

About Arqiva

Arqiva has its headquarters in Hampshire, with other major UK offices in Warwick, London, Buckinghamshire and Yorkshire. It has 9 international satellite teleports, over 70 other manned locations, and around 9,000 shared radio sites throughout the UK and Ireland including masts, towers and rooftops from under 30 to over 300 metres tall.

The company is owned by a consortium of long-term investors led by the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) and has three operating divisions: Broadcast & Media, Government, Mobile & Enterprise and Digital Platforms.

Arqiva is technology and service-neutral and operates at the heart of the broadcast and mobile communications industry. We are at the forefront of network solutions and services in an increasingly digital world. The company 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.

Arqiva is a founder member of Freeview (Arqiva transmits all 6 Freeview multiplexes and is the licensed operator of 2 of them) and was a key launch technology partner for Freesat. Arqiva is also the licensed operator of the Digital One national commercial DAB multiplex.

Alongside the BBC, Arqiva's Spectrum Planning Group has played a critical role in planning Digital Switch Over (DSO).

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

Major customers include the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5, BSkyB, Classic FM, the five UK mobile operators, UKTV, Viacom, Turner Broadcasting, Metropolitan Police and RNLI.

Arqiva response to consultation questions

Question 1: Do you agree that Ofcom should not seek a supplementary technical plan in respect of Multiplexes C and D prior to considering whether or not to renew the BA Licences?

Response:

Arqiva agrees that Ofcom should not seek a supplementary technical plan in respect of Multiplexes C and D prior to considering whether or not to renew the BA Licences. We concur with the Ofcom view that supplementary coverage obligations beyond those contained in the BA Licences are not required given the benefits that will already be achieved by DSO in respect of coverage.

Question 2: Do you agree that in renewing the BA Licences, it is appropriate not to require supplementary proposals in relation to the promotion of, or assistance with, the acquisition of DTT receiver equipment?

Response:

In line with our June 2010 request that Ofcom consider the removal of licence obligations concerning the DTT marketing plan, Arqiva agrees that it is appropriate not to require supplementary proposals in relation to the promotion of, or assistance with, the acquisition of DTT receiver equipment. Specifically, we agree with Ofcom's view that there is already significant awareness and adoption of digital receiver equipment and that following DSO such awareness and adoption will be even more widespread. Arqiva therefore believes that there will be no need for such conditions in the renewed BA Licences

Question 3: Do you agree that Ofcom should remove the provisions set out at paragraph 3.14 from any renewed BA Licences?

Response:

Arqiva agrees that Ofcom should remove the provisions set out at paragraph 3.14 from any renewed BA Licences for the reasons set out in our response to Question 2. Furthermore, we believe that the proposed changes are proportionate and reflective of best regulatory practice. We would add that the definition of "DTT Marketing Plan" contained in Condition 1 should also be deleted.

Question 4: Do you agree with our preference not to apply a charge for PMR in a renewed BA Licence, in light of our stated intention to charge AIP for spectrum used for broadcasting?

Response:

Arqiva agrees that Ofcom should not apply a charge for PMR in the light of their stated intention to charge AIP under the associated WTA licences. However, Arqiva is concerned about the application and possible quantum of AIP and shall be seeking further engagement with Ofcom on this matter following renewal of the BA Licences.