



Information & Communications Technology Authority

Public Consultation

on

Policy for the Allocation of Spectrum

(Ref: CD 2007-1)

Launch Date: 27th April 2007 Closing Date: 25th May 2007

Legislative Framework

1. The Authority's responsibility for the management of the electromagnetic spectrum in the Cayman Islands stems from section 9 of the Information and Communications Technology Authority Law (2006 Revision) ("the Law") which states:

"9. (1) Subject to this Law, the Authority has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions under this Law.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the Authority shall -

- (a) allocate the electromagnetic spectrum for facilities and specified services within the Islands, or between the Islands and elsewhere;
 - (b) determine methods for assigning the electromagnetic spectrum;
 - (c) issue licences authorising the use of specified portions of the electromagnetic spectrum, including those used on any ship, aircraft, vessel or other floating or airborne contrivance or spacecraft registered in the Islands; and
 - (d) institute procedures for ensuring the compliance by licensees with any obligations regarding the use of the electromagnetic spectrum, imposed by or under the licence, this Law or any regulations made hereunder."
2. Matters relating to interference and equipment standardisation are prescribed in the Information and Communication Technology Authority (Interference and Equipment Standardisation) Regulations, 2004.
 3. The United Kingdom is a signatory to the ITU Telecommunications Convention, which gives international treaty status to the associated International Radio Regulations. These obligations have been extended to the Cayman Islands.

Current Allocation Policy

4. The Authority currently allocates spectrum in the manner indicated in Table 1 below.

a.	Class Licence (Shared)	Short-range, low power approved devices (e.g. cordless telephone handsets, electronic car locks)
b.	Class Licence (Shared)	Approved devices operating in the 2.4 and 5.2 GHz bands (See also Note 1 below)

c.	Individual Licences (Shared)	Shared frequencies in accordance with International Radio Regulations: 1. Aeronautical Radio Stations 2. Maritime Radio Stations 3. Amateur Radio 4. Land Mobile Radio
d.	Exclusive Allocation	1. FM Broadcasting Stations (87 to 108 MHz) 2. Public Service Television (548 to 572 MHz) 3. Mobile Telephony (800, 900, 1800 and 1900 MHz bands) 4. Government Public Service and Public Safety Systems (Various)
e.	Non-Exclusive (Shared) Allocation	All spectrum not included in (a) to (d) above

Note 1: It should be noted that in the Cayman Islands the 5.8 GHz band falls under Category (e) Non-exclusive. This is different from the position in the USA.

Table 1: Spectrum Allocation Methods

5. When allocating spectrum, the Authority attempts to balance the following, sometimes competing, requirements:
 - Encouraging the provision of quality and innovative ICT services to consumers;
 - Satisfying Licensees' spectrum requirements;
 - Ensuring the effective and efficient use of spectrum, a scarce national resource; and
 - Promoting sustainable competition in the ICT sector.
6. Of these requirements, ensuring the effective and efficient use of spectrum has been considered the most important. Accordingly, wherever possible, spectrum has been allocated on a non-exclusive basis. This maximises spectrum efficiency by allowing, for example, one Licensee to operate a point-to-point back-haul system in one part of the country, with another

Licensee operating a similar system at the same frequency at another location. A second example is the deployment of a "canopy" system that is designed to detect and operate on unused frequencies. Licensees have been encouraged to adopt a "good neighbour" policy, making each other aware of where each intends to operate within a particular spectrum band, and ensuring that interference does not occur. The Authority also consults with existing users of a particular spectrum band before authorising an additional user.

Reason For, and Scope of, Public Consultation

7. A Licensee has requested that spectrum, currently falling under category (e) of Table 1, be allocated on an exclusive basis. It believes that this approach will reduce interference and will allow quicker and easier identification of the source of any interference that remains. Although the Authority's initial view is that the perceived benefits are unlikely to be achieved, it would welcome input from the industry and other interested parties on spectrum management and allocation issues.
8. It should be noted that the policy for spectrum currently falling under items (c) and (d) of Table 1 will not be changed and these items are therefore excluded from this consultation.
9. In particular, the Authority would appreciate comment on the following questions:
 - a. Should the 5.8 GHz Band be covered by a Class Licence, making it available for use by anyone (subject to the normal interference and equipment standardization regulations)?
 - b. Should spectrum, currently allocated on a non-exclusive basis under (e) of Table 1, be allocated on an exclusive basis?
 - c. If so, should this apply only to selected bands or all bands?
 - d. Should the decision on whether to allocate spectrum on an exclusive or non-exclusive basis depend upon intended usage or technology rather than spectrum band?
 - e. If so, what type of usage or technology warrants an exclusive allocation?
 - f. Do you believe that the Authority should publish a "spectrum map"?
 - g. If so, what do you understand by the term "spectrum map"? Is it a list of uses to which spectrum band may be put, or is it a list of allocated and available spectrum? (It should be noted that details

of allocated spectrum is already available from an examination of Licences which are published on the Authority's web site.)

How to Make a Submission

10. The ICT Authority requests written submissions from established and potential licensees, other stakeholders and the general public by 25th May 2007.
11. Written submissions should be forwarded to:

By post:

The Managing Director
Information and Communications Technology Authority
P.O.Box 2502
Grand Cayman KY1-1104
Cayman Islands

Or by courier:

The Managing Director
Information and Communications Technology Authority
3rd Floor, Alissta Towers
North Sound Way
Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands

Or by e-mail to:

consultations@icta.ky

Or by fax to:

1-345-945-8284