



NEWS RELEASE

20th November 2019

CICRA publishes tender proposals for 5G technology in the Channel Islands

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities (The Competition Authority) has published its proposed plans for the introduction of next generation telecoms technology in the Channel Islands.

Extensive consultation with governments and other stakeholders in the Channel Islands is ongoing, but the preferred route to the award of 5G spectrum has now been published.

Spectrum is issued by Ofcom, the independent regulator for the UK telecommunications industry on the recommendation of the Competition Authority. The two regulators work closely together to ensure that sufficient spectrum is made available for operators wishing to offer a 5G service in the Channel Islands.

Operators will be invited to bid for spectrum, which will be awarded following an open, non-discriminatory and transparent selection process, with recommendations made to Ofcom for the awards during 2020.

The tender process will be open to new and existing operators who will be required to hold both a Wireless Telegraphy Act licence from Ofcom and a valid Jersey or Guernsey telecoms licence. Full details of the process are attached to this release.

Tim Ringsdore, Director for Telecommunications at The Competition Authority said, "We are committed to taking a pragmatic and fair approach when considering the spectrum bids and we have listened carefully to ensure government objectives can be met, as far as possible. Because standalone 5G services will not be available for some time, we are adopting a phased multi-operator approach which will see some spectrum withheld. This will allow a gradual introduction of services and a level playing field for all operators. We are also

mindful of our objective to reduce where possible the environmental impact and will encourage the utilisation of existing infrastructure as far as possible.”

When considering the bids for spectrum, The Competition Authority will also have in mind the need to further consumers’ interests with regard to costs, prices and range of services, the need to secure optimal use of the available spectrum and the need to promote competition in the market.

Full details of the Invitation To Tender and the policies of the governments of Jersey and Guernsey in relation to 5G are attached to this press release.

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About The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities:

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities 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.