



More spectrum for satellite connectivity

Extending access in the Ku band (14.25 -14.5 GHz)

BT's response to the consultation published on 21 June 2022

Issue: v1.0

Date: 31 August 2022

1 Introduction

We welcome Ofcom's consultation¹ on its proposals to extend satellite system access to the 14.25 - 14.5 GHz band in the UK. The consultation is timely given the declining use of fixed links in this band in the UK and the increasing demand from satellite systems which can already access the band in many other European countries.

We provide our detailed comments and observations in response to the consultation questions below.

2 Response to consultation questions

Question 1: Have you identified an alternative use for the 14.25-14.5 GHz band which could lead to greater benefits for consumers and citizens than our proposal to extend satellite ESN authorisations? Please provide evidence to support your comments.

No, we have not identified any alternative use of the 14.25 – 14.5GHz band. We consider that opening the 14.25 – 14.5 GHz for satellite Earth station network authorisations is important to secure optimal use of this spectrum band given evidence of demand for satellite access to the band as outlined in the consultation document.

Question 2: Do you agree with our proposal to extend access in the 14.25-14.5 GHz band for satellite connectivity, for future broadband, air, sea, energy and transport uses? Please provide evidence to support your comments.

Yes, we agree with the proposal to extend access to the 14.25 – 14.5 GHz band for satellite connectivity, and to support the wide range of applications as proposed.

Question 3: Do you agree with our proposed protection requirements for a) radio astronomy users of 14.47-14.5 GHz; b) remaining fixed link users (at specified frequencies and locations) and c) Crown users?

Yes, we agree with or have no comments on the various proposed protection requirements for the existing services operating in the band.

Question 4: Do you agree with our proposed authorisation approach and draft licence conditions for a) ESN licences, and b) other licensees wishing to take advantage of enhanced satellite connectivity (i.e. aircraft, ships, unmanned aircraft systems).

Yes, we agree or have no comments on the proposed authorisation approach and the various draft licence conditions.

Question 5: Do you have any other comments on our proposals?

We have no other comments.

¹ More spectrum for satellite connectivity – Extending access in the Ku band (14.25 – 14.5 GHz) - https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/239061/consultation-extending-access-in-ku-band.pdf

