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Radio Spectrum Policy Group: Draft RSPG Opinion on the implementation of the current RSPG and its revision to address the next period.

1. Introduction

Samsung Electronics is pleased to respond to the public consultation regarding the above draft opinion from the RSPG. Generally speaking Samsung Electronics commends the outcome of the first RSPG and the measures developed under the Radio Spectrum Decision. These have been successful in bringing new spectrum for wireless broadband to the market and consequently extending the reach and access to mobile broadband services across the European Union.

Samsung Electronics is an enthusiastic proponent for next generation 5G technology that will enable a wide range of future services and applications which are becoming essential for an increasingly 'digital future'. Samsung Electronics is actively engaged in the radio communications industry wide technology research and development activities including the 5GPPP programme. Samsung Electronics firmly believes that the provision of ultra-high data rate services will be a key component in future 5G networks and that this capability will require new higher frequency spectrum resources to be available in a timely manner. The recent agreement of the ITU-R WRC to adopt an agenda item on the topic for WRC-19 and to identify a range of frequency bands for study in the intervening period is a welcome first step towards identifying this spectrum¹.

Accordingly, Samsung Electronics wishes to comment specifically on the related aspects in the draft RSPG Opinion.

RSPG Proposals relating to Wireless Broadband including 5G

¹ Samsung Electronics remains disappointed that the European CEPT region has already taken a strong position in the WRC negotiations against studying the 27.5-29.5GHz range for 5G applications. This could be a missed opportunity for the early identification of harmonised spectrum across global markets that will continue be developed in the US and other markets.

(Ref: RSPG15-621 page 11 and section 4.3.2.4.5)

Samsung Electronics agrees that the challenges associated with identifying the most suitable spectrum for higher frequency 5G deployments should be a priority item for the RSPG over the next period. This should match the momentum that has built up in the research and standardisation communities. Samsung Electronics fully supports the recommendation to develop an Opinion before the end of 2017.

Samsung Electronics believes that the RSPG will need to fully engage with the expertise of the CEPT in developing this Opinion and notes that the ECC of the CEPT has already recognised the strategic importance of this topic in their own strategic plan agreed earlier in 2015.

Some key objectives for this action should be the identification of spectrum bands that:

- are relevant to the research and development activities
- facilitate economic implementation of complex technology
- can enable efficient delivery of high bandwidth services
- can offer timely availability either through re-purposing or spectrum sharing opportunities
- can be sufficiently harmonised to address multiple global markets

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