

Spectrum Release Plan for 2012 – 2014

Introduction

As part of the implementation of the Radio Spectrum Policy Framework announced by the then Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau in April 2007, the Telecommunications Authority (TA) will publish a spectrum release plan to inform the industry of the potential supply of radio spectrum through an open bidding or tendering process for the following three years. The plan will be updated every year on a rolling basis or as required taking into account the latest developments.

Spectrum Release Plan for 2012 – 2014

Frequency Band (MHz)	Allocation	Earliest Release Date¹	Target Consultation Date	Remarks
2300 – 2390	Fixed Mobile	Now	Invitation for Expression of Interest exercise completed ²	This band will be used for broadband wireless access services. The TA aims to conduct the auction in February 2012.
2515 – 2540 2635 – 2660	Fixed Mobile	Now	Consultation to be conducted shortly	This band may be used for provision of public telecommunications services.

¹ Earliest release date refers to the earliest date when the spectrum concerned is expected to be available for release to the market for auction or tendering, subject to the outcome of consultation and passing of the relevant subsidiary legislation. It does not however necessarily refer to the actual date when the auction or tendering will take place.

² A TA Statement, available at <http://www.ofta.gov.hk/en/tas/fin/tas20110309.pdf>, was issued on 9 March 2011.

Spectrum included in previous versions of Spectrum Release Plan

Frequency Band (MHz)	Allocation	Remarks
216 – 223	Broadcasting Fixed Mobile	Channel 11A (216.160 – 217.696 MHz), Channel 11B (217.872 – 219.408 MHz) and Channel 11D (221.296 – 222.832 MHz) may be used for new digital broadcasting and telecommunications services, including broadcast-type mobile TV and digital audio broadcasting (DAB) services. Channel 11C (219.584 – 221.120 MHz) has been assigned for DAB services.
678 – 686 (UHF TV Channel No. 47)	Broadcasting Mobile	The band has been assigned through the auction of radio spectrum in the UHF band for the provision of broadcast-type mobile TV services held in June 2010.
798 – 806 (UHF TV Channel No. 62)	Broadcasting Mobile	This band may be used for terrestrial broadcasting, digital broadcasting and telecommunications services, including broadcast-type mobile TV services. As a result of the second consultation on the development of mobile TV services ³ , this band would be reserved for future broadcasting or telecommunications services when technology further evolves. The Chief Executive in Council decided in September 2009 that Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) should be allocated resources and frequency spectrum to provide, inter alia, digital terrestrial TV (DTT) services as the public service broadcaster. In April 2011, Government indicated to the TA that RTHK has to make use of Channel 62, currently the only UHF TV frequency available for the provision of DTT services with territory-wide coverage, for the delivery of its DTT services. On present indications, RTHK will be in a position to conduct trials for its transmission network around mid 2012, and it will need a formal assignment of Channel 62 to it by the TA before commencing its trial.

³ The Second Consultation on Development of Mobile Television Service was conducted in January 2008 (http://www.cedb.gov.hk/ctb/eng/paper/doc/mobile_TV2.pdf). Paragraph 3.10 of the consultation paper states that 798MHz – 806MHz (UHF TV Channel No. 62) would be reserved for future DTT services, either commercial or otherwise, or other broadcasting and telecommunications services when technology further evolves.

Frequency Band (MHz)	Allocation	Remarks
832.5 – 837.5 877.5 – 882.5	Mobile	The band has been assigned through the auction of radio spectrum in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2 GHz Bands for Provision of Public Mobile Telecommunications Services held in February 2011 and March 2011.
885 – 890 930 – 935	Mobile	The band has been assigned through the auction of radio spectrum in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2 GHz Bands for Provision of Public Mobile Telecommunications Services held in February 2011 and March 2011.
1466 – 1480	Broadcasting Mobile	This band may be used for new digital broadcasting and telecommunications services, including broadcast-type mobile TV and DAB services. As a result of the second consultation on the development of mobile TV services which took place in January 2008, this band would be reserved subject to further development of the worldwide market.
1780.1 – 1785 1875.1 – 1880	Mobile	This band has been assigned through the auction held in June 2009.
2010 – 2019.7	Fixed Mobile	The band was listed for the auction of radio spectrum in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2 GHz Bands for Provision of Public Mobile Telecommunications Services held in February 2011 and March 2011 but was not acquired by any bidder in the auction. The TA will review the demand for this band.
2500 – 2515 2620 – 2635	Fixed Mobile	The band has been assigned through the auction on spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in January 2009.
2540 – 2570 2660 – 2690	Fixed Mobile	The band has been assigned through the auction on spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in January 2009.

Frequency Band (MHz)	Allocation	Remarks
2570 – 2620	Fixed Mobile	<p>The frequency band of 2600 – 2615 MHz was listed for the auction on spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in January 2009 but was not acquired by any bidder in the auction. The frequency band of 2575 – 2615 MHz has been reserved for Government use.</p> <p>The frequency bands of 2570 – 2575 MHz and 2615 – 2620 MHz are reserved as guard bands and will not be made available for assignment.</p>

This spectrum release plan (the Plan) is for information by the industry and public. Publication of the Plan does not constitute any allocation or assignment of the spectrum. The Plan does not bind the TA in exercise of his discretion in the actual spectrum allocation and assignment. The TA will conduct separate consultation exercises before exercising his powers under sections 32H(2)(a) and (b) and 32I(1) of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap 106) as is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case. In making a decision on spectrum allocation and/or assignment, the TA will also take into account all relevant matters of the case. The TA is entitled to depart or deviate from the Plan where the circumstances so warrant. The Plan is therefore not legally binding on the TA and is subject to annual review and may from time to time be amended, as and when it is considered necessary in the light of latest developments.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
19 December 2011