



NEWS RELEASE

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JCRA sets out approach to 5G licensing and application process

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (the Authority) has taken a further step towards 5G being available in Jersey by setting out its planned approach to licensing the local radio spectrum needed to operate these advanced services.

The local process for licensing 5G spectrum was put on hold in 2020 because of uncertainty over the Covid 19 pandemic and emerging telecoms security requirements. The Authority restarted earlier this year with a public consultation to reassess local interest and demand. With that consultation complete and reviewed, the regulator is now ready for the next step.

The Authority's intention is to complete the licensing award process, which includes making recommendations to UK regulator Ofcom (which has overall responsibility for local spectrum) by the middle of 2023.

The Authority has issued an updated Statement of Intent containing spectrum packages that will be available to interested operators and is consulting on the proposed process of applying for them.

More information on 5G and the licensing process is available on the JCRA website at <https://www.jcra.je/cases/2022/t-064-5g-spectrum-award-process-2022/>.

Tim Ringsdore, Chief Executive of the Authority says: 'We're grateful for responses received to our 5G consultation and the input of other local stakeholders. These have helped shape our planned approach to creating the spectrum packages for interested companies and the proposed application process. Our role as a local regulator is considering and enabling the frameworks within which licensed operators can launch reliable, innovative and value for money services for the benefit of consumers, businesses, and the Island. Reaching this milestone in the 5G spectrum licensing project is a very important step towards achieving this.' **Ends**

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About 5G and the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority's process

Radio spectrum is an invisible but essential resource required to provide numerous wireless services including connections between mobile phones / terminals and mobile operator's network transmitters or base stations. Enabling the development of 5G requires the JCRA to licence new bands of spectrum, which has been internationally designated for this purpose.

5G, or Fifth Generation, is the latest in a series of common international standards created to define mobile phones and the networks they use. For mobile users and telecom operators the new standard offers a quantum step forward for mobile data services with the potential for higher connectivity speeds, much greater capacity for data traffic and lower latency on connections. This allows the continuing development of mainstream services including mobile broadband and IoT (Internet of Things), and potential for future niche or vertical services in sectors such as transport, medical and logistics.

About The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority:

The Authority was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001. It is responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005 and also regulates the telecoms and postal sectors and the Ports of Jersey.

The Authority strives to ensure that the markets work well for the benefit of all stakeholders, including Government, business, citizens and consumers facilitating best value, choice and access to high quality services.

The JCRA is a member of the International Institute of Communications.