



CICRA media release

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CICRA re-launches 4G spectrum consultation in the Channel Islands

CICRA (the Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities) has re-launched its consultation into the future allocation of radio spectrum to telecommunication operators in the Channel Islands.

The regulator deferred the consultation in May 2012 to give Guernsey's new Commerce and Employment board time to give detailed consideration to the various issues relevant to the use of the available spectrum and the policies that should be followed in its allocation.

CICRA is now seeking views on how the next generation of spectrum-based telecoms services, often referred to as 4G (4th generation), might be introduced, and to establish the criteria that should be used to decide how to allocate spectrum and ensure the Channel Islands can most productively use it.

CICRA is intending to make recommendations for the allocation of spectrum in the 800MHz and 2600MHz bands early in 2014. The 800MHz spectrum has become available as a result of the switch from analogue to digital television and the 2600MHz spectrum is seen as complementary to it. CICRA is keen to ensure that the freed-up spectrum is used to respond to customer demand for better telecommunication services and is now looking for input from the industry and other stakeholders to help it decide how best to put the spectrum to use.

CICRA chief executive, Andrew Riseley, said: "Developments in new technology have significantly changed how we communicate and do business in recent years. We want to

hear from all interested parties to get an understanding of their needs and ensure that spectrum is awarded appropriately.

“4G has the potential to provide consumers with faster mobile data services and will also allow broadband services over mobile networks that can rival certain fixed services. The value of this offering cannot be underestimated, particularly for business customers, and it is vital to the economic interest of the Channel Islands that we take maximum advantage of this resource,” said Mr Riseley.

The consultation paper is available from the CICRA website - www.cicra.gg - and the closing date for responses is 9 September 2013.

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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.