



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

The Award of National Block Point-to-Point and Point-to-Multipoint Assignments in the 26 GHz band.

Summary Information

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1 Introduction

Fixed Access technology in the microwave bands continues to advance and play an important role in the provision of backhaul and access links. Several manufacturers have developed suitable products and a number of telecommunication service providers have made known their intentions to implement new local distribution networks and to expand existing networks.

The Commission for Communications Regulation has launched a licensing process for the award of national block assignments in the 26 GHz band with the following general rights and obligations:

- Each block comprises of 2 x 28 MHz of spectrum in the 26 GHz band.
- These licences will be for the provision of point-to-point (P2P) and point-to-multipoint (PMP) fixed links only.
- A reserve price of €1,000,000 will be placed on each of the licences on offer.
- In addition each licence will be subject to an annual Wireless Telegraphy fee of €71,000 from the first renewal date.
- The licences will be awarded via an auction in which applicants make bids in excess of the reserve price.
- If demand exceeds supply for the total number of blocks on offer, the applicant who has bid the highest amount for each block will be assigned those blocks, up to a maximum of 6 blocks, followed by the second highest bid and so on until all of the available blocks have been assigned.
- Any one applicant cannot bid for more than six blocks.
- Successful applicants will have to pay a project fee to cover the cost of conducting the licensing process.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 14.00 p.m. on 5 October 2006.

2 Spectrum allocation

In the Response to Consultation document 05/84 ComReg stated that it will not designate specific blocks for particular technologies or applications (e.g. P2P or PMP). However following an extensive review of sharing studies undertaken in CEPT and other technical literature ComReg has decided that this would result in a requirement for large guard bands to prevent interference between different access techniques and network topologies, which would be spectrally inefficient. Therefore the band will be divided up as follows; the P2P blocks will be in the upper part of the band and the PMP blocks in the lower part of the band with a 2x28 MHz guard band between them as illustrated in figure 1 below. The position of the guard band will depend on the demand for each of the block types. The spectrum is for Frequency Division Duplex (FDD) systems only and therefore Time Division Duplex (TDD) systems cannot be deployed.

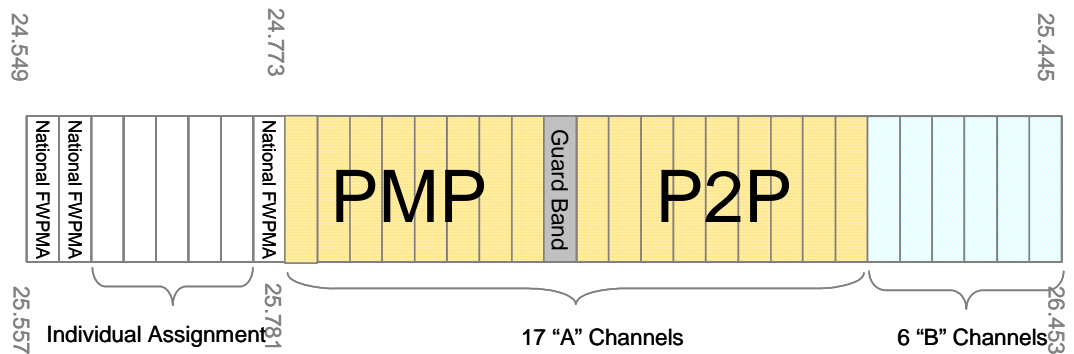


Figure 1: 26 GHz band plan

3 Fees

3.1.1 Reserve Price

A reserve price of €1,000,000 has been placed on each of the 2 x 28 MHz 'A' blocks of spectrum. This reserve price will be payable for any licence in the event that supply exceeds demand and must be paid prior to the licence being issued.

If demand exceeds supply for any of the blocks of spectrum then licences will be awarded via an auction. The price bid by the applicant must be in excess of the reserve price and be paid in full prior to the licence being issued.

3.1.2 Annual Fees

Each 2 x 28 MHz block of spectrum will be subject to an annual Wireless Telegraphy Fee of €71,000.

3.1.3 Deposit Amount

As part of the application, the applicant must pay a deposit in cleared funds of €100,000 per 2 x 28 MHz block of spectrum required. This payment is only acceptable in the form of a bank draft.

3.1.3.1 Refund of Deposit

The deposit will be refunded to an applicant where the applicant has not been awarded a licence and has not defaulted under the rules of the award process.

3.1.4 Project Fee

As part of the application, the applicant must pay a project fee in cleared funds of €25,000. This payment is only acceptable in the form of a bank draft. This fee covers the cost of conducting the licensing process and will only apply to successful applicants. Only one project fee per applicant is required and not per block.

3.1.4.1 Refund of Project Fee

The project fee will be refunded to an applicant where the applicant has not been awarded a licence and has not defaulted under the rules of the award process.

4 Timetable

In order to assist potential applicants in the preparation of applications and bids, the following table provides an indication of the intended timeframe. ComReg reserves the right to extend any dates subject to a notice period of 72 hours to all parties who have purchased the information memorandum.

Indicative timetable	
Deadline for questions to ComReg	8 Sept. 2006
<i>ComReg to provide final answers</i>	22 Sept. 2006
Application date	5 Oct. 2006
<i>Assessment of applications and notifications</i>	5 Oct – 19 Oct
Auction	25 October 2006
Licence offer and acceptance period	25 Oct – 29 Nov
Announce winners	30 November 2006

Table 1: Timetable of events.

5 Requests for the Information Memorandum 06/37b

Requests for the Information Memorandum should be accompanied by a non-refundable bank draft for €5,000 made payable to the Commission for Communications Regulation along with the Certificate of Registration in Annex A of this document to;

Commission for Communications Regulation,
Att. Ms Tara Kavanagh,
Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre
Lower Abbey Street,
Dublin 1,
Ireland

Email: 26ghzcompetition@comreg.ie
Phone: 00 353 1 804 9623

Participation in the application process is limited to those who have purchased the Information memorandum. Only parties who have purchased the Information Memorandum may submit written questions concerning the licensing procedure. All questions and answers will be made available by ComReg in writing to all parties. ComReg will not disclose the identity of the party posing a question, except where it may be legally obliged to do so.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Thursday 5 October 2006.

Annex A

Certificate of Registration

APPLICANT DETAILS

1. Name and address of Applicant:

Company name : _____

Contact Person : _____

PO Box (if any) : _____

Address : _____

: _____

: _____

Postal Code : _____

Telephone : _____

Fax : _____

E- Mail : _____

Submit form to:

Commission for Communications Regulation,
Att. Ms Tara Kavanagh,
Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre
Lower Abbey Street,
Dublin 1,
Ireland