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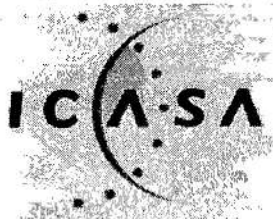


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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 890 OF 2001**INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

The Independent Communication Authority of South Africa (ICASA) hereby invites comments on this document in terms of section 27 of the Telecommunications Act No.103 of 1996 as amended.

Mandla Langa
Chairperson
ICASA

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON THE 2.6 GHz¹ FREQUENCY BAND (TDMA/MMDS VS IMT 2000)²

This document is published in terms of Section 27 of the Telecommunications Act (103/1996) as amended

The purpose of the document

The purpose is to seek views from interested parties on reserving the 2.6 GHz band for IMT-2000 in South Africa at times specified in the document.

Submission of Representations

Written representations on this discussion document must be submitted to the Authority by 01 June 2001. Persons making written representations are invited to indicate whether they are requesting an opportunity to make oral representations (and the estimated duration therefor, which duration shall not exceed one hour).

Eight copies of all written representations must be submitted. An electronic version of your representations in Microsoft Word 97 or higher either on disk or e-mail, should accompany your submission if possible.

Written comments on this document should be sent to:

By Post/By Hand

Attention: Ms Yolisa Ngoma
Frequency Planning
Private Bag X1
Marlboro
2063

ICASA Block A, Pinmill Farm
164 Katherine Street
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(011) 321-8564

For further enquiries please phone:

Ms Yolisa Ngoma at (011) 321- 8245 or 321-8341

¹ The band 2500 to 2690MHz is referred to as 2.6GHz band

² TDMA is point to point and point to multipoint Time Division Multiple Access used mainly for fixed links and IMT 2000 stands for International Mobile Telecommunications 2000 which refers to the global standard for 3rd generation mobile telecommunications systems.

Background

In the Government Gazette No. 17983 of 1996, the 2.6 GHz band was allocated to the fixed services (TDMA) and MMDS systems. Because of technology changes, and analogue terrestrial MMDS used for close user group television broadcasting being phased out and replaced by digital satellite broadcasting systems, two Government Gazettes No. 19120 of 1998 and No. 20361 of 1999 were published revising the allocations in the 2.6 GHz band based on industry inputs.

Presently 70 % of the band is allocated to TDMA and MMDS systems on a co-primary basis in urban areas, the remaining 30 % is allocated to TDMA only on a primary basis in urban areas. In rural areas, TDMA and MMDS share the whole band on a co-primary basis for the next ten years. From year 7-10, MMDS systems have to migrate to appropriate bands and after year 10 MMDS should have migrated out of the band.

At the World Radio Conference (WRC-92), the frequency bands 1885-2025 MHz and 2110-2200 MHz were identified as the core bands for IMT-2000.

At WRC-97 there was a need for more spectrum to be allocated to IMT-2000, and at WRC-2000 additional bands were identified for IMT-2000, those bands included the 806-960 MHz, 1710-1885 MHz and 2500-2690 MHz.

ICASA's intention

The Authority is considering implementing one of the following options:

- Option 1. No new assignments will be entertained, migrate the existing assignments to frequencies above 3 GHz as from January 2002 and reserve the entire 2.6 GHz band for IMT-2000.
- Option 2. Assign point to point and point to multipoint systems in the 2.6 GHz until 2012, the year predicted for full implementation of IMT 2000. Migration will commence in 2013 -2015.

Questions

Please comment on the options indicated above and give any further option(s) that the Authority should consider. If argument is made for the second option, then comprehensive information should be provided on the reasons for wishing to continue using this spectrum. On the other hand, if the first option is adopted, please indicate how soon the spectrum occupied can be released.