



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

The Award of National Licences for the Provision of Wideband Digital Mobile Data Services.

Summary Information

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1 Introduction

The Commission for Communications Regulation has launched a licensing process for the award of three national licences for the provision of Wideband Digital Mobile Data Services (WDMDS) in the 420 MHz and 900 MHz bands. The licences will be offered with a reserve price, however if demand exceeds supply for any of the licences, then that licence will be auctioned. The full term of the licences will be ten years with a review at year 3 of commitments made in the licensing process to ensure that the spectrum is being utilised. If the Licensee has not met these commitments then ComReg reserves the right to revoke or amend the licence. Applicants will only be awarded one of the three licences on offer. The closing date for receipt of applications is 14.00 p.m. on 29 November 2005.

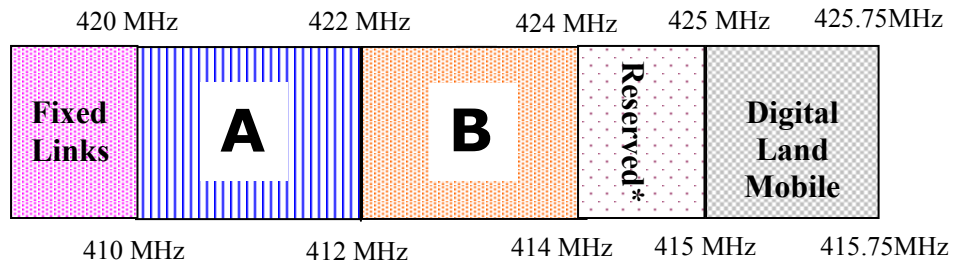
Wideband Digital Mobile Data Services are predominantly aimed at the business professional user and can deliver a broad range of data services. Typical data rates are of the order of several hundred kilobits per second.

The Commission believes that the introduction of Wideband Digital Mobile Data Services will potentially create further choice and diversity for users of mobile data communications.

A reserve price of €100,000 has been placed on each of the licences on offer. This sum will be payable by applicants in the event that there is only one application for any of the three licences on offer. If licences are awarded via an auction applicants must make bids in excess of the reserve price. In addition applicants will have to pay a project fee of €20,000 to cover the cost of conducting the licensing process. The details of all fees payable are in the Information Memorandum 05/80 which provides information to all interested parties about the licensing process, the proposed licensing framework, fees and timescales.

2 Spectrum allocation

The licences will be offered in three separate blocks A and B in the 420 MHz band, and C in the 900 MHz band as shown below.



*Reserved for future trunked PMR or PAMR use, according to market demand

Figure 1: 420 MHz band plan showing proposed and existing services.

Block A in the 420 MHz band comprises a 2 MHz portion for mobile station transmit (the band 410 – 412 MHz) paired with a 2 MHz portion for base station transmit (the band 420 – 422 MHz),

Block B in the 420 MHz band comprises a 2 MHz portion for mobile station transmit (the band 412 – 414 MHz) paired with a 2 MHz portion for base station transmit (the band 422 – 424 MHz),

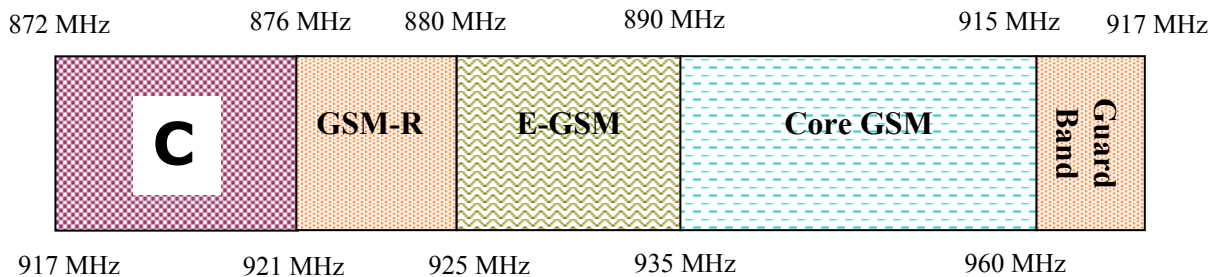


Figure 2: 900 MHz band plan showing proposed and existing services.

Block C in the 900 MHz band comprises a 4 MHz portion for mobile station transmit (the band 872 – 876 MHz) paired with a 4 MHz portion for base station transmit (the band 917 – 921 MHz).

ComReg is adopting a technology neutral approach and will not place any conditions or restrictions on the type of technology used to provide Wideband Digital Mobile Data Services beyond the requirements to prevent harmful interference.

3 Fees

3.1.1 Reserve Price

A reserve price of €100,000 has been placed on each block of spectrum in the 420 MHz band (Blocks A and B) and on the block of spectrum (Block C) in the 900 MHz band. This reserve price will be payable for any licence for which there is only one application and must be paid prior to the licence being issued.

If demand exceeds supply for any of the three blocks of spectrum then licences will be awarded via an auction. The price bid by the successful applicant must be paid prior to the licence being issued.

3.1.2 Deposit Amount

As part of the application, the applicant must pay a deposit in cleared funds of €25,000. This payment is only acceptable in the form of a bank draft and will be used in part payment for the licence.

The deposit will be refunded to an applicant where the applicant has not been awarded a licence and has not defaulted under the rules of the award process.

3.1.3 Project Fee

As part of the application, the applicant must pay a project fee in cleared funds of €20 000. This payment is only acceptable in the form of a bank draft. This fee covers the cost of conducting the licensing process and only applies to successful applicants.

The project fee will be refunded to an applicant where the applicant has not been awarded a licence and has not defaulted under the rules of the award process.

4 Licence Conditions

As part of the licence application process the applicant will be obliged to provide ComReg with a rollout plan and minimum loading criteria, as described in the Information Memorandum 05/80.

The rollout plan and the minimum loading criteria will form part of the Licence obligations. Failure to achieve these targets when assessed by ComReg in year 3 may result in the licence being amended, for example from a national licence to a local area service licence or the licence may be revoked.

5 Timetable

In order to assist potential applicants in the preparation of applications and bids, the following table provides an indication of the intended timeframe. ComReg reserves the right to extend any dates subject to a notice period of 24 hours to all parties who have purchased the information memorandum.

<i>Timetable</i>	
Deadline for questions to ComReg	<i>11 November 2005</i>
<i>ComReg to provide final answers</i>	<i>18 November 2005</i>
Application date	<i>29 November 2005</i>
<i>Assessment of applications and notifications</i>	<i>30 Nov – 14 Dec</i>
Announce winners and Issue of licences	<i>16 December 2005</i>

Table 1: Timetable of events.

6 Requests for the Information Memorandum 05/80

Requests for the Information Memorandum should be accompanied by a bank draft for €5,000 made payable to the Commission for Communications Regulation along with the Certificate of Registration in Annex A of this document to;

Commission for Communications Regulation,
Att. Ms Tara Kavanagh,
Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre
Lower Abbey Street,
Dublin 1,
Ireland

Email: tara.kavanagh@comreg.ie
Phone: 00 353 1 804 9623

This €5,000 will also go towards part payment of the licence fee for successful applicants. Unsuccessful applicants will not be entitled to a refund of the €5,000 fee paid for the Information memorandum 05/80. Participation in the application process is limited to those who have purchased the Information memorandum. Only parties who have purchased the Information Memorandum may submit written questions concerning the licensing procedure. All questions and answers will be made available by ComReg in writing to all parties. ComReg will not disclose the identity of the party posing a question, except where it may be legally obliged to do so.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Tuesday 29 November 2005.

Annex A

Certificate of Registration

APPLICANT DETAILS

1. Name and address of Applicant:

Company name : _____

Contact Person : _____

PO Box (if any) : _____

Address : _____

: _____

: _____

Postal Code : _____

Telephone : _____

Fax : _____

E- Mail : _____

Submit form to:

Commission for Communications Regulation,
Att. Ms Tara Kavanagh,
Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre
Lower Abbey Street,
Dublin 1,
Ireland