

THREE NEW INTERNET PROVIDERS

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has granted interim licenses to three local companies to provide data and Internet services. The three companies are TRISAT SARL, LCNC SAL, and Waves SAL. The companies will install and operate their own networks. The companies obtained similar licenses in 2001, and these licenses were later terminated. The Shura Council reinstated the licenses in 2003. According to TRA, the issuance is a step towards market liberalization. It also enhances competition in the telecom market. The three new licenses bring the total number of private licensed service providers to 24. The companies will initially establish their networks in the Beirut area. They plan to expand later to other regions, TRA said.