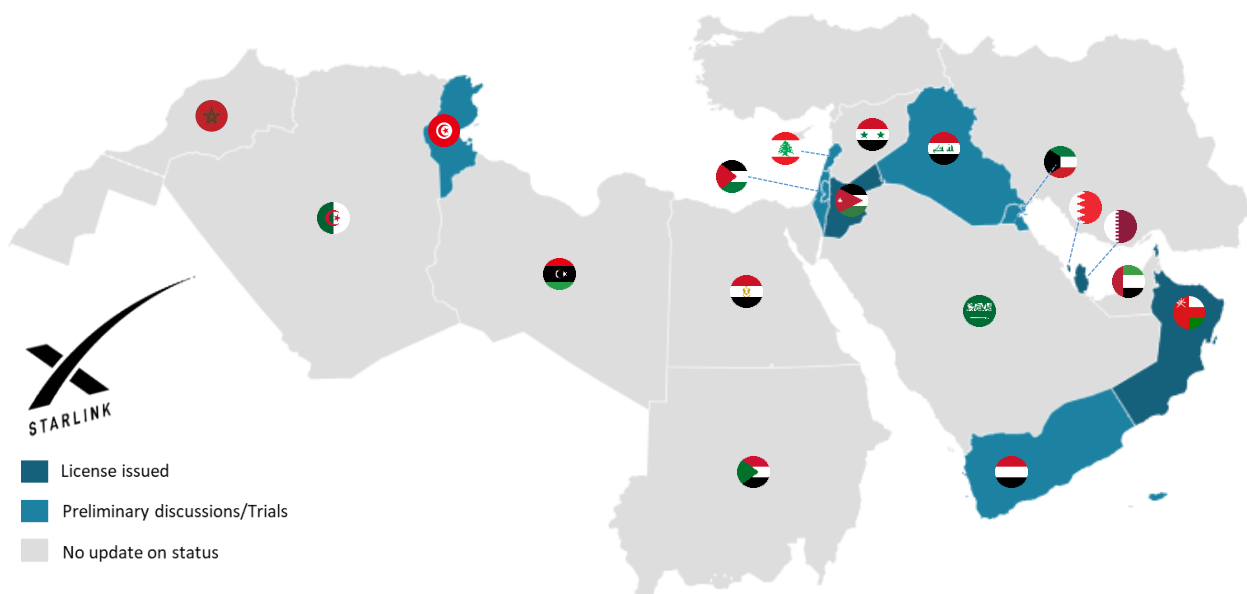


Regulatory approvals for Starlink services in MENA countries

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Bahrain

On 28 April 2022, TRA Bahrain granted a license to a local company owned by SpaceX, Starlink Bahrain W.L.L., to market satellite internet services. Bahrain was the first GCC country to grant such a license. Services are expected to be available in Q3 -2024, as per Starlink website.



Iraq

In July 2023, and following meetings with SpaceX, MoC Iraq considered licensing Starlink services in the country. Technical and security concerns were also addressed, but no decisions were taken. It is understood that similar discussions took place with Amazon, and OneWeb.



Jordan

On 23 November 2023, TRC Jordan awarded a Class license to a local company owned by SpaceX, Starlink Jordan. The license allows marketing of Starlink services, with expected availability in 2024. This follows trials done in Southern Jordan in 2023, that demonstrated D/L speeds of 100-200 Mbps.



Kuwait

It is reported that the government of Kuwait signed an MoU with SpaceX, to install Starlink connections. There also may be some connections already in place, but no clear information is available on the licensing of Starlink, and the company under which it operates.



Lebanon

In late 2023, MoC Lebanon considered the licensing of Starlink services. After much public and government debate, a 3-months trial period was approved. Lebanon's Cabinet commissioned committees to study and address, technical and security concerns, on the licensing of the service.



Libya

The availability of Starlink services in Libya is still unknown, and no approvals have been granted by the Ministry MOCI. It is understood that OneWeb have signed a partnership with Rawafed Libya (RLTT), to provide satellite internet services across the nation by early 2024.



Oman

Royal Decree No. (42/2023) granted a Class 1 license to Starlink Muscat, a local company owned by SpaceX, on 20 June 2023. The license which has a 25-year term, allows the marketing of Starlink fixed internet services. Moreover, Oman Investment Authority took an equity stake in SpaceX back in May 2021.



Qatar

CRA issued an Individual 25-year License on 28 September 2022, to Starlink Satellite Qatar W.L.L, a local company owned by SpaceX. This follows consultations on the draft license back in June 2022. The License allows Starlink to market its services to business and residential clients.



Sudan

The Regulator in Sudan TPRA, has banned the use of Starlink services, although it is reported that some limited service is being used in the country.



Tunisia

In August 2023, MCT agreed to conduct a three-month pilot project on Starlink services, in remote regions of the country. The tests are intended to examine regulatory frameworks, as well as, to assess the feasibility and benefits of Starlink services.



Yemen

PTC Yemen agreed with SpaceX, a trial phase in the capital Aden in 2023. Services were expected to roll out in other locations, once a full license has been signed with authorities. It is reported that some government departments may now be using the service, but no licensing has been issued yet.



Palestine

Following negotiations between MTIT and SpaceX back in 2023, no formal approvals have been issued for the Starlink service in Palestine.



Saudi Arabia

No Information is available on the licensing of Starlink services by the Regulator CST. It is also understood that, following the award of 2100MHz spectrum to STC back in December 2022, and a number of trials, STC is planning the roll-out of NTN services in the Kingdom, claiming "higher speeds than Starlink".



Syria

It is understood that no applications for approval of Starlink services have been submitted to MoC, nor to the Regulator Sytra. Furthermore, Starlink website indicates no availability of Starlink services in Syria.



UAE

While it is known that Starlink services are being marketed in UAE, no regulatory approvals have been issued for such services by UAE's Telecom Regulator TDRA.

In summary, the status-quo of regulatory approvals for Starlink services in MENA countries, may be classified as follows:

1. Countries that have granted regulatory approvals: Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Qatar.
2. Countries that have deployed pilot projects: Lebanon, Tunisia, Yemen.
3. Countries in discussion with SpaceX: Iraq, Kuwait, Palestine
4. Countries considering similar solutions: Libya, Saudi Arabia.
5. Countries where no sufficient information available: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, UAE.

(End)