



GSMA Public Policy Position

Preferred Band Plan for Digital Dividend 2 in ITU Region 1 (EMEA)

March 2013

Background

At the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference¹ (WRC-07), the 790–862MHz band (or ‘800MHz band’) was allocated for mobile service in ITU Region 1 (Europe including Russia, the Middle East and Africa), with Region 2 and some countries in Region 3 allocating spectrum down to 698MHz. Region 3 had a mixed identification, but has subsequently mainly opted for the 698–806 MHz band.



Region 2



Region 1



Region 3

A decision at WRC-12 created the possibility to allocate the 694–790MHz frequency band (or ‘700 MHz’ band) after WRC-15 for mobile service and to identify it for IMT in Region 1. The agreement on a 700 MHz allocation brings Region 1 in line with frequency allocations in Regions 2 and 3, so the potential for creating a near-global market for mobile devices in this band should be studied.

The outcome of WRC-12 was based on the commitment of most parties to seek harmonisation of that band and the adjacent band (790–862MHz), which is already allocated to mobile service in Region 1, and the allocation does not come into force until WRC-15, giving time for technical studies and for countries to rearrange existing frequency usage.

Preferred Frequency Arrangement in the 700MHz Band

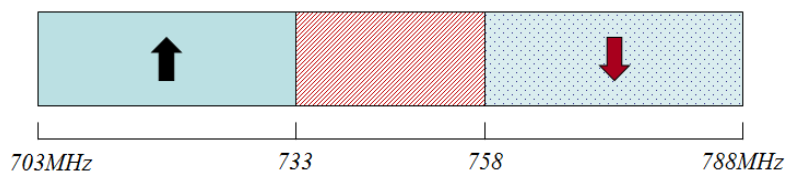
In devising a proposed band plan for 700MHz in Region 1, the GSMA considered several external factors:

- The importance of harmonisation, which offers:
 - Lower costs for consumers, as device manufacturers can mass-produce less-complex devices that function in multiple countries on a single band
 - Availability of a wider portfolio of devices, driven by a larger, international market
 - Roaming, or the ability to use one’s mobile device abroad
 - Less cross-border interference
- The opportunity to create a virtually global band with the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) band plan (3GPP Band 28); by following part of the Asia Pacific band plan in Region 1, the ecosystem will offer the greatest benefit for consumers and mobile operators.

¹ <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/index.asp?category=conferences&rlink=wrc&lang=en>

- The fact that parts of the Asia Pacific region and some Latin American countries have declared their support for the Asia Pacific band plan

For Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the GSMA recommends a 2x30MHz band plan for the 700MHz band, consisting of 703–733MHz (uplink) paired with 758–788MHz (downlink). This band plan is based on the reuse of the lower duplexer of the APT band plan (i.e., 2x30MHz from the APT 2 x 45MHz).



The GSMA also recommends that the regulatory and technical conditions for the 700MHz band in EMEA be harmonised with the Asia Pacific band plan, maximising economies of scale in device manufacturing and enabling interoperability and roaming. Possible uses of the remaining spectrum will need to be evaluated.

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GSMA Government and Regulatory Affairs

A country's citizens benefit most when the private and public sectors work together in a spirit of openness and trust. To this end, the GSM Association is committed to supporting governments and regulators in their efforts to introduce pro-investment telecommunications policies.

The GSMA's government and regulatory affairs team represents the mobile industry around the world, advocating for a regulatory environment that encourages investment, maximises innovation and creates opportunity for mobile operators, the wider mobile ecosystem and mobile users. Through direct engagement with governments, we help to shape the global regulatory agenda.

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