

GSMA
Ministerial
Programme

BARCELONA
3 - 5 MARCH 2025

Best Practice from France

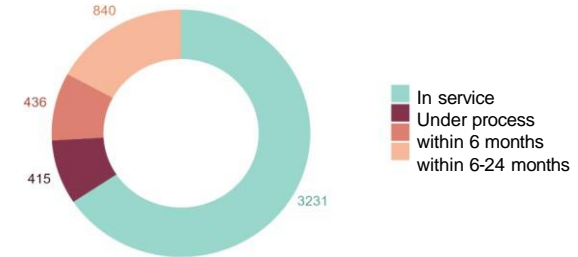
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Affordable Spectrum Pricing France views and experience

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French New Deal

- In 2018, the authorizations for 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2.1 GHz had to be renewed
- Main idea: Free renewal vs operators commitments/obligations to respond to coverage and digitalization needs
- ***New deal : agreement with all 4 operators***
 - Generalizing 4G on all mobile sites before end 2020 (“4G for everyone”)
 - Improving quality
 - Coverage of major roads/rails
 - Targeted coverage :
 - Local authorities (or government) identifies coverage gaps/needs (decree)
 - Each operator is committed to provide 5000 new sites
 - Indoor coverage : to provide complementary solutions (eg. VoWiFi)
 - Fixed 4G to provide additional coverage to fixed networks (currently 1000 sites)



Targeted coverage sites

- ***Successful: reducing spectrum pricing to improve general welfare ...***

5G 3.5 GHz authorizations

- 310 MHz available for 5G (*in 2026 additional 3410-3490 MHz also available*)
- Mixed procedure
 - **Beauty contest for blocks (50 MHz) against conditions/commitments (inc.350 M€ pricing)**
 - Number of sites : >10500 sites in 2025 including 25% of sites outside dense areas
 - Speed >240 Mbit/s per site
 - Slicing
 - Commitment for indoor coverage in commercial buildings
 - ...
 - **Auction for the remaining spectrum (11x10 MHz)**
 - Enhanced Simultaneous Multi-Round Ascending auction
 - Reserve price of 70 M€/10 MHz
 - **Total of 2.7 M€ for this auction**

1st March 2025	3.5 GHz Auth. sites
Orange	14 133
SFR	12 162
Bouygues T	11 398
Free Mobile	11 491
Total (inc.mutual.)	33 414



Affordability is not only pricing...

- **Harmonisation is key for an operator**
 - Creating ecosystems and economies of scale
 - Free circulation and roaming
 - Limiting cross-border issues
- **ITU provides for a certain level of harmonisation (with IMT identification)**
 - WRCs addresses the need for protection measures for international services (inc. Satellite, EESS ...): securing operations for administrations/operators
 - IMT identifications guide administrations towards regionally or internationally harmonised bands
- **3.4-3.8 GHz, European « primary » band for 5G, was successful globally**
- **Upper 6 GHz, identified for IMT by WRC-23, may become the equivalent for 6G/IMT2030 in few years time!**

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