



Call for Expressions of Interest in the following Bands

10.7 – 12.7 GHz

14.0 – 14.5 GHz

17.8 – 18.55 and 18.8 -19.3 GHz

27.5 – 29.1 and 29.5 – 30.0 GHz

Publication Date: 9th January 2021

Closing Date for Responses: 22nd January 2021

Document Reference: 01/21

1. Background

- 1.1. The Communications and Utility Regulatory Authority (*the Authority*) has been made aware of potential demand for services in the following frequency ranges (collectively the Available Spectrum):

10.7 – 12.7 GHz

14.0 – 14.5 GHz

17.8 – 18.55 and 18.8 -19.3 GHz

27.5 – 29.1 and 29.5 – 30.0 GHz

- 1.2. There are currently no licensees operating in these frequency ranges, the Available Spectrum has never been licensed for use in the Isle of Man.
- 1.3. The Authority is currently minded to award access to the Available Spectrum for use by Satellite services. Further details are available in Section 2 below. It is important to note that the Available Spectrum is not available for use for terrestrial mobile or fixed services at this time.
- 1.4. This document is intended to outline the Authority's preliminary views for use of the Available Spectrum, gauge the level of demand in the market, and set out criteria for the award of the spectrum. Should there be excess demand the Authority will put in place a suitable award process to determine access to the spectrum, however this is beyond the scope of this document.

2. Award Criteria

- 2.1. As this Spectrum is currently unutilised the Authority is of the preliminary view that, in the interest of encouraging the development of new services and facilitating a potential new entrant access, this spectrum should be made available.
- 2.2. This is further offset by the fact there are other Spectrum Bands which are currently unutilised and could be available to offer services over if required.
- 2.3. The Authority notes that appropriate fees will be associated with access to the Available Spectrum, however it is not clear how this will be determined until the demand for the spectrum has been ascertained. Should there be excess demand the access fees would ultimately be determined by a competitive award process, such as an auction. Should there be sufficient spectrum to meet demand it is likely that fees would be set using an appropriate benchmarking exercise, Telecommunications Act licence fee, or similar process.
- 2.4. The Authority is minded to award access to the Available Spectrum on a service and technology neutral basis. Any services to be deployed in the band must be compatible with

existing services, this would be dealt with further through the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 licence conditions, which licence is issued by Ofcom¹.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1. Interested parties are invited to submit an Expression of Interest to the Authority before close of business on the 22nd January 2021. This should outline the intended use for the Available Spectrum and other relevant information. Please note that the Authority is under no obligation to accept all or any of the proposals received.
- 3.2. Expressions of Interest must be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of £1,000.
- 3.3. Any such fees paid will be taken into account when considering either the licence fees for a successful bidder or as part of the deposit required for participation in a competitive award process.
- 3.4. The Authority will assess any Expressions of Interest received and determine the suitable award mechanism and it will clarify the next steps in the process.
- 3.5. All Expressions of Interest should be addressed to:

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¹ The Ofcom if the UK regulator for telecommunications which manages spectrum usage in the Isle of Man in consultation with the Authority under the UK Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 (as extended to the Isle of Man).