



CICRA media release

23 December 2013

4G moves one step closer in the Channel Islands

CICRA (the Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities) has launched a second consultation on spectrum allocation which brings 4G introduction in the Channel Islands one step closer.

4G technology allows for wireless communication of high-speed data for mobile devices. This requires specific spectrum which will be awarded in the Channel Islands in 2014.

CICRA has published a proposed approach for carrying out a comparative evaluation of applications for the spectrum to progress the availability of 4G technology in Guernsey and Jersey, and is seeking views on the approach. In the UK and many other jurisdictions these awards have been made through auctions but CICRA does not believe such an approach is the best way forward for the Channel Islands.

Respondents to CICRA's initial July consultation indicated that operators looking to provide 4G services require more spectrum than will be available. CICRA believes a competitive process is therefore necessary to decide who will receive the spectrum.

CICRA, which is approaching spectrum allocation jointly across the islands, has proposed that spectrum is allocated in 'spectrum bundles' and that implementation is in two stages; the first being the two spectrum bundles containing more of the highly sought-after 800 MHz spectrum with a second stage offering operators smaller

allocations of 800 MHz spectrum but significantly more in the higher 2.6 GHz spectrum band.

CICRA chief executive, Andrew Riseley, said: “We are focussed on promoting consumers’ interests, in the short and long term, with regard to prices and costs as well as assessing the availability and range of services. To that end we are looking to award spectrum to which applicants will best meet these criteria.

Ofcom is the licensing authority for spectrum in the Channel Islands. CICRA will determine a proposed allocation and that recommendation will be considered by Ofcom when issuing spectrum licences.

Mr Riseley said that the regulator’s proposed evaluation model and allocation of spectrum packages is a significant step.

“Spectrum is a highly technical area but we are pleased to be in a position where, once we have taken into consideration the consultation responses, we can undertake the selection procedure and begin the process of introducing 4G to the islands,” he said.

“As well as opening up more spectrum to current and potential operators, CICRA is also proposing to give greater freedom to telecoms operators in the choice of technology they may deploy on the various spectrum bands they hold.”

Those wishing to respond to the consultation should refer to the consultation document, available on CICRA’s website: www.cicra.gg.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA Chief Executive, Andrew Riseley, in Guernsey at the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority, Suites B1 & B2, Hirzel Court, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2NH or in Jersey at the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Salisbury House, 1 - 9 Union Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3RF. Alternatively email info@cicra.gg.

About CICRA:

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities or 'CICRA' is the name given to the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) (formerly the Office of Utility Regulation). The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001, and the GCRA was established under The Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2012. In Jersey, the telecoms and postal

sectors are regulated by the JCRA, which is also responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005. In Guernsey the telecoms, postal and electricity sectors are regulated by the GCRA, which is also responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Guernsey competition law since it came into force on 1 August 2012.

By working together and sharing resources and expertise between the islands, CICRA strives to ensure that consumers in all the Channel Islands receive best value, choice and access to high quality services.