



Extending spectrum transfer to the maritime and satellite earth station sectors

About Arqiva

Arqiva is a telecoms and media infrastructure and technology company operating at the heart of the broadcast and mobile communications industry and at the forefront of network solutions and services in an increasingly digital world. Arqiva provides much of the infrastructure behind television, radio and wireless communications in the UK and has a growing presence in Ireland, mainland Europe and the USA.

The company supports cellular, wireless broadband, video, voice and data solutions for the mobile phone, public safety, public sector, public space and transport markets.

Arqiva operates around 9000 shared radio sites throughout the UK and Ireland including masts, towers and rooftops from under 30 to over 300 metres tall as well as nine international satellite teleports.

Arqiva's major customers include the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Five, BSkyB, Classic FM, the four UK mobile operators, Metropolitan Police, Airwave and the RNLI.

Arqiva is owned by a consortium of long-term investors and has its headquarters in Hampshire, with other major UK offices in Warwick, London, Buckinghamshire and Yorkshire.

Consultation response

Arqiva operates a number of Satellite Earth Stations so this response is focussed on question 2 in the consultation:

Do you agree with our proposal to make earth station licences in the satellite area transferable and the proposed limitations on the types of transfer to be allowed?

In general Arqiva welcomes any moves to liberalise spectrum and so we welcome Ofcom's decision to allow outright, concurrent and partial trades of satellite earth station licences.

Given the nature of these services we do not believe that there will be a significant volume of trading of these licences. However, we appreciate that, as noted in the consultation, giving operators the right, but not the obligation, to trade licences will remove unnecessary regulatory uncertainty.

It is important however that this right is not used as a reason to change the existing processes that are in place to approve uplink licences. We believe that for the most part the current process for approving uplink licences is effective, in particular the process for co-ordinating with other users to ensure that services do not interfere with each other. We would not want anything arising from this process to affect that.