



NEWS RELEASE

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JCRA opens process to apply for 5G licences

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (the Authority) is inviting applications from telecoms operators interested in providing 5G services in Jersey.

Applicants will have until mid-November to submit their tenders, which will need to demonstrate their ability to provide Islanders with advanced services associated with the new technology. Once the tenders have been evaluated the Authority will make recommendations for awarding licences for up to three applicants.

This process began with a public consultation to reassess local interest and demand in 5G, after which the Authority set-out the radio spectrum packages being offered to provide new services. The Authority also proposed the invitation to tender (ITT) process for use by any company wanting to apply for one of these packages and invited public comment on the proposed approach and its suitability.

CEO Tim Ringsdore said: 'Releasing the ITT for 5G spectrum licences marks a further important step in the process of ensuring islanders have access to the next generation of mobile and wireless services. As would be expected, we've considered the views and examined the concerns of a wide range of stakeholders to reach this point. I'm confident that the packages being made available and application process for them are well-measured as a result. We expect to announce the outcome early in 2023, with licences awarded as soon as reasonably possible afterwards.'

The remaining timeline for the licensing process is:

- Mid-Nov 2022 – Applicants must submit their tenders.
- End-2022 – The Authority will evaluate tenders and determine outcome.
- Jan - Mar 2023 – The Authority will announce tender outcome and make recommendations for spectrum licences to be issued by UK regulator Ofcom, which has responsibility for managing Jersey radio spectrum.
- Apr – Jun 2023 - Ofcom issue spectrum licences and JCRA complete necessary local telecoms licensing arrangements.

Islanders should see 5G becoming available at some point after the completion of this licencing process, as successful applicants invest in and install the network upgrades needed to provide new advanced services.

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 Authority 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.