

Question 1) Do you agree with the proposal to liberalise the restrictions on the issuing of S-RSLs in all areas where a new commercial service is advertised, or where a new commercial or community service is due to be, or has recently been, launched? If you do not agree with this proposal, please set out your preferred alternative explaining why you believe it would be a more appropriate option.

- *Radica agrees with these proposals*

Question 2) What is the most appropriate way for Ofcom to decide between competing short-term RSL applications for broadcasts to cover the same event in the same area at the same time?

- *Radica has no strong view on this, but we suggest that any method adopted should be both robust and fair. The current method of drawing names out of a hat meets both criteria, and the idea of holding these draws in public is good one.*

Question 3) Do you have any comments on other areas of S-RSL policy, as set out in the 'Notes for Applicants', that you would like to bring to our attention?

- *No*

Question 4) Do you agree with the proposal to allow commercial establishments to apply for L-RSL licences?

- *Radica agrees that commercial establishments should be allowed to apply for L-RSL licences*
- *Section 3.33 of the consultation document states that Ofcom has had contact from commercial organisations such as marinas, theme parks and shopping centres. It could be argued that these organisations would wish to communicate to visitors who are en route, rather than on site, to advise of local traffic conditions, areas of available parking, the correct entrance gates, and to make them aware of park and ride schemes etc.*
- *Consequently, Radica would argue that the majority of commercial organisations that would express an interest in L-RSLs would have little or no reason to transmit to the public whilst they were actually within their contiguous site. For example, it is unlikely that someone will carry an AM radio around with them whilst shopping in a large shopping centre. Listeners would, however, benefit from up to date information on traffic and parking conditions whilst traveling to the venue.*
- *Radica suggests that acknowledgement of the overspill coverage, up to the 66dBuV/m coverage contour limit should be permitted (maybe on a case by case basis where it could be justified)*
- *Radica believes that there would be little take up of commercial L-RSLs if this were not allowed. This overspill already exists in current L-RSLs. Perhaps only allowing traffic and travel information to be acknowledged off site might be a suitable way forward. This will help maintain the necessary distinction between L-RSLs and commercial or community radio services*

Question 5) Do you agree with the proposal to offer L-RSLs for shorter periods of one year or more, up to a five-year maximum?



- *Radica believes that a licence for 5 years is proportional to the financial commitment required to set the station up. However, if sufficient demand is present then Ofcom should respond in a positive fashion to it*

Question 6) Do you have any comments on other areas of L-RSL policy, as set out in the 'Notes of Guidance for Applicants', that you would like to bring to our attention?

- *Radica does not have any further comments on other areas of L-RSL policy as set out in the 'Notes of Guidance for Applicants'.*

Question 7) Do you agree that we should license 'ADS-RSLs' once the ADS trial ends on 31 August 2006?

- *Yes Radica agrees that Ofcom should license ADS-RSLs once the trial ends on 31 August 2006.*
- *Suggest suitable time frame or moratorium on existing users (ie the early adopters of the trial) to change equipment should the range of frequencies change. Otherwise, it could be argued that such early adopters are being unfairly financially penalised.*

Question 8) Do you agree with the technical characteristics of the licence? If not, what alternative proposals do you have in mind?

- *Radica agrees with the main technical characteristics of the licence. However we would like to make the following observations:*
- *Under the trial, the licenses are priced per 12.5kHz of bandwidth used. Generally, for a mono, speech based output of broadcast quality, we have found that 50kHz is the minimum acceptable required bandwidth. We suggest therefore that 50kHz rather than 12½ kHz be the base multiple employed when calculating bandwidth costs.*
- *Currently, no figures for spectral occupancy have been published by either Ofcom or JFMG. Consequently, we have had to come to our own conclusion as to what deviation constitutes a reasonable occupancy of the purchased bandwidth.*
- *It is in our experience that much of the equipment used for ADS transmission is modified band 1 link equipment. The only modification is to the frequency agility. Quite often, equipment arrives from the manufacturer set to the correct frequency but set to +/- 75kHz deviation, and as these transmitters are essentially link transmitters, some arrive with the stereo pilot present. These factors are normally rectified during pre-installation tests, but it is feared that not all ADS users are aware of the relationship between deviation, occupied bandwidth and licence cost – we therefore fear that some systems may be accidentally operating outside the terms of the licence. This we believe is a function of the absence of clear specifications and spectral occupancy limits during the trial, and a general misunderstanding or ignorance of the relationship between deviation, spectral occupancy and licence cost.*
- *0.5 to 1W is considered sufficient power to cater for most applications we have come across during the trial period. There have been occasions where more power might have extended the coverage on some larger sites, most notably at horse trial events where the extent of the course and distribution of*

spectators is extensive and extends beyond the normal scope of a conventional stadium, but where there is still a demand for such a service. We therefore suggest that applications for increased power be considered on a case by case basis. Historically, we have found that a client's application for more power was not suitable and in some cases it was justified to cover the area required.



Question 9) Do you agree with our conclusions on the potential interference issues concerning shared programme-making use of the spectrum? If you disagree, please give reasons.

- Essentially, Radica agrees that ADS users should not cause interference to PMSE users who hold a licence to operate in the band and that ADS users should not receive any protection from received interference from such users.
- However, this does raise the question that if no protection is offered to ADS users, then the class of licence should be considered sub-standard to a conventional PMSE licence within the 60MHz band. Radica strongly believes that this distinction should be recognised and reflected in the price of the ADS licence. It could be argued therefore, that an element of protection from interference is included within the price of a conventional PMSE licence, and that licences that offer no protection from interference should be proportionally cheaper.
- Potential interference issues will most likely manifest themselves in the ADS receivers and are less likely to adversely affect the PMSE licensee. Radica believes that this fact should be communicated clearly to the potential ADS end user and licensee.

Question 10) Do the current arrangements ensure that programme-making use of the 60.75 to 62.75 band at "known" events is adequately safeguarded?

- Radica believes that the current arrangements are sufficient. Certainly any more stringent arrangements might lead to accusations of being unfairly biased towards PMSE users of this band (currently the BBC).

Question 11) If circumstances permit, should 'ADS-RSLs' be available for longer than five days, and if so what is/are the appropriate licence duration(s)?

- Radica would argue that there might be events in the future that last longer than 5 days where ADS would be of considerable advantage to the end user. Events such as the Olympic Games, future athletic tournaments, football tournaments and other prolonged sporting events will last longer than 5 days. Therefore Radica suggests that Ofcom should not close the door to offering extensions to the 5 day rule but rather considers each application on merit

Question 12) If circumstances permit, should the link between an "event" and an 'ADS-RSL' be removed to permit general "site" based licences?

- In principle, Radica agrees with this idea.
- From our experience, the users who would benefit from a site licence are football stadia who have regular events at their stadium. Often, games are re-scheduled at short notice, and applying for licences on a per 'event' basis

might well fall within the minimum time required for processing applications. Generally, in our experience, other PMSE usage of the 60MHz spectrum is not prevalent at football matches, or indeed within stadia generally, where UHF frequencies are preferred for radio mics and sound links.



Question 13) Do you agree that the availability of 'ADS-RSL' licences should be extended to 'non broadcast' frequency bands other than 60.75 to 62.75 MHz?

- *Radica can't see any immediate benefit to the end user, the sporting bodies, or other users of the spectrum for doing so. Although, it might be beneficial to have a larger bandwidth of spectrum within which to accommodate requests for usage from both potential ADS and PMSE users.*

Question 14) Do you have any comments regarding the costs and administration of 'ADS-RSLs'?

- *See response to Question 9*
- *Radica believes that all prices must be justified and should be set in proportion to what the end user actually gets for their money. It is unreasonable to charge more than the PMSE rate card for spectrum where the protected rights are diminished with respect to incoming interference.*

Question 15) Do you foresee interest in accessing up to 8MHz of frequencies in the 55 to 68 MHz band that are presently almost unused, and if so for what types of service and/or technology? Do you have any views on how Ofcom might release this spectrum to the market for use?

- *Radica does foresee interest in accessing frequencies in the 55-68MHz band using similar technology and for similar events catered for during the trial period*
- *The trial period has seen a variety of events and applications requesting the use of the band and Radica sees that trend of market development continuing.*
- *In this case, Radica does not think that spectrum trading or allocation by auction will be beneficial to either the regulator or the end user. The number of licenses will be relatively small, and the number of competing parties for licenses at events will also not be significant enough to warrant a pricing structure based upon demand. Radica's responses to Question 9 that touch on a fair price for what is effectively unprotected use of the spectrum are also relevant here.*
- *Radica believes that a normal pricing structure based upon bandwidth used should be adopted*