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

More choice and better quality SD services.

Don't personally believe HD will be a driving force, Spring 2008 BBC/ITV Freesat launches with FT A HD services for those who want them.

Question 2: do you agree with Of com'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?

With some 14 million DTT receivers in homes (official figures), possibly 1 PVR and maybe 2 set top boxes in a lot of homes the possible change to MPEG4 over time for all services making all current equipment obsolete is financially and environmentally totally unacceptable.

If MPEG4 is confined to HD services no problem.

In the days of ITV Digital boxes were guaranteed to be future proof, turned out not to be so. Also Digital UK are promoting the Digital tick guaranteeing products will work after DSO, if MPEG4 becomes the industry standard all these products would be obsolete.

Question 3: Of com 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

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

Because Digital switchover is just around the corner and so much equipment already in homes. I personally believe it is too late in the day to start messing with technologies that cannot be implemented by over the air upgrades to present equipment. Question 5: do you agree with Of com's view that DVB-T2 MPEG-4 reception equipment could be commercially available in time for DSO in Granada region in late 2009?

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?

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 undermine the proposed MPEG-4/DVBT2 launch in 2009?

Question 8: do you agree with Ofcoms 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 Of com's must be sought prior to adoption of these standards?

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

I have doubts that all BBC's services could be accommodated on one Multiplex even using 64QAM however if it were possible. I could see better uses for Multiplex B other than HD. It could accommodate a range of SD services using 64QAM e.g.

1. If extra capacity is to be available then PSB services Teachers TV, Community Channel and NHS Direct should all have a full service (not part time/reduced) possibly in conjunction with point 2.
2. ITV and Channel 4 getting separate Multiplexes and stop channel blocking on commercial Multiplexes C and D with + 1 channels.
3. If the rumoured possible BBC worldwide taking full control of UK TV does go ahead the launch of these services on Freeview would be a better use of scarce spectrum and I'm sure would meet with viewer approval, UKTV Gold itself would be a big draw for viewers.

My view on HD is it should be put on the back burner till switchover is completed and then a NEW multiplex should be created using some of the spectrum created by analogue switch off (the airwaves are a public asset and shouldn't be auctioned off to the highest bidder) and new technologies (ones that cannot be upgraded) are confined to that so that current viewers equipment/reception are unaffected.

From Spring 2008 BBCIITV Freesat will provide FT A HD for those who want it. Question 10: do you agree with Of com's proposal that all multiplexes should be required to upgrade to 64QAM at DSO in order to make the most efficient use of spectrum (i.e. that the mode change should not be merely optional)?

I agree all Multiplexes should be updated to 64QAM but this should be done as soon as practically possible so viewers can gain now and not have to wait till DSO which in this region is not due till November 2010.

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

I can't see ITV or Channel 4 being happy about having a channel each displaced and what happens to viewers who can only receive the 3 PSB Multiplexes they will lose I ITV and I Channel 4 channel. From a practical point I can only see this work if ITV and Channel 4 had their own separate Multiplexes and the above services were to be split between the two.

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

Question 13: do you agree with our proposals for the reorganisation process for the existing multiplex services set out in the central case scenario?
See answer 9.

Question 14: do you agree with the principle/conditions that Of com proposes to see to evaluate counterproposals for the reorganisation process?

Question 15: do you have any alternative proposals for the reorganisation Process? If yes please provide details
YES see answer 9.

Question 16: do you agree with Of com's assessment of the options for allocating the

upgraded capacity?

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

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

Personally I would prefer any existing Spectrum (including Multiplex B at 64QAM) to be SD as HD is not a viable option for me in the foreseeable future.

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?

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

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

I personally believe HD on Freeview should be delayed till switchover is completed and then use a New Multiplex facilitated by analogue switchover; From Spring 2008 an alternative FTA option via BBC/ITV Freesat will be available for those wishing HD.

If a multiplex can be cleared satisfactorily (MUX B) I would rather see it used for improved SD services compatible with current equipment.

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

I am all for more spectrum being available to increase services available BUT this must be done using technology compatible with current equipment in homes.

In my humble opinion HD on Freeview should be put on the backburner till switchover is complete to avoid further consumer confusion and at a time when spectrum is more available and that new technology doesn't interfere with current services/equipment. Freesat will provide a platform for FT A HDTV in the coming months.