



An Coimisiún um  
**Rialáil Cumarsáide**  
Commission for  
**Communications Regulation**

# **Results of the 400 MHz Band Spectrum Award (Smart Grid)**

## Information Notice

**Reference:** ComReg 19/99

**Date:** 05/11/2019

# 1 Results of the 400 MHz Band Spectrum Award

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1 This Information Notice sets out the results of the 400 MHz Band Spectrum Award which the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) commenced on 30 August 2019<sup>1</sup>.

1.2 The newly awarded spectrum rights of use were offered in two parts:

- Part A consisted of one 2 x 3 MHz Lot (410 – 413 MHz / 420 – 423 MHz) for the provision of wireless communications for **Smart Grids**; and
- Part B consisted of ten Lots of 2 x 100 kHz on a technology and service neutral basis. These Lots may be used to support Smart Grid, or for a range of other uses including Business Radio type applications.

1.3 **Smart Grids** have been identified as a key enabler in the reduction of climate emissions and to reduce the effects of climate change by international bodies such as the United Nations and the International Telecommunications Union, and are referenced in the following Government documents:

- **Project Ireland 2040**<sup>2</sup> - National Strategic Outcome 8 of the National Planning Framework promotes a transition to a low carbon energy future and which requires decisions around developing and deploying new technologies such as smart grids;
- **The National Mitigation Plan**<sup>3</sup> – in which the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) observes that smart operation of the power system at both transmission and distribution level and energy efficiency will enable maximisation of the existing grid; and

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<sup>1</sup> Following four rounds of public consultation and by publishing a Response to Consultation and Final Decision ([Document 19/69 and D12/19](#)) and an Information Memorandum ([Document 19/80](#) - "the IM").

<sup>2</sup> Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework <http://npf.ie/wp-content/uploads/Project-Ireland-2040-NPF.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment - National Mitigation Plan <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/documents/National%20Mitigation%20Plan%202017.pdf>.

- **SEAI Smart Grid Roadmap** - which states that by 2050, Smart Grids will see an accumulated reduction in energy related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 250 million tonnes.

## 1.2 Results of the 400 MHz Band Spectrum Award

1.4 The Award Process resulted in 1 Winning Bidder:

Winning Bidder	Part A Lots Won	Part B Lots Won
<b>ESB Networks DAC</b>	1	10

**Table 1. Summary of Award Results**

- 1.5 The new rights of use for radio frequencies will be assigned to the Winning Bidder, ESB Networks DAC, upon payment of the applicable fees and through licences granted under the Wireless Telegraphy (400 MHz Band Licences) Regulations 2019<sup>4</sup>.
- 1.6 ESB Networks DAC will pay approximately €1,100,000 for its spectrum rights of use, comprising €320,000 in upfront spectrum access fees and circa €780,000 in spectrum usage fees which will be paid over the 15 year duration of the licences<sup>5</sup>.
- 1.7 ComReg was advised on the design and implementation of its award by DotEcon, a global supplier of design and build services for auctions. ComReg also received expert technical advice from Plum Consulting London during the consultation process.

<sup>4</sup> S.I. 459 of 2019, made by ComReg under s.6 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926, as amended, with the consent of the Minister for Communications Climate Action and Environment under s.37 of the Communications Regulation Act 2002, as amended.

<sup>5</sup> All SUFs will be index-linked to the Consumer Price Index ("CPI"). As a result, a SUF may increase or decrease over the duration of a Licence.

# Annex: 1 Band Plan showing the Award Results

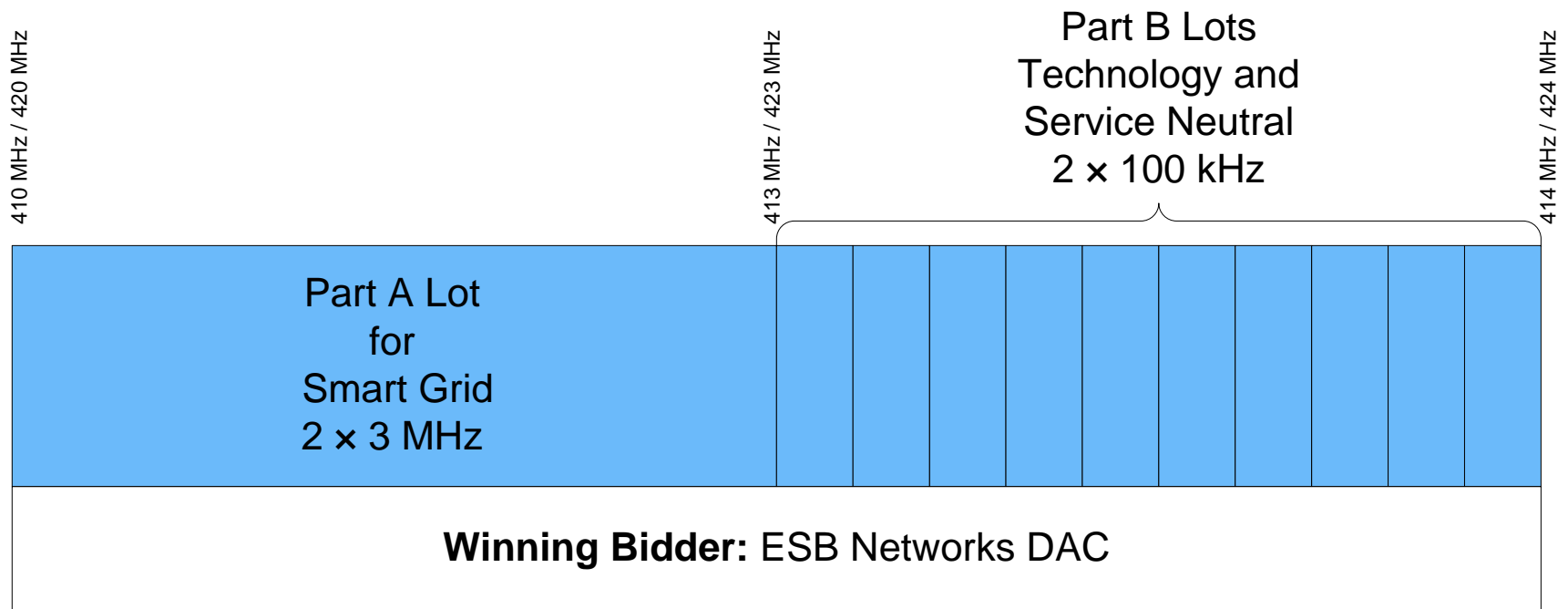


Figure 1. Results of the 400 MHz Band Award Process - Band Plan