

SPECTRUM POLICY FORUM –STRATEGY FOR 2015/16

Introduction

This document outlines the long term strategic focus for the Spectrum Policy Forum along with specific priorities for 2015/16. A detailed 2015/16 work plan will be circulated and tabled for approval at the 1 July Steering Board meeting.

Purpose of the SPF: –

The purpose of the Spectrum Policy Forum is to be a pro-active industry-led 'sounding board' to UK Government and Ofcom on future policy and approaches on spectrum and a cross—industry 'agent' for promoting the role of spectrum in society and the maximisation of its economic and social value to the UK.

Our long term goals are to maximise the contribution of spectrum to UK ambitions on economic growth and societal improvements by

- highlighting the inherent (and sometimes hidden) contribution of spectrum to the economy – in particular its role in tackling the big challenges facing society in the next 10-15 years
- facilitating innovation in (access to and use of) spectrum
- updating the framework for socioeconomic valuation of spectrum
- opening up millimetre wave bands for greater commercial exploitation
- enabling greater access to public sector spectrum
- enabling more spectrum sharing (including licence-exempt bands) by bringing greater understanding of the scope, obstacles and incentives for sharing

During 2015/16 we will focus on:

1. providing a positive influence on the UK position within the EU and ITU:
 - issues likely to be discussed at WRC19 –
 - Spectrum above 6GHz including use for 5G mobile
 - potential additional 5GHz RLAN spectrum (shared with satellites)

- Proposals for changes to the European legislative framework in order to promote the Digital Single Market
2. engaging new Government ministers to ensure spectrum remains high on their agenda, and potential changes to the legislative framework are fit-for-purpose, by
- advocating the role of spectrum in addressing the big challenges facing society in the next 10-15 years– eg. economic growth, ageing population/ health, climate change, transport, security etc and pressing the case for a substantial initiative on what spectrum does for the country.
 - demonstrating the importance of spectrum in enabling business and the UK economy
 - inform future policy debates to enable: sustainable access to spectrum to maximise UK growth objectives; the identification of potential framework and conditions where spectrum sharing is feasible; and the facilitation of greater sharing where feasible in the UK
3. Progress long-term goals on spectrum
- increasing availability and innovation in spectrum
 - identify best opportunities and steps to open up millimetre wave bands (above 31 GHz) for greater commercial exploitation
 - enable greater commercial access to public sector spectrum, ensuring evolving defence and security needs are met
 - taking forward the current studies on the topics, develop consensus on enabling more spectrum sharing (including licence-exempt bands) by bringing greater understanding of the scope, obstacles and incentives for sharing
 - undertake a preliminary study on the impact of availability of high speed ubiquitous connectivity on user behaviour (with regard to multimedia content) and feed that back into potential strategies on the UHF band

Annex A

Purpose of the Spectrum Policy Forum – Plenary

The Plenary and individual Cluster Groups will be open to all users of spectrum with the aim of promoting mutual understanding and collaboration across a full range of spectrum interests. The purpose of the plenary and cluster groups is to:

- build a shared and factually based understanding of “over the horizon” spectrum opportunities and threats (typically beyond 2020 timescales)
- to work together to identify the key issues which need to be resolved, including policy initiative, implementation plans and future changes to UK or international regulations which will enable spectrum-users to make the most of the opportunities and to minimise the threats
- review and debate key deliverables and recommendations from the work of the three SPF Cluster Groups, including external studies

We will do this by:

- Discussing in plenary and cluster group meetings, and online forums
- Commissioning expert advice
- Engaging with Government to ensure Ministers have clear evidence to support action on issues identified by the SPF, and to inform Ministers on the implementation of the UK Spectrum Strategy
- Engaging with Government as they develop positions for WRC19 and subsequent WRCs
- Engaging with Ofcom to help inform their implementation of the Ofcom Spectrum Management Strategy within the UK Spectrum Strategy

Purpose of the Spectrum Policy Forum – Steering Board

Steering Board is composed primarily of volunteer sponsoring companies drawn from across the range of spectrum users, as well as senior Government and Ofcom representatives. The industrial sponsors also provide funding for the operation of the Forum to

- identify where expert advice is needed to inform priority issues then commission, fund and manage this end-to-end
- maintain a strategy on behalf of the wider Spectrum Policy Forum, and account for what is being achieved
- develop and deliver coherent messages to Government, Ofcom and key decision makers on priority issues
- develop the SPF work programme, addressing in context of known agendas of international bodies, to influence spectrum management decisions, working via Government and Ofcom and use