

NRA's role in harmonisation and co-ordination

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Content

Current priorities for NRAs

- Spectrum for wireless broadband
- Spectrum clearance and upcoming spectrum awards

The longer term

- Getting the European regulatory framework right across all spectrum
- Tools available to NRAs
- Spectrum harmonisation and authorisation

Spectrum priorities in support of wireless broadband

- Spectrum clearance and awards programme
 - Especially 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz
 - Timely release of these bands across Europe is essential
 - European decisions (through Radio Spectrum Committee) play key role
 - UK welcomes the inclusion of deadlines in the RSPP
- Complex issues do however need to be resolved before this spectrum can be used
 - Completion of digital switchover throughout the UK
 - Clearance of DTT and PMSE from 790-862 MHz
 - Protection of DTT below 790 MHz
 - Risk of interference to Emergency Services, Short Range Devices
 - Radar mitigation at 2.7 GHz
 - International co-ordination

Spectrum awards in the UK

800 MHz and 2.6 GHz

- Ofcom expecting to publish consultation later this month, including:
 - Assessment of future competition in the mobile sector
 - Proposals for a combined award of 800 MHz and 2.6 GHz
 - Consideration of any need for coverage/roll-out or other obligations
- Auction itself expected to take place in first half of 2012
- Spectrum will start to become available from beginning 2013
 - Expect it to be available almost everywhere by end 2013

Other awards

- Ofcom also considering award of spectrum at 600 MHz and of geographic interleaved spectrum

More generally.....

Getting the European regulatory framework right

- A framework which incentivises efficient use of spectrum and promotes innovation and competition
 - Deliver flexibility (technology and service neutrality) and harmonisation where appropriate
 - Mechanisms to facilitate spectrum trading
 - Establish a functioning market for spectrum in Europe
- Understanding of future spectrum demand
 - Is more spectrum for mobile broadband required? If so where from?
 - Should we have a future Agenda Item on this issue at WRC – if we do, need to ensure Europe is well co-ordinated
- Promoting greater efficiency in public sector use of spectrum
 - Public sector spectrum holdings key to finding 500 MHz of spectrum identified by UK Government
 - A European spectrum inventory could be significant

What are the tools available to NRAs?

- Trading
 - Processes?
 - Leasing?
- Liberalisation
 - To what extent?
 - Licence exemption
- Auctions
 - Design?
 - Broader social value?
 - Public-sector participation?
- Pricing
 - Promotes efficient use of spectrum
 - Necessary if all the above?
 - How to calculate?
 - Public sector spectrum
- Security of tenure
 - Tension with flexibility?
 - Benefits of harmonisation
- Information
 - Inventory?
 - Confidentiality?

Spectrum harmonisation and the authorisation framework

- European harmonisation can deliver significant benefits for industry and consumers
 - Economies of scale, interoperability, greater regulatory certainty, more efficient use of spectrum
- But harmonisation of the wrong kind can lead to inefficient use of spectrum
- Harmonisation should be:
 - Justified
 - Sufficiently flexible (technology and service neutrality)
 - Focused on the technical conditions under which spectrum is made available
- Member States generally best placed to determine the non-technical conditions that should be attached to spectrum to meet national needs
 - Mobile Satellite Systems at 2 GHz has been an exception but remains to be seen how successful this will be