

Spectrum Release Plan for 2015 – 2017

Introduction

As part of the implementation of the Radio Spectrum Policy Framework announced by the Government in April 2007, the Communications Authority (“CA”) will publish a spectrum release plan (“SRP”) to inform the industry of the potential supply of radio spectrum through an open bidding or tendering process for the following three years. The SRP is updated every year on a rolling basis, or as required, taking into account the latest developments.

Spectrum Release Plan for 2015 – 2017

Frequency Band (MHz)	Allocation	Earliest Release Date¹	Target Consultation Date	Remarks
No spectrum available for release				

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.

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.

Frequency Band (MHz)	Allocation	Remarks
678 – 686 (UHF TV Channel No. 47)	Broadcasting Mobile	This band was assigned through the auction of radio spectrum in the UHF band held in June 2010 for the provision of broadcast-type mobile TV services.
798 – 806 (UHF TV Channel No. 62)	Broadcasting Mobile	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 former Telecommunications Authority (“TA”) that RTHK has to make use of Channel 62, the only UHF TV frequency available for the provision of DTT services with territory-wide coverage, for the delivery of its DTT services. In view of the Government’s decision and upon RTHK’s application, the former TA assigned Channel 62 to RTHK in March 2012 for DTT services. After conducting a series of DTT trial transmission from July 2012 to January 2014, RTHK started its trial DTT service on Channel 62 in January 2014.
832.5 – 837.5 877.5 – 882.5	Mobile	These bands were assigned through the auction of radio spectrum in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2 GHz Bands held in February/March 2011 for the provision of public mobile telecommunications services.
885 – 890 930 – 935	Mobile	These bands were assigned through the auction of radio spectrum in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2 GHz Bands held in February/March 2011 for the provision of public mobile telecommunications services.
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 has been reserved subject to further development of the worldwide market.

Frequency Band (MHz)	Allocation	Remarks
1780.1 – 1785 1875.1 – 1880	Mobile	These bands were assigned through the auction held in June 2009.
1904.9 – 1919.9 2019.7 – 2024.7	Fixed Mobile	These bands are currently assigned to mobile network operators for the provision of 3G mobile services. The assignments will expire on 21 October 2016. In accordance with the decision of the CA announced on 15 November 2013, ² these bands will be put back to reserve upon expiry of the existing assignments in October 2016.
1930.2 – 1940.0 1960.0 – 1969.8 2120.2 – 2130.0 2150.0 – 2159.8	Fixed Mobile	In accordance with the decision of the CA announced on 15 November 2013, ² these bands were planned to be released for auction towards end 2014 and were therefore included in previous SRP. Following the decision of the CA announced on 2 May 2014, ³ the bands released for auction were revised to 1920.3 – 1935.1 MHz, 1960.0 – 1969.8 MHz, 2110.3 – 2125.1 MHz and 2150.0 – 2159.8 MHz instead. These revised bands were assigned through the auction held in December 2014 for the provision of public mobile telecommunications services.
2010 – 2019.7	Fixed Mobile	This band was listed for the auction of radio spectrum in the 850 MHz, 900 MHz and 2 GHz Bands held in February/March 2011 for the provision of public mobile telecommunications services but was not acquired by any bidder in the auction. The CA will review the demand for this band.
2300 – 2390	Fixed Mobile	This band was assigned through the auction of spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in February 2012.
2500 – 2515 2620 – 2635	Fixed Mobile	These bands were assigned through the auction of spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in January 2009.

² See http://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/237/ca_statements20131115_en.pdf.

³ See http://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/statement/en/upload/270/decision_20140502_e.pdf.

Frequency Band (MHz)	Allocation	Remarks
2515 – 2540 2635 – 2660	Fixed Mobile	These bands were assigned through the auction of spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in March 2013.
2540 – 2570 2660 – 2690	Fixed Mobile	These bands were assigned through the auction of spectrum for broadband wireless access service held in January 2009.
2570 – 2620	Fixed Mobile	The frequency band of 2600 – 2615 MHz was listed for the auction of 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 assigned for Government use. The frequency bands of 2570 – 2575 MHz and 2615 – 2620 MHz are reserved as guard bands and will not be made available for assignment.

This SRP is for information by the industry and public. Publication of the SRP does not constitute any allocation or assignment of the spectrum. The SRP does not bind the CA in exercise of its discretion in the actual spectrum allocation and assignment. The CA 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 CA will also take into account all relevant matters of the case. The CA is entitled to depart or deviate from the SRP where the circumstances so warrant. The SRP is therefore not legally binding on the CA 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 Communications Authority
6 March 2015