

# **NOW Telecom obtains favorable decision from ARTA anew**

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Manila, Philippines

NOW Corporation's affiliate, NOW Telecom Company, Inc. ("NOWTEL"), has once again obtained a favorable decision from the Anti-Red Tape Authority ("ARTA") in its Application for Automatic Approval of Extension of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Provisional Authority (CMTS PA) and the Assignment of Frequencies for its Effectual Use against the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

In a Resolution dated 31 March 2022, ARTA denied with finality the Motion for Reconsideration filed by NTC through Gamaliel A. Cordoba and reiterated its earlier resolution set forth in the Omnibus Order dated 31 January 2022 in relation to its Resolution dated 01 March 2021 declaring the completeness of NOWTEL's application for CMTS PA to operate in the 220Mhz frequency range from 1970Mhz-1980Mhz paired with 2160Mhz to 2170Mhz and 3.6Ghz to 3.8Ghz, including 5G frequencies for mobile and fixed wireless. An Order of Automatic Approval has already been issued by ARTA on 01 March 2021.

As early as 2005, NTC granted NOW Telecom a Cellular Mobile Telephony System (CMTS) Provisional Authority (PA), on the basis of the latter's legal, technical, and financial qualifications during hearings conducted before the NTC. However, NTC failed and continued to refuse to assign NOW Telecom frequencies needed to implement its CMTS PA, despite repeated pleadings. Thus, the ARTA case.