

On August 19, the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA) adopted a regulatory framework for establishing and operating data centres as well as providing hosting and cloud computing services in Egypt.

The regulatory obligations vary in terms of the need to obtain a license from NTRA or being limited to a registration process according to the geographical location of the beneficiary clients, the type of service delivered to beneficiaries, and the beneficiary client's scope.

The framework aims to attract hyper-scale data centres, cloud computing service providers and electronic content providers to the Egyptian market.

<b>Outside Egypt</b>          <b>Inside Egypt</b>	<b>No requirements for license or registration with NTRA</b>	<b>No requirements for license or registration with NTRA</b>	<b>No requirements for license or registration with NTRA</b>
	<b>No requirements for license or registration with NTRA</b>	<b>License required</b>	<b>Registration with NTRA as a cloud service provider</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>Establishing and operating a private data centre</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data centre established by a natural or legal person for their sole use.</li> <li>The private data centre turns into a public data centre upon providing services to others</li> </ul>	<b>Establishing and operating a public data centre and offering colocation/multi tenants hosting service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data centre established in Egypt for the purpose of hosting other service providers</li> <li>Examples: Equinix, NTT GDC, Digital Reality, Interxion</li> </ul>	<b>Cloud computing service provider</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entity providing various cloud computing services whether through full owned data centres or via rented data centres from a Public Data Centre Provider licensee</li> <li>Examples: Microsoft Azure, AWS, GCP Alibaba Cloud, IBM Cloud</li> </ul>

### Public Data Centre Provider License

*License Duration: 15 years*

*Licensee rights:*

- Establish and operate data centres to provide hosting services,
- Provide site rental (colocation) to customers in Egypt through the licensee's data centres,
- Provide cloud computing services for licensee's own use or for others inside Egypt,
- Directly connect with submarine cable systems through contracting infrastructure service providers to rent cables and relevant capacities, without resorting to the NTRA.

### Cloud Service Provider Registration

*Registration Period: 15 years*

*Registration Process (must be approved by NTRA):*

- Provide entity data (name, address, phone numbers, commercial register, contact points, etc.),
- Complete data related to the nature of the services, in particular the hosting system used, the data centres located in Egypt, their address and contact details and the entity website.

*Rights and obligations of registered entities:*

- Right to provide cloud computing services for its own use or for others inside Egypt,
- Connect to submarine cable systems via infrastructure service providers without NTRA approval,
- Evaluate cybersecurity systems to obtain an accreditation certificate from NTRA.

### Compliance by Existing Data Centers and Cloud Service Providers

Entities currently operating public data centres or providing cloud computing services inside Egypt must comply with these regulations within 9 months by obtaining the NTRA license and completing NTRA registration procedures.

