

Nelco hopes to roll out in-flight data connectivity services by January

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TATA GROUP COMPANY Nelco on Thursday said it expects to roll out in-flight data connectivity services by January but had not divulged the name of the airlines it would partner with for the offering.

The company had, earlier this year, obtained a licence from the department of telecommunications (DoT) for providing in-flight and maritime connectivity (IFMC) services.

Nelco said it hoped to roll out in-flight services in the next one-and-a-half months but refused to comment on tariffs, saying the modalities are being fine-tuned. "We are hoping to start in-flight connectivity services around January time-frame. We will start with data services," Nelco's managing director and chief executive PJ Nath said on the sidelines of India SatCom 2019, organised by Broadband India Forum here.

Nath refused to divulge the names of the airlines that the company was in discussions with, saying, "I cannot comment on that at this point... We will have partnerships with multiple airlines but it will unfold as we go along."

On March 6 this year, the company announced that it had obtained licence from the government for providing IFMC services.

The licence, besides enabling connectivity solutions to individual users on board of the aircraft and ships, offers newer possibilities of real-time communication of on-board systems and brings operational efficiencies to improve business productivity for the airlines and shipping companies, the company had then said.

In September, Nelco launched its maritime communications services in the country, and said the offering would enable high-end support to those in sea by providing access to voice, data and video services while travelling on sailing vessels, cruise liners, ships in India, using satellite technology.