



POLICY IN ACTION

Finland Strikes a Balance to Avoid Spectrum Set-Aside for Private Networks

Market context

Finland is a leader in 5G readiness in the EU, having awarded all three frequency bands identified as pioneer bands for 5G networks in Europe (700 MHz, 3.4-3.8 GHz and 26 GHz). In the run-up to awarding the 3.5 GHz band

in 2018, the Finnish regulator needed to consider how to allocate spectrum for nationwide mobile broadband while also considering the needs of local networks.

Policy or regulatory action

The approach chosen for the 3.5 GHz band followed close collaboration and consultation with industry and avoids the need for a specific set-aside for private, local networks. Instead, there is a requirement for MNOs to lease their licensed spectrum but only where the MNOs

do not offer a local vertical-specific network in a given location if requested. Each of the three existing MNOs was awarded 130 MHz on a national basis and without coverage obligations.

Why this is good practice

The approach chosen for the 3.5 GHz band represents a compromise, efficiently supporting the needs of verticals without undermining spectrum availability for mobile. The obligation is relatively flexible, allowing licence holders to meet the requirement by offering a private network solution if requested, thereby aiding timely deployment

and the wider success of 5G in Finland. Commercial 5G service provision began in 2019 following the conclusion of the 3.5 GHz auction in October 2018. Since then, commercial deployments have continued apace and 5G services are now available in over 30 cities and municipalities.

[Results of Finland's 3.5 GHz auction](#)
[Digital Economy and Society Index 2021 Finland](#)

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