



Sharing: *Why it is critical* *How to implement*

William Webb
Nov 2022



Highly likely that sharing will become the primary way of accessing additional spectrum

- Upper 6GHz – sharing with existing services and potentially between competing new services
- mmWave 5G auctions – sharing enables use by non-MNOs
- Useful new spectrum for mobile (below 24GHz) will need to be shared with incumbents
- Indoors – sharing with other indoors users
- Verticals – sharing with other verticals and more broadly
- Governmental users unlikely to give spectrum back so will want to share
- (More LEOs require more sharing)

Databases are always a better way to implement sharing

- Can refine rules over time
- Can use feedback to overcome excessive caution
- Provides important spectrum management information
- Facilitates varying levels of certainty/protection
- AI??

Can deliver the “perfect” sharing solution where the interference caused is just below the threshold at which it is problematic

One database fits all

- Common across all bands/solutions
 - Devices send a request to a known location
 - Database sends response based on **rules**
 - Links to existing regulatory systems the same for all bands
- Rules vary across bands
- Avoid sensing solutions – these are rarely efficient or economic

A simple cost-benefit analysis

- Implementation costs borne by regulator
 - Generic database - £1m-£5m
 - Specific instances - £1m
- Costs borne by users
 - £5/user for 1m-10m users = £5m-50m
- Spectrum is worth about 3-4% of GDP
 - In UK this is about £100bn
 - If sharing leads to a 1% improvement this is £1bn
- Almost all costs incurred as benefits are realised

Moving to a world of sharing

- It's simple - implement a generic database then develop specific instances
- Why is it proving so hard?
 - Stakeholders push back
 - Some barriers – integration to existing systems such as CRM
 - Regulators often risk-averse
 - ITU structure/nomenclature not set up for this form of sharing
 - CBRS seen as an exemplar rather than an outlier
 - Evidence of need cannot emerge until there is a good solution
- Way ahead
 - A pioneering regulator leads the way, or
 - Joint regulators' working group to specify common approach and solution across multiple countries and to the ITU