



Information & Communication Technologies Authority

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON RADIO FREQUENCIES (RF) SAFETY

1. THE CONTEXT

The context of this multi-stakeholder consultation on RF safety stems primarily from the rise in public consciousness of the potential hazards of RF on their health and the environment. Furthermore the public is increasingly expressing resistance to the setting up of radio base stations in their neighbourhood hence delaying the network deployment plans of operators. The resistance expressed by the public is very often, if not always, based on health effects that are not yet proven. In any case it is important to address the worries expressed by the public and to reflect on the best possible ways of re-establishing confidence in radio infrastructures and their operations. This reflection is of essence especially given that the wireless industry is more than ever active and that it is foreseen that more and more antennas will be installed in the coming years.

2. THE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this consultation are two-fold: firstly to take stock of the difficulties, concerns and views of all relevant stakeholders as well as the actions they are already undertaking in the areas of concern, and secondly, to reflect on the measures which may be taken collectively in view of addressing the said difficulties and concerns with the primary aim of re-establishing public confidence in radio infrastructures and their operations.

3. THE SCOPE

Whereas there is a wide range of frequencies that are in use throughout the island for the operation of different services, including broadcasting, mobile telephony, Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN), Broadband Wireless Access (BWA), maritime and aeronautical, the scope of the discussion of this forum is proposed to be limited to mobile telephony and BWA. The rationale behind the definition of this scope is that these infrastructures are normally installed close to habitations and very often on rooftops. Moreover, it is proposed that customer equipment, including mobile phones, be excluded from the scope of discussions of the forum.

4. THE EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION

The main deliverable of the forum will be a set of recommendations concerning the following non-exhaustive aspects:-

- a. How to communicate with the public on issues of RF safety in a transparent and coherent manner;
- b. How to deal with complaints from the Authorities and Operators view point;
- c. Which precautionary policies are to be adopted, if any, for the management of health risks in the face of scientific uncertainty;
- d. Which RF safety radiation limits to adopt;
- e. Guidelines for the siting of Radio Base Stations;

- f. Methods for planning and monitoring RF radiation through calculations, simulations and measurements

5. THE SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are invited from stakeholders or any members of the public on the following non-exhaustive list of topics:-

- Electromagnetic Fields and their effects on Public Health;
- Radio Base Stations and their effects on the Environment;
- Current State assessment of the actions undertaken and difficulties faced by your organization in the authorization process for the erection of radio-communication facilities as related to RF safety;
- Public concerns about the potential dangers of RF radiation;
- Risk communication and perception;
- Precautionary policies with respect to RF safety;
- RF safety radiation limits;
- Experience from other countries about RF radiation protection;
- RF radiation planning and monitoring;
- Electromagnetic Dosimetry;
- Wireless network planning and RF safety

Written submissions from interested parties may be made to the Executive Director, ICT Authority, Level 12, The Celicourt, Sir Celicourt Antelme Street, Port Louis or electronically to icta@intnet.mu at latest by **3 November 2009 at 14:00 hrs**, or on the discussion forum accessible from the ICTA website <http://www.icta.mu>