

Minutes of ninth meeting of the 450-470MHz band re-alignment project Industry Working Group held on Thursday 14th June 2001 at Wyndham House.

Those Present:

Stephen Limb	RA (Chairman)
Alexandra Hagger	RA (Secretary)
Derek Banner	Wireless Messaging Assoc.
Alan Hudson	FCS Consultant
Anton Matthews	FCS Consultant
Glenn Everett	DTI (Statistician)
Keith Jones	Transco
Derek Baker	Multitone
Mike Thilo	Radio Systems Ltd
David Tripp	CSS
Dave Clark	Home Office
Simon McCutcheon	Home Office
Jon Bentall	Transcomm UK
Tim Cull	Motorola
David Priestley	JRC
Michael Hodson	RA (Economist)

Apologies:

Richard Greenleaf	JFMG
Adrian Noad	Transcomm UK
Gerald David	FCS

Minutes

The minutes of the eighth meeting were agreed (other than one amendment, Keith Jones is not on long term leave due to illness!)

Actions/Matters arising from eighth meeting

OSCA not WMA will provide information on on site and wide area paging.

Action: Derek Banner – Ongoing

The paper explaining the transition stages with constraints is still being developed.

Action: Steve Limb – Ongoing

JFMG requested knowledge of services immediately below 450MHz.

Action: Steve Limb – Ongoing

At the eighth meeting it was identified that a database containing all usage in the band was needed.

Action: Steve Limb – this will be done in order to obtain the names and addresses of who the proposed survey will need to be sent to.

Survey Progress

Glenn Everett explained that the compliance plan had been globally approved, however this was before the election. Glenn will find out from the new Minister, Brian Wilson, if this is still acceptable within the next few days. The RA will need to send a separate submission to the minister as this was stated in the compliance plan as something RA would do in order to give more details on the survey. This is because it is to be sent to a large number of people. It was decided that the aim is to have the survey sent out at the end of August 2001 and allow four weeks for surveys to be returned (end September 2001). A further reminder letter would be sent out at the end of September allowing an extra two weeks for any further responses, resulting in all surveys being returned by mid October 2001. Glenn Everett estimates the analysis and the report on analysis would be complete by the end of 2001.

**Action: Glenn Everett – to confirm compliance plan is agreed
Steve Limb/Alex Hagger – to organise design, print and mailing
Of the survey.**

Additional Questions for the Survey

It was discussed and decided that it would not be a good idea to add the proposed additional questions to the survey. The questions were proposed by the RA Economist. It was felt that licensees would not want to answer most of them as the answers would be very time consuming to find out, especially the detailed financial one. It would also make analysis difficult. Adding new questions at this stage would also delay it being sent out and it was decided that the information the survey would provide in its current form was needed urgently. It was still felt that the information the answers to these additional questions would provide was needed. The answers to the financial question would supply a good argument to put to the treasury to try and obtain funding for industry. A few ideas were raised for getting these questions answered without adding them to the survey. They were

- Get together focus groups
- A sample survey randomly chosen
- A sample survey to the first 100 replies in each category

It was not decided how to take these forward, but was agreed that it was essential to do in order to obtain economic and timescale information. All agreed the survey should go ahead as it is.

Action: Steve Limb, Glenn Everett, Michael Hodson – decide the best way forward and then consult group.

Comments on Draft Band Plan

At the eighth meeting it was agreed that members would provide comments on the proposed band plan by the ninth meeting. One written response has been received in confidence by the RA from Siemens Datatrak. Transcomm will be having confidential meetings with RA and should hopefully have comments by the tenth meeting, they reserved their position at the eighth meeting on behalf of the public mobile data operators. RA and the Home Office are currently having discussions regarding the plan and will keep the

group informed. Most of the group felt the plan is fine however timescales need to be known before further comments can be given.

Simon McCutcheon and Dave Clark showed the group an Excel presentation showing channels and users in the band (in England and Wales only) and when they would be migrating to BT Airwave over the next 4 years. It was made very clear that this was just a snapshot of the how it looks today and it was very possible that this could change. It was explained that not everybody in the 2 x 3MHz blocks would be moving. The Home Office together with the RA are looking at who will be left there in 2005 and possibilities of where they could move to. It was raised that this same information would be needed for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Action: Steve Limb – to arrange for Scottish contact to attend next group meeting.

Several other comments/questions were raised whilst commenting on the band plan:

- Even if the last user in the 2 x 3MHz band leaves in 2004 will they give up their old spectrum immediately?
- The prison service is not planning on leaving at the moment, will they go?
- Industry will want at least 6MHz of spectrum to be free in order to make re-alignment a good idea.

Derek Banner, Derek Baker, Steve Limb, Dave Clark and Simon McCutcheon have decided to meet on the 19th July 2001 to discuss further the first proposed move on the band plan, which is the move of paging. Steve Limb has said he can find out specific channels to which they will move if re-alignment goes ahead using the current plan.

Action: Derek Banner and Derek Baker – will find out the cost and timescales for their customers to move, assuming they will be given 6 months notice.

Any Other Business

The question was raised as to when Microsoft Project would start to be used and it was also stated that there is bad 'backward compatibility' between 2000 and 1998 versions. Steve Limb is waiting for training and he will see what he can do about getting the 2000 version.

Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 13th September 2001. Location to be confirmed.