

Question 1: which services are most likely to drive take up of DTT consumer reception equipment using new technologies? In particular, are HD services the most likely to do so?:

Freeview and the DSO strategy will drive DTT take up, however, technology innovation will keep loyalty to the freeview service. Such innovation includes HD.

Question 2: do you agree with Ofcom's assessment that it would be beneficial for the DTT platform to begin to upgrade to new technologies ? DVB-T2 and MPEG-4 - to make more efficient use of spectrum and to allow for the introduction of new services?:

Yes.

Question 3: Ofcom is particularly interested in hearing from multiplex operators and programme providers as to whether they are interested in using DVB-T2 and / or MPEG-4, and whether Ofcom should consider permitting their use on DTT?:

No comment.

Question 4: do you agree that the earliest possible availability and adoption of the technologies is in the interests of consumers and citizens?:

In the longer term, yes, but given DSO has already started, consumers may resent having to purchase new digital receivers that soon after become out-of-date (i.e. not DVB-T2/MPEG-4 capable).

If the message is handled correctly then the adoption of new technologies is crucial to make the best use of spectrum available.

Question 5: do you agree with Ofcom's view that DVB-T2 MPEG-4 reception equipment could be commercially available in time for DSO in Granada region in late 2009?:

From a CPE position then MPEG4 is deployed today. DVB-T2, and the technologies that are proposed for the Baseline specification in March are by and large tried and tested blocks, with the exception of TFS. However, given the timeframe then technical solutions should be available for late '09. However, commercially available solutions are possible; but high risk.

Question 6: do you agree that some form of intervention is required in order for the DTT platform to commence an upgrade to new technologies without delay?:

Yes.

Broadcasters, network operators and device manufacturers/design houses would get confidence in investing in new technologies and HD services if intervention is made.

Question 7: Do you have any proposals for launching MPEG-4 services on a DTT multiplex using DVB-T in advance of the proposed 2009 timetable and if so can you provide details of how such a service would not undermine the proposed MPEG-4/DVB-T2 launch in 2009?:

No.

Question 8: do you agree with Ofcom's proposed approach for adding SD and HD versions of MPEG-4 and DVB-T2 profiles to the list of permitted standards for DTT in the spring, and that Ofcom's consent must be sought prior to adoption of these standards?:

Yes.

Question 9: do you agree with Ofcom's proposal that Multiplex B should be cleared and upgraded to new technologies?:

Yes.

Question 10: do you agree with Ofcom's proposal that all multiplexes should be required to upgrade to 64QAM at DSO in order to make the most efficient use of spectrum (ie that the mode change should not merely be optional)?:

Yes.

Question 11: do you agree with our proposals for accommodating Five, S4C, TG4 and GDS on Multiplex 2?:

No comment.

Question 12: do you agree with our assessment that nine SD services can operate on Multiplex 2? If not, do you have an alternative proposal?:

With the proviso that the perceived AV quality of the nine services does not drop below that of what is considered acceptable.

Question 13: do you agree with our proposals for the reorganisation process for the existing multiplex services set out in the central case scenario?:

No comment.

Question 14: do you agree with the principles / conditions that Ofcom proposes to use to evaluate counterproposals for the reorganisation process?:

No comment.

Question 15: Do you have an alternative proposal for the reorganisation process? If yes, please provide details.:

No.

Question 16: do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the options for allocating the upgraded capacity?:

No comment.

Question 17: do you agree with the proposal that HD broadcasting on the DTT platform should use the more efficient progressive format, rather than the interlaced format?:

Yes. Bandwidth requirements for 720p and 1080i are similar, however, 720p is perceived to be better.

Question 18: do you agree with the proposal that Ofcom should not mandate the use of the capacity for any particular service type (SD or HD) but allow the broadcasters to make proposals?:

Yes.

Question 19: do you agree with the proposal that the capacity should be allocated in three UK-wide blocks initially, rising to four blocks at DSO?:

No comment.

Question 20: do you agree with the proposed criteria for the comparative selection process?:

No comment.

Question 21: do you have any comments on Ofcom's proposals for the upgraded multiplex?:

No comment.

Question 22: Do you agree with Ofcom's impact assessment?:

No comment.

Question 23: Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment of the potential benefits, risks and mitigations strategies relating to the impact of these proposals on the DSO programme?:

No comment.

Additional comments: