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RCom offers per-second mobile plan

New Delhi: Reliance Communications launched a per-second billing plan on Tuesday, days after intensifying price competition pushed sector leader Bharti Airtel into offering a similar scheme.

RCom, India's second-largest mobile operator, will charge 1 paisa per second for all local and national calls, a spokesman said. Top operators are facing tough competition from smaller rivals, including a venture of Tata

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Teleservices and Japan's NTT DoCoMo that has grabbed market share with its per-second billing system.

The price war is set to intensify with four firms, including ventures of Norway's Telenor and UAEs' Etisalat, set to start operations in India this year. India has 11 mobile operators currently, and the industry has added an average of 14 million users per month this year.

Meanwhile, the government wants a cut in the termination charges mobile phone companies pay each other for calls across networks, but operators must pass on the reduction by lowering charges. AGENCIES