



JRC Response to the Call for Input

Draft RSPG Opinion on the implementation of the current RSPP and its revision to address the next period

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The Joint Radio Company (JRC) is pleased that the RSPG:

- concludes that 'the 1200 MHz target and the implementation of harmonised measures to support the internal market as requested by Article 6 are largely fulfilled';
- Recommends that 'A new overall target should not be set in the new RSPP on how much spectrum should be made available for wireless broadband';
- 'supports harmonisation of the radio spectrum when this leads to economies of scale for equipment, facilitates cross border use or reduces the complexity of cross border frequency coordination'; and
- 'recommends that the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament take note of specific strategic EU policies other than electronic communication services (ECS), for which spectrum needs should be addressed'.

JRC notes that most products and services supplied to Europe's citizens and consumers depend on the reliable supply of electricity, and that in developed Western Society, electricity is the national infrastructure element on which all other critical services depend. The supervision and control of many generation, transmission, and distribution systems are reliant on resilient machine to machine (RM2M) wireless technologies. This is becoming increasingly important with the growth of smart utility grids to promote security, affordability and sustainability of our energy supplies – exemplified by agreements at the recent Climate Summit in Paris in December 2015.

Transitioning to Smart Grids is expected to require at least a 10-fold increase in remotely monitored locations. The European Utilities Telecoms Council (EUTC) has identified a typical requirement for 2 x 3 MHz of 400 MHz spectrum¹ and 10 MHz of 1.4 GHz spectrum to meet this demand.

JRC therefore requests that RSPG considers the increasing need for reliable electricity and gas supplies and their dependence on suitable and sufficient radio spectrum to support these services in a situation where other commercial telecommunications networks are unable to meet the demanding and exacting requirements of utility telecommunications.

¹ 380 MHz to 470 MHz.

The Joint Radio Company Ltd (JRC):



JRC Ltd is a wholly owned joint venture between the UK electricity and gas industries specifically created to manage the radio spectrum allocations for these industries used to support operational, safety and emergency communications.

JRC manages blocks of VHF and UHF spectrum for Private Business Radio applications, telemetry & telecontrol services and network operations. JRC created and manages a national cellular plan for co-ordinating frequency assignments for a number of large radio networks in the UK.

These VHF and UHF frequency allocations managed by JRC support telecommunications networks to keep the electricity and gas industries in touch with their field engineers throughout the country. These networks provide comprehensive geographical coverage to support the installation, maintenance and repair of plant in all weather conditions on a 24 hour/365 days per year basis.

JRC's Telemetry Service is used by radio based Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) networks which control and monitor safety critical gas and electricity industry plant and equipment throughout the country. These networks provide resilient and reliable communications at all times to unmanned sites and plant in remote locations to maintain the integrity of the UK's energy generation, transmission and distribution.

JRC manages microwave licenses for the majority of UK electricity transmission and distribution businesses. JRC protects these microwave links and the above UHF telemetry links from potential interference from wind turbines, and advises wind farm developers on mitigation methods to avoid interference with all forms of radio communication services.

JRC also undertakes radio consultancy work associated with critical national infrastructure radio services, and participates in European and international regulatory consultation groups.

JRC works with the Energy Networks Association's Future Energy Networks Groups assessing ICT implications of Smart Networks, Smart Grids & Smart Meters. Internationally, JRC supports or participates with global utility telecoms organisations under the umbrella of the Global Utility Telecom Council:

- US Utility Telecom Council (UTC)
- European Utility Telecom Council (EUTC)
- Latin American Utility Telecom Council (UTCAL)
- Canadian Utility Telecom Council (UTCC)
- African Utility Telecom Council (AUTC)

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