

Your response

Question	Your response
<p>Question 1: Have we correctly identified the key changes in the utilities sector that could lead to additional spectrum requirements?</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>We agree with OFCOM UK in their analysis. There might be different needs, which are a mix of connection by wire, by public networks and by private networks such as DECT NR+ (member of the IMT-2020 family; ETSI standard DECT-2020 NR)</p> <p>DECT Forum members have identified the utility sector as one key market for DECT NR+.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>DECT Forum has provided more detailed information about DECT NR+ in responses to the recent Ofcom consultations regarding Spectrum Roadmap and Shared Access License.</p>
<p>Question 2: What alternative communication solutions might play a role in meeting the future operational communication needs of the utilities sector, alongside or instead of additional spectrum for a private network?</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>Many applications in the utility sector are mission critical, which favours private networks (NPN or Non-Public-Networks). Furthermore, such NPNs are much more flexible in their configuration adapting to the needs of the application.</p> <p>The typical setup of a NPN is with one base station and many nodes and sensors.</p> <p>DECT Forum members are also developing mesh networks, i.e., the individual sensors and nodes do connect to each other covering the required area without high power base stations (and their high interference potential).</p>

<p>Question 3: Are there any other spectrum bands we should consider for use by utilities?</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>The European harmonised band for DECT is 1880-1900 MHz. We kindly ask to expand this band with 1900-1920 MHz.</p>
	<p>Equipment can be made available on a short term as this band is already used in various regions in the world.</p> <p>DECT Forum is very active in the CEPT project team FM60, which is discussing a harmonised European approach for the band 3.8 – 4.2 GHz.</p> <p>DECT Forum’s aim is for many DECT NR+ systems to be deployed in this band in the future and for a variety of professional vertical applications.</p>
<p>Question 4: Do you have any comments on the three bandwidths we have considered that might be necessary to support a private network for utilities? Please reference our capacity analysis in annex 7 where relevant.</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>DECT technology is using different bandwidths supporting interworking with legacy DECT system but allowing the ability to match to the local network requirements.</p>
<p>Question 5: Do you have any comments on our approach to examining each potential candidate spectrum band, including the factors relevant to assessing suitability, and the capacity and coverage analysis provided in annexes 7 and 8?</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>We agree with Ofcom’s approach.</p>
<p>Question 6: Do you have any comments on our overview of the 400 MHz band in NI? Please consider the specific factors we have discussed in your response.</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>We agree with Ofcom’s approach.</p>
<p>Question 7: Do you have any comments on our overview of the 450 MHz band in GB and NI? Please consider the specific factors we have discussed (including the coexistence analysis in annex 9) in your response.</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>We agree with Ofcom’s approach.</p>

<p>Question 8: Do you consider that changes in the spectrum environment for the 450 MHz band mean that there is a case for re-examining whether this band should be reconfigured in the UK to align with the harmonised band plan?</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>Do we have an opinion on this topic?</p>
<p>Question 9: Do you have any comments on our overview of the 700 MHz band in GB and NI? Please consider the specific factors we have discussed in your response.</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>We have no comments on this.</p>
<p>Question 10: Do you have any comments on our overview of the 800/900 MHz band in NI? Please consider the specific factors we have discussed in your response.</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>We have no comments on this.</p>
<p>Question 11: Do you have any comments on our overview of the 1900 MHz band in GB and NI? Please consider the specific factors we have discussed in your response.</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>The European harmonised band for DECT is 1880-1900 MHz. We kindly ask to expand this band with 1900-1920 MHz.</p> <p>Equipment can be made quickly available, as this band is used already in some regions in the world.</p> <p>The CEPT project team FM59 has developed a sharing study for that band noting that DECT technology is less disturbing than e.g. LTE technology towards adjacent band applications as well as to in-band (FRMCS 1900-1910 MHz)</p>
<p>Question 12: Which band(s) do you consider we should examine further with a view to developing consultation proposals to enable their use in a private network, if this were needed? Please reference the factors we have considered where appropriate and provide separate answers for GB and NI if relevant.</p>	<p>Confidential? – Y/ N</p> <p>Expansion of the DECT band 1880-1900 MHz to 1880-1920 MHz could be decided on very quickly.</p> <p>Other bands might need further analysis</p>

Please complete this form in full and return to utilitiesnetwork@ofcom.org.uk.