

Joachim R Groeger, G4XXW, DK3NG

Question 1

Do stakeholders agree with the proposals for the award of licences in the 10GHz, 28GHz and 32GHz bands in 2007?

Answer 1:

I strongly disagree with Ofcom's proposal to award licenses in the 10 GHz Amateur Satellite Service allocation. This allocation is internationally agreed and utilised transnationally. Licensing of UK commercial users in that frequency band would severely impair this key enabler for the activities of the international Amateur Satellite Service. The proposal puts in jeopardy important (from the standpoint of both communications and spacecraft technology development) current and future space projects by the global amateur radio community, the knowledge expected to be derived from them and the significant (predominantly private, i.e. non-government subsidised) investment associated with them. Radio amateurs have through numerous space projects demonstrated vision and supreme technical and managerial competence by conceiving, funding, designing, building, procuring launches for and operating satellites. Such projects embody serious scientific investigation and they have repeatedly resulted in striking technical innovations. The Amateur Satellite Service has in this way initiated, and placed itself at the forefront of, small satellite technology development.

Contrary to claims contained in the consultation document, the 10 GHz Amateur Satellite Service allocation is neither unused nor underutilized. Moreover, the allocation is gaining in importance with each new space project undertaken by the Amateur Satellite Service. Denying the international Amateur Satellite Service unrestricted access to, and use of, its international 10 GHz allocation by licensing part of that band to UK commercial users would severely undermine this unparalleled work and stifle further technological advances that can be expected to flow from it in the future.

The history of technical achievements by the Amateur Satellite Service shows that unquantifiable, but real, and potentially significant welfare loss can be expected to result from any 10 GHz licensing proposal precluding or limiting research and development that depend on the Amateur Satellite Service's continued unfettered use of this allocation. For the UK government the implementation of the proposal carries the risk of considerable reputation loss.

Question 2

Do stakeholders agree with the proposal to include in the award of the 32GHz band that portion of the band that has been open since 2003 for point-to-point applications?

Answer 2:

Question 3

Do stakeholders agree with the proposal to defer the release of the 40GHz band

and review the position in two years' time?

Answer 3:

Question 4

Do stakeholders have any other comments on the contents of this document?

“Only when the last tree has died and the last river.....will we realise that we cannot eat money”