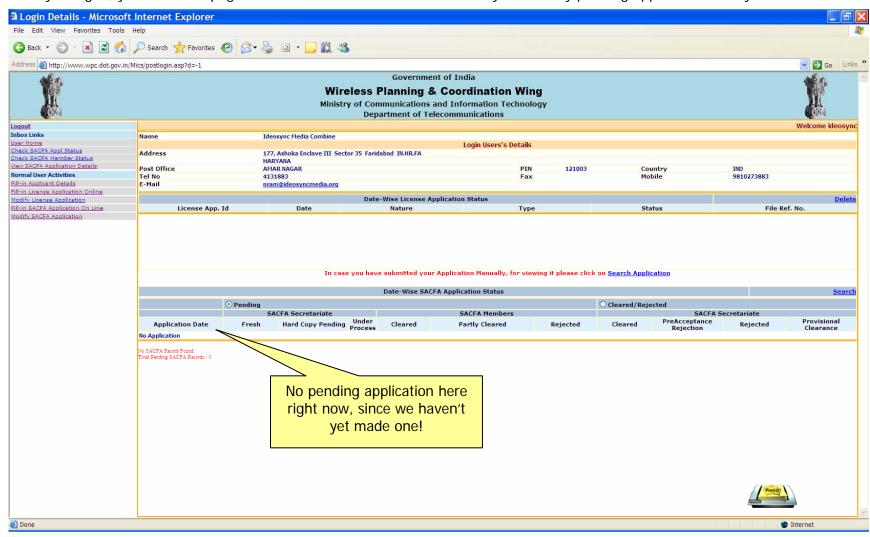
Register User - Microsoft In	ternet Explorer				
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help					
Back ▼	Search 🜟 Favorites 🚱 🗟	· 🎍 🗈 · 📙 🛍 🐉			
Address a http://www.wpc.dot.gov.in/Mics/	/Register.asp				Go Lir
			Government of India  PSS Planning & Coordination  If Communications and Information Tec  Department of Telecommunications		
Registration Form					
User Type *	Company				
Organization Name	Ideosync Media Comb	ine			
First Name *	Ramakishnan		Middle		Last Nagarajan
Address1 *	177, Ashoka Enclave	III			
Address2	Sector 35				
State/UT/NCR*	HARYANA	~	District*	Faridabad	Search Pin Code
Post Office *	AMAR NAGAR	~	PinCode*	121003	
City	Faridabad		Country	India	
Tel No.	0129-4131883		Fax No.	9810273883	
Mobile No.	9810273883		Email Id *	nram@ideosyncmedia.org	
User Name *	ideosync				
Password *	*******				
Confirm Password *	********				
DISTRICT that cover enter you Once the REGISTER	so note that select S box; and select rs your address.) or PIN CODE in the details are comple R at the bottom. T	ing a DISTRICT a If you know your e new window tha ete, please enter a this will save your	m the drop down list autoutomatically gives a set of PIN CODE, you can click of topens, and select the conductor a USER ID and a PASSWO information, and give you	matically gives a set of districts POST OFFICES to select from ( on the SEARCH PIN CODE buttor rrect POST OFFICE from the list RD that you will remember, the a page with the message 'You I perform various activities.'	select the one on the right, that appears.
<b>a</b> Done					<b>⊘</b> Internet



7. Once you get the 'successfully registered' message, press on the BACK button, and you will be directed to this page: http://www.wpc.dot.gov.in/udefault.asp. This is the same page as the one we saw on page 7, when we started the registration process. You can now enter the USER ID and PASSWORD you created to login.

**Please note:** If you are returning to the application process at a later date, simply follow steps 1 to 4 to reach the same page and log in. Also, you can use the CHANGE PASSWORD link on the same page to change your password at any time.

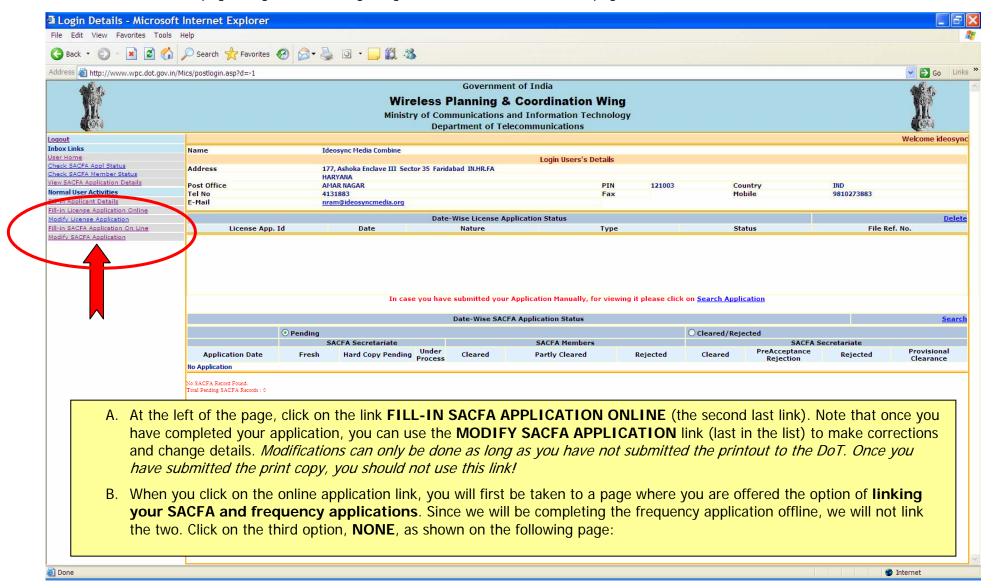
8. Once you log in, you will see a page like the one below. It will automatically reflect any pending applications that you have made.



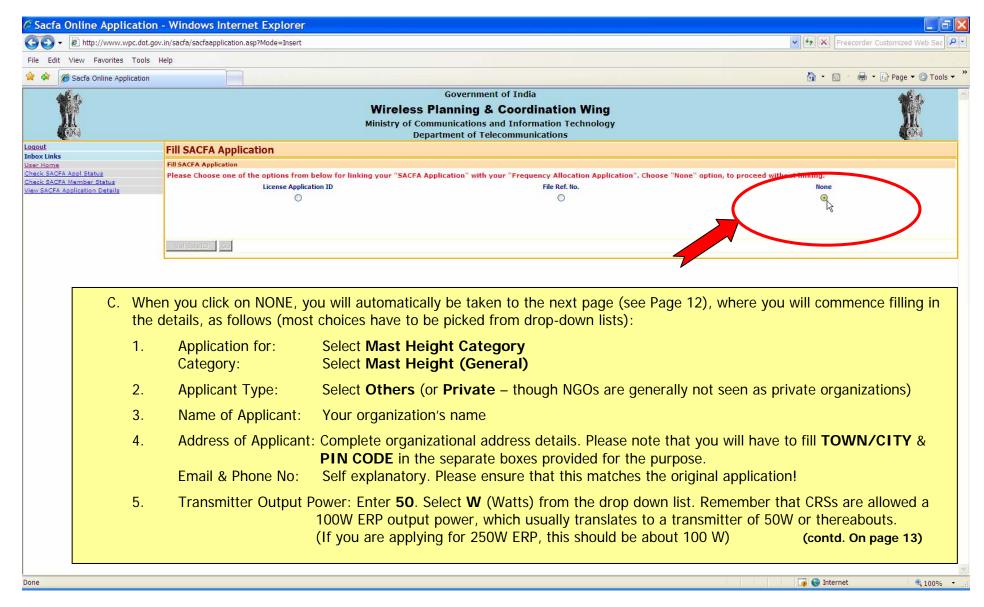


## **SECTION B: Completing the online SACFA application**

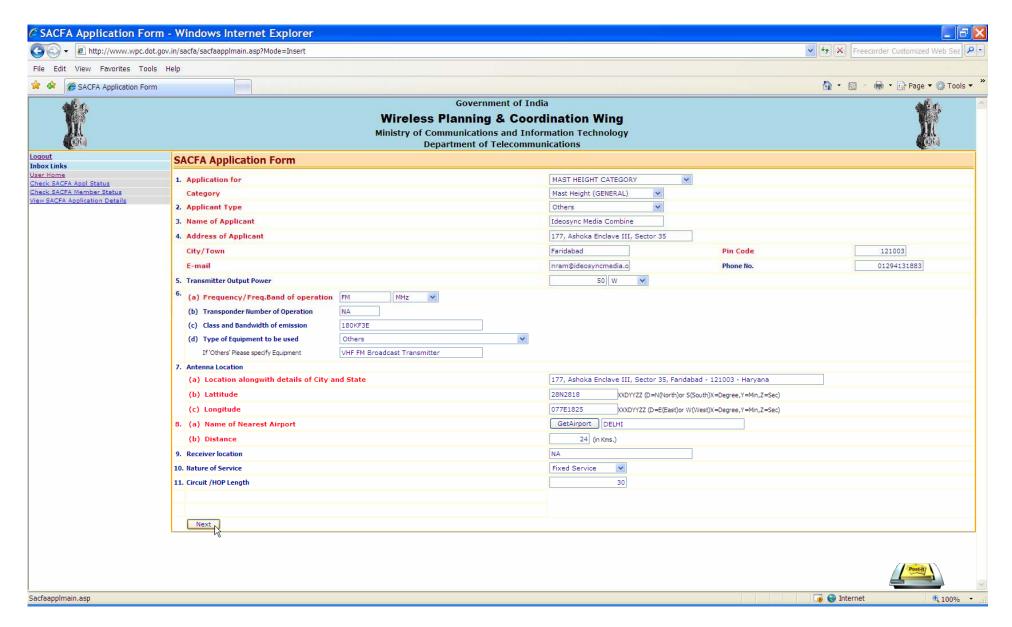
Now that you've registered as a user with the WPC website, and logged in to the user section, it's time to complete the SACFA application online. Let's look at the page we get once we log in again. This is the **USER HOME** page.









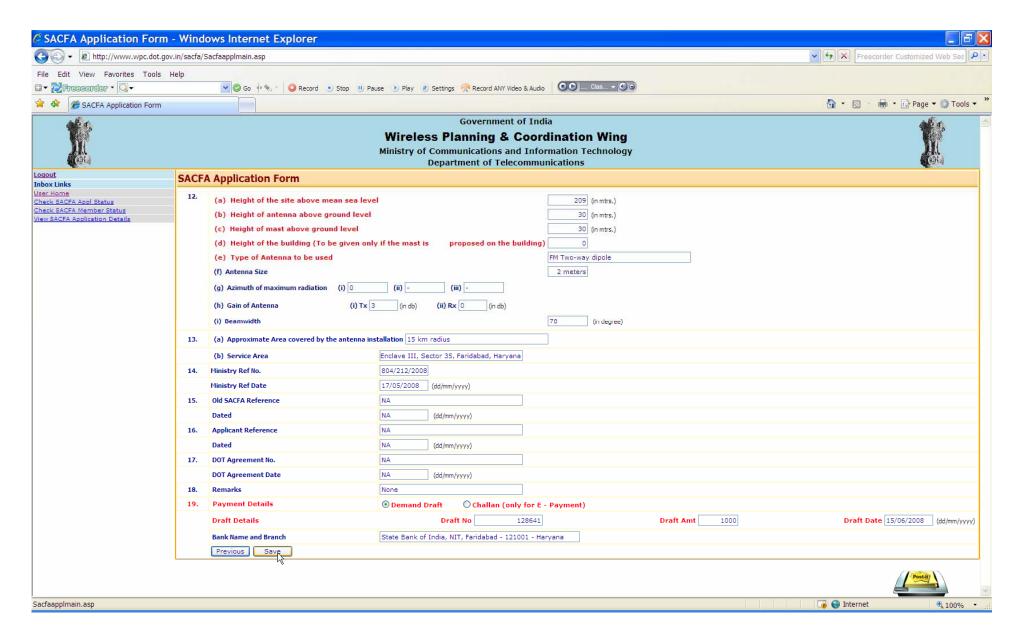




	44)	
ontd. Fr	rom page 11)	
6.	(a) Frequency/Frequency Band of Operation	Fill in <b>FM</b> in the box. Select <b>MHz</b> from the drop down list next to it.
	(b) Transponder No. of operation	Fill in <b>NA</b> ('Not applicable')
	(c) Class and bandwidth of emission	Fill in 180KF3E
	(d) Type of equipment to be used	Select <b>Others</b> from the drop down list (it's at the end of the list!).
	If 'others', please specify equipment	Fill in VHF FM Broadcast transmitter
7.	Antenna Location	
	(a) Location along with details of city and state	Fill in the complete address of the CRS, NOT your organization!
	(b) Latitude	Fill in the latitude. The format should be: <b>Degrees-N-Minutes-Seconds</b> (In the image on Page 12, this is given as <b>28N2818</b> )
	(c) Longitude	Fill in the longitude. The format should be: <b>0-Degrees-E-Minutes-Seconds</b> . (Longitudes can go up to 180, so the convention is to use three digits. In the example Page 12, this is given as <b>077E1825</b> )
8.	(a) Name of nearest airport (b) Distance	Click on the <b>GET AIRPORT</b> button. This will open a small window where you will automatically be shown the closest airport and its distance from you. Click on the <b>OK</b> button, and both details will be entered.
9.	Receiver location	Fill in <b>NA</b> ('Not Applicable')
10.	Nature of service	Select Fixed Service
11.	Circuit/HOP length	Fill in 30

(For further instructions, go to page 15.)







#### (contd. From page 13)

12. (a) Height of the site above mean sea level

(b) Height of antenna above ground level

(c) Height of mast above ground level

(d) Height of the building

(e) Type of antenna to be used

(f) Antenna Size

(g) Azimuth of maximum radiation

(h) Gain of antenna

(i) Beamwidth

13. (a) Approximate area covered by antenna installation

(b) Service area

Ministry Ref. No.
 Ministry Ref. date

15. Old SACFA Reference

Dated

Fill in **height in metres** (just the number: the units are already given)

Fill in **30** (The maximum height permitted is 30 metres)

Fill in **30** (The maximum height permitted is 30 metres)

If your mast & antenna will be mounted on the roof/terrace of the building, give the **height of the building in meters**. Please note that the mast height in (c) must then reflect the height of the mast such that the combined height of the building and mast are 30 metres. (If the building is 15 m tall, the mast height cannot be more than 15 m: as 15m + 15m = 30m. If the building is already 30 m tall, you will have to mount the antenna directly on the building roof/terrace – mast height will then be 0 m.)

Fill in FM Two-way Dipole

Fill in 2 metres

Fill in (i) 0 (ii) (leave blank) (iii) (leave blank)

Fill in (i) Tx 3 (ii)Rx 0 (respectively)

Fill in 78 (degrees) (the unit is given)

Fill in **15 km radius** (Note: This will be different if you are applying for a more powerful transmitter)

Give the **broad area of transmission** ('Sector 35, Faridabad', or 'Karur Town', or 'Birdha Block, Distt. Lalitpur', for instance)

This is the LoI letter reference number, given at top left of the LoI letter. This is the LoI letter date. Note: This must be given as **dd/mm/yyyy** 

Fill in **NA** ('Not applicable'). This must only be filled in if you made a previous application which was refused Leave blank



(contd. From page 15)

16. Applicant Reference Fill in **NA** ('Not applicable') (Unless you have been given such a reference

by SACFA at some point.)

Dated Leave blank

17. DOT Agreement No. Fill in **NA** ('Not applicable') (Unless you have been given such a reference

by SACFA at some point.)

DOT Agreement date Leave blank

18. Remarks Fill in **Frequency not allotted**, **simultaneously applied for** 

19. Payment details Select **Demand Draft** 

Draft Details In DRAFT NO, fill in the 6 digit number at bottom center of the draft

In DRAFT AMT, fill in **1000** (this is the processing fee)

In DRAFT DATE, fill in the draft's date of issue as DD/MM/YYYY

Bank Name & Branch Fill in the details of the **issuing** State Bank of India branch (see page 5)

If you have entered any details incorrectly on the previous page, press the **PREVIOUS** button.

If everything is correct so far, press the **SAVE** button.

By saving, you are submitting your application. Saving will take you to an **acknowledgement page**. (See the image on **Page 17**) This page is **VERY IMPORTANT**. It will carry a **SACFA ID number**, which is the reference you will quote for your application in all future correspondence.

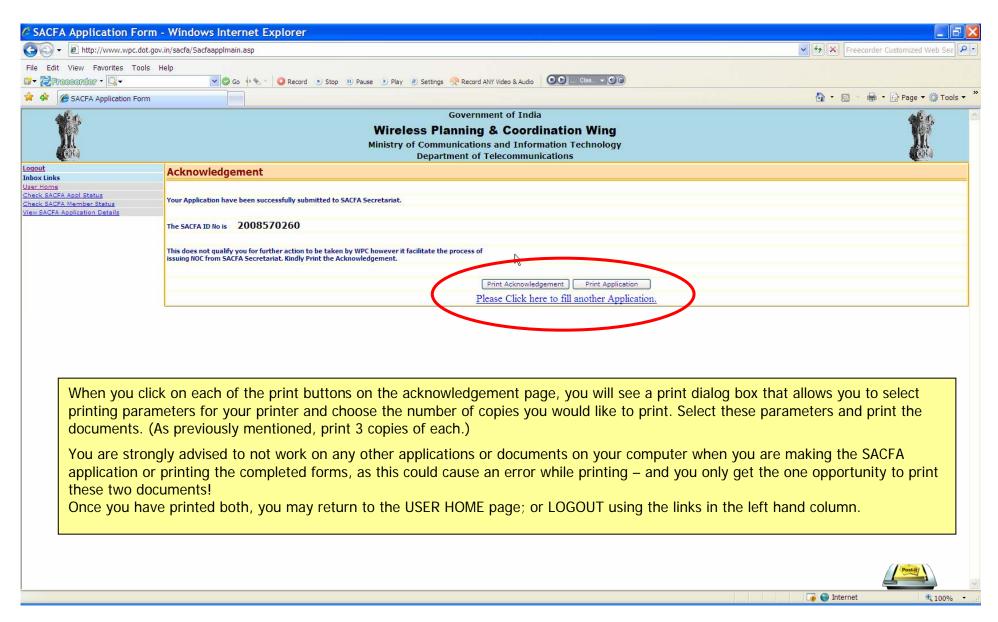
There will be two **PRINT** buttons on this page, one to **PRINT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** and one to **PRINT APPLICATION**. Click on each in turn and print **three copies** of each. **Please be careful about this, as this will be your only opportunity to print these documents!** 

To modify your application, see page 18.

For details of how to submit the hard copies of this form see page 23.

Now proceed to Section C on page 21 to complete your frequency allocation application.







## Modifying your online SACFA application

While there is a provision for modifying your application in case you have entered any details incorrectly, this poses some issues as the SACFA website does not seem to allow REPRINTING of the corrected/modified application. It is therefore strongly advisable that you check and recheck the details you are entering when completing the application the first time around.

It is easier to **delete data** from your application rather than **add data** or **change data**: To delete data from the print out, simply use whitener carefully on the relevant entry and photocopy. The data can then be deleted from the online application using the modify function, and all will still be well. You can change or add data on the online application, but your printout will then not match the online application, which may be asking for trouble once you submit the hard copy. You may then have to laboriously recreate the printout version in MS-Word.

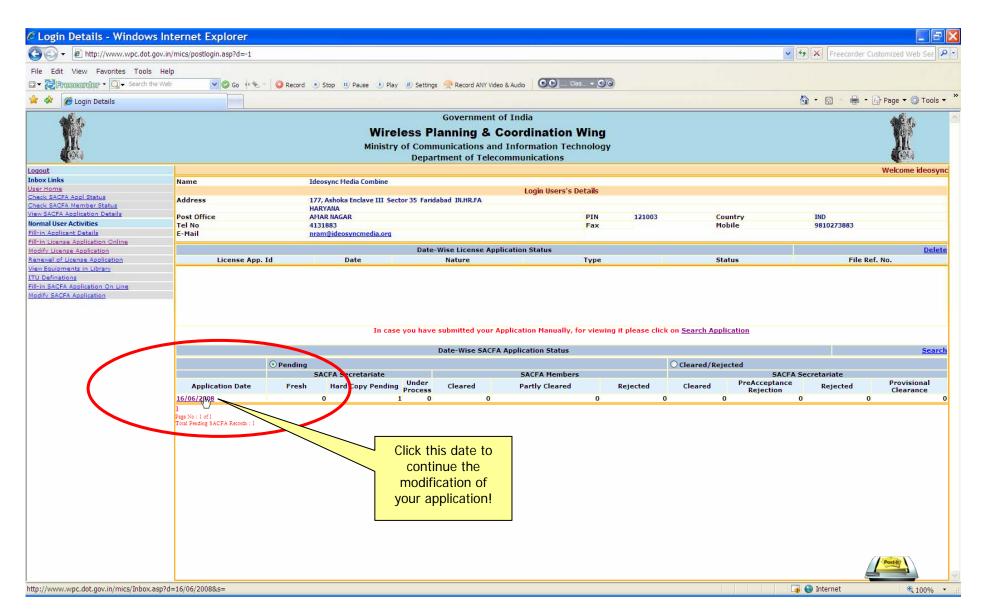
- 1. **To modify your application**, **LOGIN** to your user account as given in steps 1 to 5 on page 4/5. This will bring you to the **USER HOME** page that we saw on page 8. However, now that you have submitted an online application, this page will **reflect the submitted application**, as shown on the next page (Page 19)
- 2. At the left of the application details area, you will see the **application date** reflected as a hyperlink. **Click on the date**. This will take you to a **search page** that will show additional details of your application and its status, as shown on page 20.
- 3. The SEARCH Page will reflect the SACFA ID you received, along with proposed location and the applicant's name. In the second column, there will be small **tick box**. Click on this to select this application to modify, then click on **MODIFY SACFA APPLICATION**. (NOTE: If you have submitted multiple application from the same USER ACCOUNT, please be careful to tick only the application you wish to modify!)
- 4. Clicking on the **modify** link will take you back to the **first page of the application**, as first shown on page 11. The details you have previously submitted will already be entered. Make the corrections you need on this page, then click on **NEXT** at the bottom of the page.
- 5. Make any corrections you need to make on the second page and then click **SAVE**. This will store your changed/modified details, and you will be redirected to a page that says **YOUR APPLICATION DETAILS WERE SUCCESSFULLY MODIFIED**. There will be no print options for you to print a copy of the modified application.

#### **IMPORTANT!**

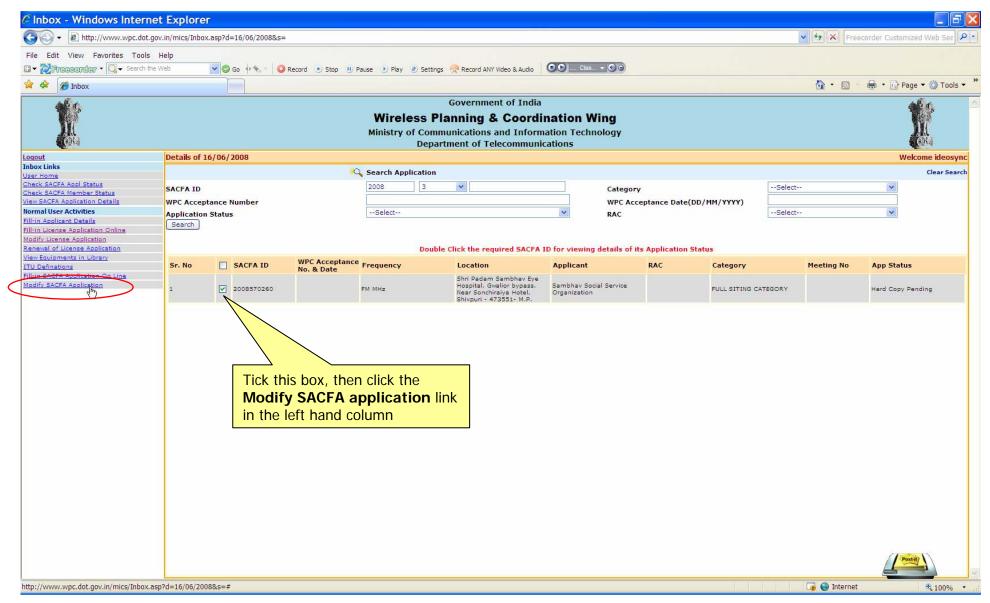
Even if you modify your application, your SACFA ID will remain the same.

During the process of modification, you will see this displayed at the top of the application form.











## **SECTION C: Completing the frequency allocation application**

Now that you've completed the online SACFA application, we can complete the application for frequency application. Strictly speaking, WPC requires you to complete this online like the SACFA clearance form. But in order to make the process easier for CR practitioners, WPC is accepting **hard copy only** applications completed in an **MS-EXCEL template** provided by the WPC office. The template is included in the ZIP file which contains this guide. You can also make it yourself from the images and details given here. Complete it and print out **three copies.** 

APPLICATION FORM TO OPERATE WIRELESS LINK/NETWORK UNDER INDIAN TELEGRAPH ACT 1885		
1.	Name of Applicant	Ideosync Media Combine (Your organization's name)
2.	Address for Correspondence (with telephone/telex nos.)	177, Ashoka Enclave III, Sector 35, Faridabad – 121003 – Haryana Tel: 0129-4131883/6510156 Telfax: 0129-2254396 (Your organization's complete address and telephone numbers)
3.	Status	NGO (or educational institution or Krishi Vigyan Kendra etc.)
4.	Is any wireless license/agreement letter held by the applicant?	YES (Ministry of I & B, Govt. of India)- Letter of Intent copy enclosed (No.804/212/2008-CRS/771 dtd. 07/05/2008) (This is an example - mention the appropriate LoI number as per the letter you have received)
5.	Nature of activity of the organisation and purpose for which the proposed communication will be used	Social development (or whatever defines the work your organization does)
6 (a).	Number of stations proposed	One station - FIXED
(i)	Operations	Fixed (i.e your transmitter will not be mobile)
(ii)	Stand by	N.A. (If you have a stand by transmitter, say YES)



	(Locations of fixed stations and	Longitude - 077E1825
	six figure geo-coordinates for	Latitude - 28N2818
	each stations to be provided)	Latitude - 201/2010
(b)	Area of operation of mobiles	N.A.
	·	
7 (-)	NAIi	Minimum F Ivos
7 (a)	Minimum & Maximum distance	Minimum - 5 kms
	(in kms) between any two	(This is the minimum prescribed distance between two CRSs
	stations	specified by the ministry)
(b)	Schematic diagrams/sketch	Yes/No (copy of map enclosed)
	showing area of operation &	(The YES refers to the fact that the map is enclosed. The NO refers
	scheme of network attached	to the fact that the scheme of network is not attached. The letter is
		not vital to the application. The MAP is – see Section D.)
8.	Frequency (-ies) / Frequency	87.5 – 107 MHz
	band covered by the equipment	
	proposed	
9 (i)	Operating Parameters	ONE
	Number of Frequency described:	N.A.
	(if more than one give full	(You will only require a single frequency for your CRS)
	justification)	
(ii)	Daily hours of use	24 hours
	-	00:00:00 hrs (am) – 23:59:59 (pm)
		(You may not actually broadcast 24 hours a day in practice – this
		just ensures that you have permission to do if you want to. At the
		least, it ensures you can broadcast at any time of day you find
		convenient.)
(iii)	R.F.Power output of proposed	50 Watts transmitter
	Equipment	
(iv)	Type & Bandwidth of emission	180 KF 3E (50 watts FM Stereo, 87.5 to 108 MHz)
11.	Status - to be operated by	YES - Station will be operated by Indian Nationals only
	Indian nationals	



## **SECTION D: Preparation of the hard copy submissions**

Let's take stock. If all has gone well, you should by now have:

- 1. Completed the SACFA application online, and printed out three copies each of the acknowledgement page and the completed SACFA application form.
- 2. Made an MS-Excel or Word file with the Frequency Allocation application form, and printed out three copies of it.

Keep one copy of each of the above three documents for your files. It's now time to prepare the hard copy submissions of the applications.

#### IMPORTANT!

Your hard copy applications must reach the SACFA office within 15 days of your online application

Your applications will NOT be processed until the printed copies of your application reach the

WPC office along with the supporting documents and the processing fee demand draft!

Your submission to the WPC office must contain the following items:

1. Acknowledgement form print-out	2 copies, duly signed by the authorized signatory with the organization's stamp/seal.
2. SACFA application form print-out	2 copies, duly signed by the authorized signatory with the organization's stamp/seal.
3. Copy of the Letter of Intent (LoI)	1 copy, duly signed by the authorized signatory with the organization's stamp/seal.
4. Frequency allocation application	2 copies, duly signed by the authorized signatory with the organization's stamp/seal.
5. Demand Draft for processing fee	1 DD (for Rs.1000, as per details on page 4)
6. Map of CRS location	1 copy, duly signed by the authorized signatory with the organization's stamp/seal.
7. A covering letter for the submission	1 copy. The covering letter must be addressed to: The Secretary (SACFA), WPC Wing, Dept. of Telecommunications & IT, Sanchar Bhavan, 20 Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110001.

Please remember to mention the LoI reference number in the subject line, and include a list of all the enclosures. The covering letter should be on your organization's letterhead.

Hard copy submissions can be sent by post, but are preferably made in person to the WPC officer available at the reception desk of DoT, Sanchar Bhavan on Tuesdays and Fridays 4 pm – 5 pm.

Please remember to get the WPC acceptance number when you submit the form!



### A note on the location map to be enclosed with the SACFA and frequency applications

The acknowledgement form that you get when you submit the SACFA form online will tell you that the map you must submit should be of the scale 1 cm = 1 km, and cover an area of 12 kms around the proposed CRS site.

The most straight forward method of acquiring such a map is to approach the **Survey of India (Map)** office or the **National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO) Map Division** of the **Dept. of Science & Technology (DST)**, Govt. of India, both of which have offices in Delhi. (See list of contacts and addresses on page 20)

Maps of the various districts of the country are divided up between the two organizations, with some available at one place and some at the other. These maps are officially (government) ratified; and bear latitude and longitude markings as required by SACFA.

Bear in mind that for some areas, maps of two or three **different sizes and scales** are available. You will have to select the one that most closely fulfils the requirements of the application.

Most maps from these two agencies are available for between Rs.25 and Rs.150 per copy.

If, for some reason, maps from these offices are not available for your area, you can use a **tourist map** of the requisite scale. But it must have latitude and longitude marked on it by a **certified geographer**, **surveyor** or **architect**.



## **Important Contact details and addresses**

#### 1. Ms.Deepa Aggarwal

Deputy Advisor (Wireless) 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Sanchar Bhavan 20, Ashoka Road New Delhi – 110020

Tel: 011-23372174, 23036391

#### 2. Community Radio Forum (CRF) Secretariat

c/o Drishti – Media, Arts & Human Rights 103 Anand Hari Tower, Sandesh Press Road, Bodakdev Ahmedabad – 380054 – Gujarat Tel: 079-2685 1234/6661 4235

Email: crfindia@gmail.com, drishtiad1@gmail.com

#### 3. Ideosync Media Combine

177, Ashoka Enclave III, Sector 35 Faridabad – 121003 – Haryana

Tel: 0129-4131883, 6510156 (Prefix 95129- from Delhi)

Email: info@ideosyncmedia.org Web: www.ideosyncmedia.org

#### 4. Commonwealth Educational Media Center for Asia (CEMCA)

8/4 Sarv Priya Vihar, New Delhi 110 016 Telephone numbers: +91(0)11-26537146/48

Fax: +91 (0) 11 2653 7147

Email: r.sreedher@gmail.com / rvemraju@col.org

#### 5. Survey of India (Business & Publicity Directorate)

P.O.Box No.37 Hathibarkala Estate Dehradun – 248 001 - Uttarakhand Tel: 0135-2747051 (to -58)

Email: bandpsoi@sancharnet.in

#### 6. Survey of India (Maps Office)

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Janpath Barracks 'A' Behind Tibetan Market Janpath, New Delhi - 110001

Tel: 011-23322288 Contact: Shri R.P.Singh

# 7. National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO) Sales Counter

Dept. of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India Technology Bhavan (Reception Area) New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi - 110016

Tel: 011-26590227

## 8. National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO) (Director's Office)

Dept. of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India CGO Complex, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, DF-Block Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700 064

Tel: 033-2334-3699/6331/5006/6459

Fax: 033-23346460

Email: natmomapsales@gmail.com