

Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority

Invitation for Expressions of Interest in Radio Spectrum for Mobile Telephony Services in Jersey

Introduction

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA), the telecommunications licensing authority for the Bailiwick of Jersey, published a document on 29 July 2005 inviting expressions of interest in radio spectrum in both the 2G and 3G frequency bands, which Ofcom was proposing to offer. Licences for spectrum in Jersey are issued by Ofcom under the Wireless Telegraphy (WT) Act through its authority to manage spectrum in Jersey under the Communications Act 2003.

Since that original publication, Ofcom has undertaken a review of the radio spectrum usage in the Channel Islands and has informed the JCRA as follows:

Ofcom has reviewed the basis for its initial spectrum packaging proposals as contained in the Expressions of Interest document published by JCRA on the 29 July 2005. Consideration has been given to the need to ensure optimal use of radio spectrum, which in the context of the Bailiwick of Jersey means taking account of the population and the total area of the islands. Based on these specific considerations, Ofcom has applied commonly used network planning criteria for 2G and 3G networks in determining an appropriate allocation of spectrum. Ofcom is of the view that viable 2G and 3G networks can be established in the Bailiwick with significantly less spectrum than the proposed allocations. Further spectrum may be justified once networks are deployed and adequately loaded, but the release of additional spectrum can be reviewed in the future to take account of developments in the Bailiwick. A review is proposed for 2007 to consider applications for additional spectrum.

Taking these factors into account and following consultation with the JCRA, Ofcom is proposing that the spectrum packaging be varied as detailed in the following text:

3G Spectrum

Four licences, each of 2 x 5MHz of paired FDD spectrum + 1x5MHz of TDD spectrum.

2G Spectrum

1800MHz Band

Four licences, each of 2 x 5MHz paired FDD spectrum.

900MHz (EGSM) Band

Two licences, each of 2 x 5MHz paired FDD spectrum.

Way Forward

As the spectrum packages on offer have changed significantly from that proposed in the Expressions of Interest document, we suggest that the JCRA issues a supplemental document on the 3 November 2005 seeking further expressions of interest by the 2 December 2005.

Ofcom will be reviewing the current usage of 2G spectrum to determine whether the allocation is consistent with the broad criteria being applied to the award of spectrum through the current process.

Expressions of Interest

As a consequence of Ofcom's position, the JCRA is now issuing this fresh Expression of Interest document in order that any interested parties can make known their interest in the new proposal. Interested parties should send their expressions of interest to the address below. They should specify which of the available spectrum licences (as listed above) they are interested in, including a brief summary of their experience, and technical and financial competences. The JCRA may require that certain milestones are achieved in the provision of network coverage and service by the successful applicant(s). The application should include the registered business name and address of the applicant and identify a competent person as a point of contact in the event of queries.

In the event that demand for licences does not exceed the supply, Ofcom has indicated that it will award the licences to those parties that have expressed an interest in the licences to the JCRA following this invitation.

In the event that demand for the available spectrum exceeds the supply, Ofcom will award the licences following a contest. Only parties that have expressed an interest in the licences to the JCRA will be eligible to participate in any contest that Ofcom organises. Ofcom will provide final details on the format of any contest nearer the time.

It should be noted, however, that the award of an Ofcom WT Act spectrum licence does not automatically give the successful applicant the right to operate a telecommunications system in Jersey. Applicants will need to hold a suitable JCRA telecommunications licence. Interested parties that currently do not hold an appropriate licence may apply for one from the JCRA. Further information regarding this process can be obtained from the JCRA at the address below or the JCRA web site www.jcra.je.

All expressions of interest must be received at the JCRA offices either by hard copy or electronically no later than **5:00PM 2 December 2005**.

All correspondence relating to this invitation for expressions of interest should be sent to:

The Executive Director
Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority
6th Floor Union House
Union Street
St Helier
Jersey
JE2 3RF

Telephone: 01534 514990

Fax: 01534 514991

Or email: enquiries@jcra.je

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