



A Statement on Broadcasting Satellite Service at 33.5 degrees West

Expressions of Interest

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Section 1

Summary

- 1.1 Following the receipt of an application from a UK company to bring into operation the UK Broadcasting Satellite Service filings (DigiSat-1 and DigiSat-2) at an orbital location of 33.5 degrees West, Ofcom invited further expressions of interest in a document¹ published on 8 June 2005.
- 1.2 The closing date for the submission of such expressions was 1 July 2005 and no responses were received by Ofcom
- 1.3 In the absence of any other expressions of Interest, we therefore intend to proceed to negotiate the award for use of the satellite filings to the applicant and to notify the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau accordingly

¹ Broadcasting Satellite Service at 33.5° West - Final invitation for expressions of interest, published 8 June 2005.

Section 2

Background

- 2.1 The Radiocommunications Agency conducted a consultation exercise, which closed on October 23 2003, which sought views from stakeholders on the development of the BSS spectrum (11.7 - 12.5 GHz) from the orbital position at 33.5 Degrees West. Ofcom published a statement in October which set out the approach it intended to follow in the light of the responses received to the consultation and the continuing uncertainty about whether there was any interest in making use of this capacity.
- 2.2 In a consultation document of February 2005 and the resulting Statement in March 2005, Ofcom set out its approach to the management of filings and international coordination for satellite networks. This announced Ofcom's decision to institute a competitive process when an application is received to submit a filing to the ITU for a planned assignment.
- 2.3 In May 2005, Ofcom received an application for use of the UK BSS filings at the orbital position of 33.5° West. The application provided the full evidence required about the ability of the operator to bring the spectrum into use within the required timeframe and to meet all of the other requirements set out in consultations and statements made by Ofcom and the previous regulator.
- 2.4 In accordance with Ofcom's statement in October 2004, we decided to offer one final opportunity to other interested operators to apply to use this planned assignment. The document was published on 8 June 2005 and invited expressions of interest to be submitted to Ofcom by 1 July 2005.
- 2.5 We did not receive any responses to the invitation for further expressions of interest.
- 2.6 We have therefore decided to proceed to negotiate the terms for use of the UK BSS filings at the orbital position of 33.5° West with the sole applicant. When this process has been completed, we will notify the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau of the name of the operator.