

Compilation of responses to Consultation regarding draft decision on the opening of the 2500-2690 MHz and 3400-3600 MHz frequency bands for operation of IMT networks, including 5G

Issue 1: Frequency and Bandwidth

Respondent Comments	ICTA Position
<p>Cellplus Mobile Communications Ltd welcomed proposal to open both 2.6 GHz and 3.5 GHz frequency bands for IMT-2020 networks.</p> <p>Cellplus Mobile Communications Ltd has signified its intention of deploying a 5G network in the 3.5 GHz frequency band and is of the view that frequency assignments should be made in 100 MHz of contiguous spectrum blocks.</p>	<p>The ICTA notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) all 3 operators are agreeable to allocation of frequencies in the 2.6 GHz and 3.5 GHz frequency bands for IMT networks. (b) All respondents are in favour of allocation of contiguous blocks of 100 MHz spectrum. (c) Emtel will continue operation of LTE system in assigned frequencies in the 2.6 GHz frequencies band.
<p>Emtel welcomed proposal to open both 2.6 GHz and 3.5 GHz frequency bands for IMT-2020 networks. Emtel requests that a minimum channel bandwidth of 100 MHz be allocated to each operator from either band.</p> <p>Emtel intends to continue operation of LTE TDD network in the 2.6 GHz frequency band</p> <p>Emtel proposed to align spectrum licence fees for both 2.6 GHz and 3.5 GHz given that they would serve the same purpose.</p>	<p>The ICTA will take the above into consideration in defining the mechanism for invitation to apply for spectrum licence in the 2.6GHz and 3.5 GHz frequency bands.</p> <p>The ICTA shall modify the Decision to allow for operation of both IMT-Advanced and IMT-2020 systems.</p>
<p>MTML proposes to reserve spectrum for each MNO, in view of equitable access to spectrum for all mobile operators, and to avoid any future rearrangements and refarming exercise.</p> <p>MTML requested to reform the complete 2500 – 2690 MHz band for equitable distribution among the MNOs.</p> <p>Clause (d) of Section 2.0 of the Consultation paper:</p> <p>MTML highlighted a typo error of 2500-2590 MHz instead of 2500-2690 MHz frequency band.</p>	<p>Spectrum cannot be reserved for any MNO.</p>
<p>Huawei proposed a reference spectrum allocation of 100MHz for each operator to reduce their investment and provide better experience speed to 5G users.</p>	

Issue 2: Duplex Scheme

Respondent Comments	ICTA Position
<p>Emtel welcomed the proposal to allocate the 2.6 GHz frequency band for operation of TDD systems.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Issue 3: Synchronisation

Respondent Comments	ICTA Position
Cellplus Mobile Communications Ltd agrees that synchronisation is relevant.	Noted. The ICTA is agreeable to same. The Decision to be modified to allow for operation of both IMT-Advanced and IMT-2020 systems.
Emtel recommends the use of GNSS systems for the common reference phase clock and a coordinated frame structure, based on ECC Report 216.	

Issue 4: Coordination with Earth Stations

Respondent Comments	ICTA Position
Cellplus Mobile Communications Ltd has informed that no interference issues had been noted while it conducted tests in the 3.4 – 3.5 GHz frequency band.	Noted. The ICTA will facilitate and assist all operators in coordination exercises. Any cost for provision of additional filters are to be borne by operators themselves.
Emtel requested the Authority to share the location and frequency used by all licensed Earth Stations in MRU. Emtel recommends to equip satellite antennas with band pass filters to ensure that the receiver are not saturated by unwanted 5G spectrum emissions.	
MTML requested the ICTA to take up the frequency coordination with the relevant Earth stations to avoid interference, disputes and harmonize the overall spectrum allocation.	

Issue 5: Technical parameters for base stations:

Respondent Comments	ICTA Position
Cellplus Mobile Communications Ltd has requested clarifications with respect to the Block Edge Masks proposed. MTML requested the ICTA to evaluate if the additional baseline level applicable below 3400 MHz is really necessary in Mauritius.	The Block Edge Masks proposed have been adopted from European Union Decisions in view of protecting services operating in adjacent frequency bands. These adjacent services are relevant for the Mauritian case as well. The 3300 – 3400 MHz is also used in Mauritius for the operation of radars. The ICT Authority has not proposed any technical parameters that are more stringent than that being used in Europe. It is to be noted that technical parameters for operation in several other frequency

	bands are also adopted from technical parameters adopted in Europe and are in accordance with European Standards.
Emtel noted that there is no distinction for the power limits of AAS systems and non-AAS systems, and requested the Authority to include same in the decision paper.	The ICTA is agreeable to same. The Decision to be modified to allow for operation of both IMT-Advanced and IMT-2020 systems.