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UAE & Region / 27



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International / 27



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Energy & Markets / 28

25

## TRA may crack the whip for Etisalat-du deal

BY WAHEED ABBAS

THE Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRA) may issue an ultimatum to Etisalat and the second telecom operator Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company (du) to

thrash out a deal by the month-end, according to Minister of Development for Government Sector Eng. Sultan Bin Saeed Al Mansouri.

If an agreement is not reached within the stipulated period, Etisalat will

be asked to allow du to use its infrastructure so that mobile services can be started by the second half.

The regulatory authority has extended the grace period for talks between the two telecom operators and it would not extend

the May 1 deadline further, the minister told media on the sidelines of the 9th Annual Arab International Telecom Development Summit.

du, which opened its link to telecommunication and Internet system

that spans the globe, is sticking to its target of launching mobile services in the second half of the this year, Chief Executive Officer Osman Sultan said on the sidelines of the conference.

Sultan also said that

the negotiation will continue with Etisalat till the end of this month and if it fails the regulatory authority will take a decision. He said some technical issues still remain to be resolved between the two operators.