Information & Communication Technologies Authority

Document Ref.: ICTA/DEC/02/2026

DECISION OF 4 JUNE 2026 ON THE OPENING OF THE 2 300 – 2 400 MHz FREQUENCY BAND AND THE MAKING AVAILABLE OF ADDITIONAL SPECTRUM FOR OPERATION OF IMT NETWORKS, INCLUDING 5G, IN THE 2 300 – 2 400 MHz AND 2 500 – 2 690 MHz BAND

04 June 2026

1.0 PREAMBLE

On 15 April 2026, the Information & Communication Technologies Authority ("ICT Authority") issued the "Decision on the Opening of the 2 300 – 2 400 MHz Frequency Band for Operation of IMT Networks, including 5G".

In its Decision, the ICT Authority published the criteria to be applied in assessing applications received from eligible Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) for spectrum assignment where the total demand would have exceeded 100 MHz. The assignment mechanism adopted by the Authority was a comparative selection process, commonly referred to as a "beauty contest[1]." This is a mechanism through which competing applicants submit their proposals including information on population coverage, quality of service and speed of implementation. These proposals are then assessed by the regulator to determine which applicant should have access to a limited quantity of spectrum. As any other comparative selection process, "beauty context" has its benefits as well as its limitations. One of the recognised limitations is the degree of subjectivity in the determination.

The Authority is currently in the presence of:

a) An application for spectrum submitted by one eligible MNO; and

b) A request from another eligible MNO seeking greater transparency regarding the criteria for evaluation of submissions in determining the spectrum award.

The ICT Authority is of the view that the level of transparency being requested, exceeds those which a "beauty contest" mechanism may provide. As such, it would be most appropriate to adopt competitive assignment mechanisms other than 'beauty contests', such as auctions which are internationally acknowledged as providing a higher level of objectivity and transparency.

The ICT Authority however recognises the urgent operational need expressed by operators for additional mid-band spectrum to support the continued deployment and enhancement of IMT systems, including 5G and future 5G-Advanced services. In this context, the Authority is widening the scope of the current assignment of spectrum by also considering the possibility of assigning available spectrum in the 2 500 – 2690 MHz.

This current new decision repeals the previous decision of 15 April 2026 in toto with immediate effect and is hereby being issued in the light of the above considerations.

2.0 BACKGROUND

5G is the 5th generation of wireless networks, a significant evolution of the 4G LTE networks. 5G has been designed to meet the very large growth in data and connectivity of today's modern society, the Internet of things (IoT) with billions of connected devices and tomorrow's innovations. The 5G wireless network enables high-speed data transmission with ultra-low latency.

[1] Handbook on National Spectrum Management, ITU-R, 2015

The frequency band 2 300 – 2 400 MHz is allocated to the mobile, except aeronautical mobile, service on a primary basis in the ITU Region 1 and identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT). Decision ICTA/DEC/1/2021 specified conditions for the introduction of IMT services in the frequency band 2 500 – 2690 MHz.

The ICT Authority recognizes the importance of harmonized frequency arrangements for Mobile Communications Networks and the need for common technical conditions for Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) operators in the band 2 300 – 2 400 MHz, based on international best practices. A licensed PLMN operator with the ICT Authority shall be referred to as Mobile Network Operator (MNO) in this document.

The technical parameters and limits for operation within the 2 300 – 2 400 MHz frequency band are being specified in this Decision so as to enable the operation of terrestrial IMT Systems including 5G New Radio (5G NR).

Beyond the initial deployment of 5G networks, the evolution towards 5G-Advanced (5G-A), as standardised by 3rd Generation Partnership Project starting from Release 18, represents a significant enhancement of 5G capabilities. 5G-Advanced is expected to further improve network performance through:

- enhanced spectral efficiency and capacity gains;
- improved energy efficiency and sustainable network operation;
- support for advanced use cases, including extended reality (XR), immersive communications, and industrial automation;
- integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning for network optimisation and automation;
- enhanced support for massive Internet of Things (IoT) and mission-critical services.

The 2 300 – 2 400 MHz and 2 500 – 2690 MHz frequency bands, being mid-band spectrum, are particularly well suited for the deployment of 5G-Advanced technologies due to their ability to provide a balance between coverage and capacity.

The ICT Authority recognizes that providing additional spectrum in these bands for IMT will facilitate a smooth evolution from 4G and 5G to 5G-Advanced, ensuring that Mauritius remains aligned with global technological developments and benefits from economies of scale in the international ecosystem.

Furthermore, the introduction of 5G-Advanced is expected to contribute to national objectives related to digital transformation, smart infrastructure, and innovation-driven economic growth.

3.0 DECISION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF IMT SERVICES IN THE 2 300-2 400 MHZ FREQUENCY BAND AND TO MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL SPECTRUM FOR IMT, INCLUDING 5G IN THE 2 300 – 2400 MHz AND 2 500 – 2690 MHz FREQUENCY BANDS

The ICT Authority,

Considering,

a) that the frequency band 2 300 – 2 400 MHz is allocated to the mobile, except aeronautical mobile, service on a primary basis in the ITU Region 1 and is identified for IMT.
b) that the ICT Authority has adopted a technology neutral approach and supports the deployment of mobile technologies that can technically co-exist within the internationally harmonised mobile bands;
c) that the ICT Authority supports an equitable access to spectrum approach for all MNOs with a view to creating a level playing field;
d) that certain MNOs ("eligible MNOs") have already deployed 5G networks and require additional mid-band spectrum to enhance capacity, enable advanced technologies, and support innovative use cases;
e) that harmonized technical conditions (including a harmonized frequency arrangement) will support the implementation of MNOs in the 2 300 – 2 400 MHz band and facilitate global roaming, economies of scale, and availability of low-cost equipment;
f) that in Recommendation ITU-R M.1036, the recommended frequency arrangement for implementation of IMT in the band 2 300-2 400 MHz is referred to as frequency arrangement E1. The said frequency arrangement is also contained in 3GPP specifications as part of operating band 40;
g) that radio equipment under the scope of this Decision shall comply with applicable national type approval requirements and international standards;
h) that the Authority had issued decision ICT/DEC/1/2026 on 15 April 2026;
i) that following decision ICT/DEC/1/2026 an eligible MNO has already applied;
j) the concerns raised by another eligible MNO regarding the degree of transparency and objectivity associated with the spectrum award process specified in ICT/DEC/1/2026;
k) decision ICTA/DEC/1/2021 which specifies conditions for the introduction of IMT services in the frequency band 2 500 – 2690 MHz;
l) that Section 24(2A) of the ICT Act 2001 (as amended) empowers the Authority to invite applications for licences through competitive processes, including auctioning.

Decides,

i. that this current decision shall repeal and replace decision ICT/DEC/1/2026 of 15 April 2026;
ii. that the frequency band 2 300 – 2 400 MHz be opened for assignment to eligible MNOs for the operation of terrestrial IMT systems, for the continued evolution and enhancement of existing 4G and 5G networks.

iii. that, for the purpose of all operations within the 2 300 – 2 400 MHz frequency band,

   a. the duplex mode of operation shall be time division duplex (TDD);

   b. the minimum block sizes shall be of 5 MHz;

   c. Synchronised operations as defined at Annex 1, shall be the only authorised mode of operation;

iv. that assignment in the 2 300 – 2 400 MHz and 2 500 – 2690 MHz bands may only be made to eligible MNOs having deployed a 5G network and offering commercial services for more than 2 years;

v. that operation in the 2 300 – 2 400 MHz band: -

   a. shall comply with the technical parameters and standardisation requirements as specified in Annex 1 and Annex 2 of this document;

   b. shall comply with all applicable licensing requirements and obligations as well as type approval procedures as determined by the ICT Authority;

vi. that, to ensure equitable access to spectrum currently available, the Authority shall engage in consultations with eligible MNOs to make spectrum available for IMT Services in the 2 300 – 2400 MHz and 2 500 – 2 690 MHz frequency bands;

vii. that, the restrictions imposed in decides (f) of section 3 of ICTA/DEC/1/2021 regarding the direct conversion of the 2 600 – 2 640 MHz band to 5G New Radio may be lifted subject to consultations under paragraph vi above.

viii. that following successful consultations, the eligible MNOs shall apply for licence to the Authority;

ix. that notwithstanding the above, the Authority may, where no agreement has been reached regarding equitable access to currently available spectrum in the 2 300 – 2 400 MHz and 2 500 – 2 690 MHz bands, consider conducting the spectrum award through auctioning;

x. that this current Decision hereby comes into force on 04 June 2026.

ANNEX 1
TECHNICAL PARAMETERS FOR OPERATION OF IMT SYSTEMS IN THE 2 300 - 2 400 MHz FREQUENY BAND[2]

A. FREQUENCY ARRANGEMENT

Frequency arrangement shall be based on 20 blocks of 5 MHz as described in Table 1. An operator can aggregate several channels of 5 MHz to obtain a wider channel.

Frequency (MHz)	2300	2305	2310	2315	2320	2325	2330	2335	2340	2345	2350	2355	2360	2365	2370	2375	2380	2385	2390	2395
	2305	2310	2315	2320	2325	2330	2335	2340	2345	2350	2355	2360	2365	2370	2375	2380	2385	2390	2395	2400
Channel Bandwidth (MHz)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

Table 1: Harmonised frequency arrangement for TDD operation in the 2300-2400 MHz band

B. DEFINITIONS[3]

Active antenna systems (AAS) AAS refers to a base station and antenna system where the amplitude and/or phase between antenna elements is continually adjusted resulting in an antenna pattern that varies in response to short term changes in the radio environment. This is intended to exclude long term beam shaping such as fixed electrical down tilt.

Non-Active antenna systems (Non-AAS) refers to MFCN base station transmitters which are manufactured and supplied separately to antenna systems.

Synchronised operation
The synchronised operation in the context of this Decision means operation of TDD in several different networks, where no simultaneous UL and DL transmissions occur, i.e. at any given moment in time either all networks transmit in DL or all networks transmit in UL. This requires the alignment of all DL and UL transmissions for all TDD networks involved as well as synchronising the beginning of the frame across all networks.

Total radiated power (TRP) is defined as the integral of the power transmitted in different directions over the entire radiation sphere

C. BASE STATION TECHNICAL PARAMETERS

The following technical parameters for base stations called block edge mask (BEM) are an essential component of conditions necessary to ensure coexistence between neighbouring networks, in the absence of an agreement between operators. Less stringent technical parameters, if agreed among the operators of such networks, may also be used.

[2] ADAPTED FROM ECC Decision (14)02
[3] ECC/DEC/(11)06 / ECC Report 281

A BEM is an emission mask that is defined, as a function of frequency, relative to the edge of a block of spectrum that is licensed to an operator. It consists of in-block and out-of-block components which specify the permitted emission levels over frequencies inside and outside the licensed block of spectrum respectively. In-block power limit is used for the block assigned to the operator. The out-of-block component of the BEM itself consists of a baseline level and, where applicable, intermediate (transition) levels which describe the transition from the in-block level to the baseline level as a function of frequency. Figure 1 shows the Combined BEM elements for adjacent blocks with synchronised TDD networks

BEM element	Definition
In-block	Block for which the BEM is derived.
Baseline	Spectrum used for TDD, except from the operator block in question and any corresponding transitional regions.
Transitional region	Transitional regions apply for unwanted emissions into adjacent TDD blocks allocated to other operators. They also apply in-between TDD blocks with a frequency separation of 5 or 10 MHz between each block edge. The transitional regions do not apply below 2 300 MHz or above 2 400 MHz.

Table 2: BEM elements definitions

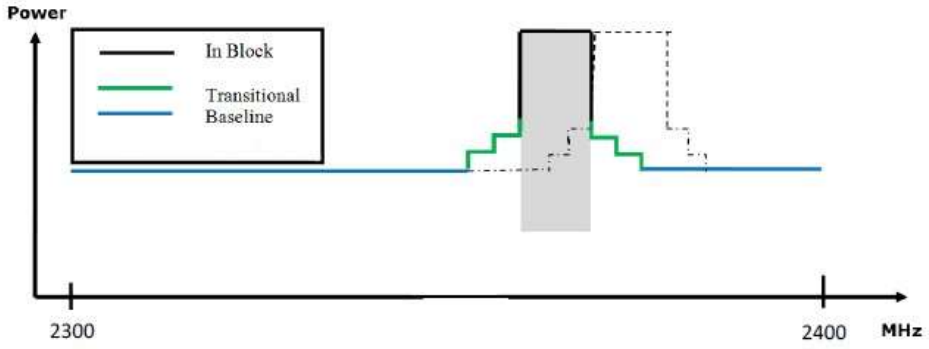

Figure 1: Combined BEM elements for adjacent blocks with synchronised TDD networks

Power limits for operation of Base Stations in the 2 300 – 2 400 MHz frequency band are given in Table 3.

Frequency Range	Non-AAS e.i.r.p. limit.	AAS TRP limit
Mobile Base Station in-block power limits		
Block assigned to the operator (2300-2390 MHz)	68 dBm/5 MHz per antenna	Not obligatory
Block assigned to the operator (2390-2400 MHz)	45 dBm/(5 MHz) per cell per sector	31 dBm/(5 MHz) per sector
Mobile Base Station baseline requirements		
Synchronised TDD blocks (2300-2400 MHz)	Min(Pmax-43, 13) dBm/(5 MHz) per antenna per sector	Min(Pmax'-43, 1) dBm/(5 MHz) per sector
Note 3: Pmax is the maximum mean carrier power in dBm for the base station measured as e.i.r.p. per carrier, interpreted as per antenna. Note 4: Pmax' is the maximum mean carrier power in dBm for the base station measured as TRP per carrier in a given cell.		
Mobile Base Station transitional region requirements		
Transitional region - -5 to 0 MHz offset from lower block edge. 0 to 5 MHz offset from upper block edge	Min(Pmax-40, 21) dBm/(5 MHz)	Min(Pmax'-40, 16) dBm/(5 MHz)
Transitional region - -10 to -5 MHz offset from lower block edge. 5 to 10 MHz offset from upper block edge	Min(Pmax-43, 15) dBm/(5 MHz)	Min(Pmax'-43, 12) dBm/(5 MHz)

Table 3: Power limits for operation of Base Stations in the 2 300 – 2 400 MHz frequency band

D. TERMINAL STATION TECHNICAL PARAMETERS

For the terminal station, BEM consists of an in-block maximum power level of 23 dBm and further requirements as specified in relevant ETSI Standard.

ANNEX 2
STANDARDISATION REQUIREMENTS

The base stations and terminal stations shall comply with ETSI standards as specified in Table 4 below.

Table 2.1

	Base Station Equipment	**Terminal Station Equipment**
Spectrum 5G NR	ETSI EN 301 908-23	ETSI EN 301 908-25
	ETSI EN 301 908-24	
Spectrum LTE	ETSI EN 301 908-14	ETSI EN 301 908-13
EMC	ETSI EN 301 489-1	ETSI EN 301 489-1
	ETSI EN 301 489-50	ETSI EN 301 489-52
Safety	EN 62368-1	EN 62368-1
EMF safety		EN 50360 (applicable to mobile phones)

Table 4 – Applicable ETSI standards

.