

Releasing New Radio Spectrum Bands for Mobile Broadband in Europe

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Background

Over the last 3 years DIGITALEUROPE and its members have supported the development of the CEPT and EU deliverables that define the harmonised usage conditions and characteristics of new spectrum bands for Mobile Broadband (MBB). New ideas and approaches to how new spectrum might be identified have been developed. These deliverables, including ECC Decisions, are now published and available to administrations to provide the basis for awarding spectrum rights to MBB service providers across the European region.

Besides the 700 MHz band, new frequency bands such as the 1.5 GHz (1452-1492MHz) and 2.3 GHz (2300-2400MHz) are already identified in the Radio Spectrum Policy Group's Opinion on *Strategic Challenges Facing Europe in Addressing the Growing Spectrum Demand for Wireless Broadband* as vital resources in the near term to help satisfy the EC Digital Agenda objectives and increase the availability of high speed MBB services to European consumers and businesses.

The bands 3400-3600MHz and 3600-3800MHz are recognised as available for MBB in the EC Spectrum Inventory report but remain licensed to (mainly) regional BWA network operators. Only limited action has been carried out to identify a roadmap to make these bands available for MBB.

DIGITALEUROPE's objective is to encourage driving forward the national processes of Member States for awarding these bands in a timely manner, enabling new system deployments that can drive higher MBB speed, network capacity and innovative services. In this respect, DIGITALEUROPE welcomes EC President Jean-Claude Juncker's priority to "break down national silos [...] in the management of radio waves."

Benefits for citizens, industry and Europe as a whole

It is widely recognised that a vibrant and responsive broadband infrastructure is a key prerequisite for a successful economy. The wireless broadband frequency band resources in question will improve capacity in MBB networks and in particular increase downlink bandwidth with Supplemental Downlink (SDL) and enable small cell deployments with high bandwidth.

For industry and consumers this will:

- Improve the responsiveness to data service requests from consumers on the move.
- Enable more advanced services to attract new customers.
- Nurture a vibrant European app development eco-system.
- Facilitate the sharing of more refined and data intensive services between businesses and consumers.
- Enable the offer and consumption of more content-rich services whilst on the move.
- Increase reliability and resilience (connection availability) through improved coverage.

From a governmental perspective this will:

- Place Europe at the forefront of MBB capability.
- Ensure the success of the digital agenda objectives and the various national initiatives.
- Maintain momentum behind the "digitization" of the economic recovery.

Our Recommendations

DIGITALEUROPE invites the Radio Spectrum Committee (RSC) and the EU Member States to set out a clear timetable for the release and award of the 1.5GHz and 2.3GHz bands for MBB applications across Europe. New tools such as Licensed Shared Access in the 2.3 GHz Band have been developed to increase the opportunity for spectrum access where incumbent national use might otherwise block the band. When necessary, DIGITALEUROPE would like to see these tools brought into use at the earliest opportunity in order to achieve the objectives that have driven their development.

DIGITALEUROPE also invites the RSPG and BEREC to undertake a European wide study on how to de-fragment and re-purpose the 3400-3600MHz band currently assigned in many countries for Broadband Wireless Access and invites EU Member States to plan for the use of 3600-3800 MHz for MBB service. Recently, the regulatory framework has been re-shaped to better accommodate mobile services in 3400-3600 MHz and 3600-3800 MHz but there is no clear strategic direction that might lead to an improved harmonised usage framework across Europe.

Further information

- DIGITALEUROPE [Position](#) on the 700 MHz Band
- DIGITALEUROPE [call](#) for harmonization of 1.5 GHz and 2.3 GHz Band
- DIGITALEUROPE [Response](#) to the RSPG Opinion on Strategic Challenges facing Europe in addressing the Growing Spectrum Demand for Wireless Broadband
- DIGITALEUROPE [Response](#) to draft RSPG Opinion on Licensed Shared Access (LSA)
- DIGITALEUROPE [Position](#) on Licensed Shared Access (LSA): Common Understanding, Status and Next Steps

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For more information please contact:

Marc Soignet, DIGITALEUROPE's Policy Manager

+32 2 609 53 37 or marc.soignet@digitaleurope.org

ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies.

DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies. DIGITALEUROPE's members include 58 corporate members and 36 national trade associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>

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