



28th Jan 2016

Response to OFCOM's "Awards of the 2.3 and 3.4 GHz spectrum bands" dated 21st Nov 2016

TxRx Communications Ltd operates a small fixed-wireless ISP (WISP) in the Hampshire area. We are faced with significant problems related to spectrum allocation.

We share the 5.5 to 5.8 GHz allocation with weather radar and a few other groups. This means that all equipment we use has to be radar-aware, and retune if radar is detected. This has given us a lot of service issues, primarily due to false radar detection. We are also faced with fairly draconian limits on ERP of 30 or 36 dBm which precludes the deployment of longer backhaul links in this band.

Furthermore, there is a chunk of spectrum at 5795-5815 MHz which we cannot use due to a notch that is allocated to very short-range RTTT devices. This drastically reduces the available spectrum available to us with equipment that uses standard 20 or 40 MHz channels.

We would very much like to see some 'unencumbered' spectrum made available to WISPS on a light licence basis. We would like the option to run at relatively high ERP for both point and multipoint services on a self co-ordinated basis, rather than have it all go to the 'highest bidder' in a traditional auction.

This would help us to play an even bigger part in delivering the UK Government's rural superfast internet goals. The 3.5 GHz band is less obstructed by vegetation, which is a constant problem in delivering fixed wireless internet service on 5GHz.

Of particular concern is the fact that a large chunk of this 3.5 GHz spectrum was auctioned off to UK Broadband, who have so far failed to make significant use of it for themselves outside London, or allow it to be licensed on sensible terms.

I believe that smaller providers such as ourselves would be able to make very effective use of this spectrum and would provide long term benefit to the rural UK economy on a local basis, that a one-off spectrum auction would never achieve.

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